

Relationship Success

Lesson 2: Respond with the Opposite Spirit

This course follows Jim Tucker's Relationship Success class audio found on the Relationship Success page of Connect the Nations. Please read this lesson while listening to the audio, or just listen and answer the questions.

Vocabulary: (yellow = vocabulary; green = idioms)

to attack	to turn the other cheek (idiom)	to fall over	scone
bitterness (adj. bitter)	to have a chip on my shoulder (idiom)	defense	crumpet
attraction	to bond	to be overdrawn	to be slain in the Spirit (idiom)
demon (adj. demonic)	to own it (idiom)	to be sharp (idiom)	elder (of a church)
to depend (adj. dependent)	pride	dynamic	to inherit
to operate	strife	to convince	to diminish
to punch	to deposit	to sow	

Discussion:

Now, here's the point that I want you to get: The way you deal with an **attack** will determine the rest of your life. When you're attacked, again, the scripture says when you're **bitter**, and you're angry, and you have ideas, and you think, "This is what I'm gonna do," don't say that it's of God. For out of that place of **bitterness** and anger and hurt, the scripture says in James chapter 3: "...comes every evil practice." That bitterness, it says, it's not from God. Ok, hear these words: it's earthly, unspiritual, and of the devil. In I Peter, "Don't repay evil for evil or insult for insult. But repay with blessing, so that you would inherit a blessing."

You invite the wrong spirit when you respond back to something in the same spirit that's coming at you. Alright? I'll write it up here. Hear these words: There's attack, and there's a difference in attack and **attraction**. Ok, just write down these two words. Attack and Attraction. You may get attacked, but what you don't wanna do when you're attacked is attract the wrong spirit. You can attract the **demonic** into your life when you're attacked, and you respond in the same spirit that you were attacked with. How many of you think that's important tonight? And you go on and on, and there's no healing in it. There's no healing in it. Some of you heard me teach this before: Just because you were attacked, doesn't mean you have to attract cursing. What you want to attract is blessing. Alright? That's what you want to attract. The way you attract blessing – in some of the examples that I've told you – you attract blessing by blessing those who curse you. Do good to those who despitely use you.

The healing that happens when you speak blessing over people that are doing you wrong. One of the things to really understand – this is something to write down: People don't attack you because of what's wrong with *you*. People attack you because of what's wrong with *them*. Very important thing 'cuz (because) if you don't know that, if you're not secure in the love of God that we talked about in the very beginning... See, the reason I wanted you to read that is 'cuz I want you to get the heart of God for you. That's the security that God wants you to **operate** in. But I just know God's saying "Just get this across. Just get it across because you don't want to attract cursing; you want to attract blessing." There are some people that go through their whole life punching. They go through their whole life: "Don't mess with me. If I even think you're gonna mess with me, I'm gonna **punch** you." And so, what happens? The ripple effect of that just keeps going because they're not attracting blessing.

Describe a time when you reacted negatively to someone, and the situation got worse.

Describe a time when you blessed someone who was mean or rude to you and the situation got better.

Now in that, am I saying let yourself be manipulated or abused? No, I'm not. When you let yourself be manipulated or abused, that's not love. That's fear. You're not loving somebody that you let control you. By the way, always remember, the controlling person is always really the weaker person. But just understand, God doesn't want you to live under that, but you can still love people. You can **turn the other cheek**. Jesus said, "Turn the other cheek." Some of you've heard me say this before, and it's an important part: Turn the other cheek. Simply, one of the applications of it means, "Lead in life with the unhurt side."

Here's what I mean. Most people go around in life, and they go, "Look everybody, I've been hurt. I've been cursed. I've been insulted. Look, you can see my cheek. It's still red. I have a right to be bitter. I have a right to be angry. I have a right **to have a chip on my shoulder**." Jesus said, "No, turn the other cheek, and lead in life with the unhurt side." I mean, there are a lot of people that are leading in life with the hurt side. Alright? Let God heal you, and pray prayers of blessing. Live in that kind of way. Do the opposite of what your flesh really wants to do in those situations. This concept brings healing in our own heart. You see, a lot of people spend the rest of their life waiting for the person who hurt them to heal them. And it's not gonna happen. Often, it's just not gonna happen.

In the last lesson, we talked about how difficult Jesus's teaching can be: to turn the other cheek, to bless and not curse. What suggestions does Jim give us to help our hearts?

How many think this is an important topic? Hey, good. Everybody heard of D.O.A.? You know what D.O.A. means? What does it mean in the world? Dead on Arrival. This Spirit is how people operate. D.O.A. is Defend or Attack. Most people live in relationships either defending or attacking. It doesn't go anywhere. I can't tell you how many couples... We'll ask them, "How's it working? How are you doing?" And they always say, "It's all we ever do, and it never gets us anywhere." Defending or Attacking: It doesn't get you anywhere. And at work, how many would agree that the world **bonds** around the negative? What they don't like. Who they don't like. What's wrong with the company. What's wrong with this. What's wrong with that. They bond around that. And they live in that spirit.

Do you ever notice how we bond around the negative? Do you have a personal example of this?

And now healing comes. The answer to the D.O.A. is A.O.D. I've used this in groups of people. I've used it a lot with married couples, and it is amazing what happens. The A stands for just Ask. Ask the other person, "What do you need from me? How can I love you better? How can we heal this? What's missing?" What do you ask? Ask for what you need. The O stands for Own your stuff. Everybody say, "**Own it**." "Own it." How many [of you] know that if you don't own it, it's because of **pride**? The Bible

says in Proverbs 13, “All **strife** comes from pride.” Own your stuff. Just own it. Just own it. D stands for **Deposit**. Make Deposits into that person emotionally. See, when you’re in a conflict, both of you are so emotionally overwhelmed.

What we used to do with our kids is I would say... Ok, they get in a fight. I’d say, “What are they needing? What do you think they’re trying to get from you?” I know that inside they’re thinking, “Dad, I don’t care. I’m just mad at him.” But what happens here when you just ask, “What do you think is wrong here? What can I do for you? What do you need? What do you need from me?”

See D.O.A. is Defend or Attack. I’m either gonna defend myself, or I’m gonna attack you. While the other A.O.D. is Ask, Own it. How many would just **fall over** if some people [would] own their stuff? You know what I mean? Owners model the behavior, model the right spirit to the other person, then begin to make deposits in them, make emotional deposits, say what needs to be said. And listen, if you don’t own your stuff, even when you make deposits, if you were wrong about something, and you can’t say you were wrong...

Ok, practice this real quick. Everybody, look at somebody next to you and say, “I was wrong. I was really, really wrong. Please, forgive me. I was really wrong.” You’re laughing now. But when you get out of here, you’d be going, “I’m not saying that ever again in my life!” Just say, “I was wrong. I really messed up. It was prideful. It was rude. It was selfish.” Listen, explaining can be interpreted as **defense**. Explaining: Have you ever heard somebody explain why they messed with you? And in the whole time they were explaining, you wanna say, “Shut up” because it’s not making a deposit. By the time you get through explaining, they’re more **overdrawn** emotionally than they were when you started talking. Make a deposit. Own it. Ask.

How does Jim describe a genuine apology?

Is there situation recently in your life where you needed to apologize, but you didn’t? Perhaps you did apologize, but you didn’t feel sincere? Explain.

It’s totally different than this. My example: Some of you have heard me tell [talk] about this before: A young lady, fourteen years old, her name’s Leslie. Her parents said, “Can you help our daughter?” And they told me this story, and they acted like this girl had **demons** everywhere. I said, “Ok, I’ll talk to her.” She came in. She talked about her parents and said, “My parents are so messed up. They’re so bad. They’re mean to me. They don’t trust me with anything. They’re terrible. I have the worst parents in the world.” And I said, “Ok, Leslie.” And, I mean, she told me the list of everything. And I said, “Leslie, they’re not here right now.” She’s only fourteen, but she’s pretty **sharp**. And I’ll never forget that day. I sat there with Leslie in my office years ago, and I explained the principle to her: “Somebody has to change the spirit in your home. Somebody has to change the **dynamic** in your home. Someone’s gotta lead it. Leslie, do you think you could do it?” And I quoted to her a few of the verses.

And I said, “How much cursing goes on in your home?” “Oh, we’re just constantly at each other.” I said, “Who’s the best, do you think, in insulting?” And she said, “Well, actually, I’m pretty good.” And I said, “I bet you are.” And I said, “Leslie, do you know that you can be just as good at blessing as you are at insulting?” And she said “Really?” And I said, “Yeah, you’re strong, aren’t you?” “Yes, I am strong.” And I

said, "Do you think you can be strong in loving? Because I wanna give you a challenge to change the spirit of your home. By yourself, you change it." And I told her to demonstrate the opposite spirit. "You just do it different."

Now, I didn't have this tool then, but let me tell you what Leslie did. She sat down that day and made a list of ten things to do the opposite in her home. She began to do things like "over obey." Her parents said, "Wash the dishes." She washed them, dried them, put them up, everything. Now, you've got to understand, she was just this kind of girl. How many know that if you decide to love, you can love? Right? How many understand, love's not just an emotion? Are you with me? You don't wait to feel it to do it. You do it, so you feel it. Come on now...She made a decision that day.

Think about a situation where you are experiencing conflict with another person or group of people. Make a list of ten things that you could do to show the opposite spirit of the spirit that exists in that situation.

Share the situation and one idea from your list.

Was this activity hard to do? Will it be hard for you to do the things on your life? Explain.

Love... Really, God's love is a decision. It is not a feeling." I mean, there are some people, if you waited until you feel like loving them, you'd never love them. Come on now! There are some people at your work you know that if God said, "Love that person." "Oh, Jesus, help me!" So, you know, it's not a matter of feeling. You choose to love people. You choose to walk in a room, and it's not about you. Everybody say, "It's not about me." Look at somebody next to you and say, "It's about you." Just tell them, "It's about you. I care about you. I wanna love you."

I said, "Leslie, I challenge you." Now I prayed with her. She made a list that day of things. And she said, "I know what I can do." And, you know, her spirit wasn't quite exactly right when she first began. It was more of a challenge. And she started... She would over obey. She would call her parents. One night her mother told me later, "Leslie called me last night, while she was at Pizza Hut. Called me at Pizza Hut, put the manager on the line **to convince** me she really was at Pizza Hut because she's lied to me so many times about where she was. And she wanted to build trust." See, her attitude before: "My parents don't trust me." Because that day I said, "What don't they trust you?" "I don't know." I said "Leslie, you think you've **sown** that?" "Well, maybe." I said, "Well, sow something different!" She got it. She just got it. And she would over obey.

She began to get home early when her mother got home from work. Get this! Leslie, 14 years old. Her mother liked this certain kind of tea. I can't think of the name of the tea, but it's a certain kind of hot tea, and something from England, they call the cookie thing something different in England. And she found them, ordered them, somehow got these little cookie things - **scones, crumpet** something. She got these things. Had them there for her mother, with the tea. Her mother got home and said, "What is this, Leslie?" And she said, "It's _____," whatever it was, "from me. I ordered them." Her mother started crying. She said, "Why?" "I love you, Mom." Her mother was **slain in the Spirit** and got back up. No, I'm kidding. I mean, the healing began at that moment.

Let me tell you what happened. This is what they had always done: Defend or Attack, Defend or Attack. "I'm not that bad!!" "Yes, you are!!" "Let me tell you how I know you're that bad." How many are getting this? Defend or Attack, Defend or Attack. "I can't believe you! You did this to me." "Oh, you think I did that to you? Let me tell you! For every one thing that you could tell me, I have twenty, and my memory is really good." She changed it. She began to ask, "What do you need, Mom?"

She didn't like her dad. He wasn't her real dad. She didn't like him. It was a constant thing. And she started leaving notes for her stepdad. And she'd leave them in his socks. That kind of irritated him. He'd pull these little notes out of his socks saying, "Dad, I love you. I'm sorry. I've been so bad." Little notes. "Dad." It means so much to him to hear that: "Dad." Ask. She owned her own stuff. She would sit down at the table... She met – This kept happening every day – She'd meet her mother. "I just want you to know, I remember back how I caused you not to trust me, Mom. And I just wanna own it. I just wanna tell you. I've just been so bad." And her mother's just going, "What has happened to my little demon-possessed girl? What is...?" She began to make deposits, doing loving things, overdoing it.

One day – and I love this story – This was really when I began to really understand the power of this. One day, I was with the **elders** of the church down in the front praying with people. They'd never been to our church. Leslie had given her life to the Lord after this. She was in the youth group. Her parents came in the back door. They'd never been to church. They came in the back door after church, music was going, elders are down in front. Her mom and dad came to the front. Leslie's sitting over here with the youth group. She met them. She was shocked. They came down. They're all standing there in front of me. Leslie's in shock. Her parents came to church. And, uh, her parents looked at me, and they said, "Jim, we don't know what has happened to our daughter."

Now, she had been doing this for four months. It took four months to convince her parents that the demons had left, you know, or something. "And we don't know what has happened to our daughter, but our home is totally different. The spirit" – they used these words – "the spirit of our home is different. She says it's Jesus. We want what she has. Would you pray for us?" And we prayed, Leslie prayed. I said: "Leslie, would you pray for your parents?" Everybody's crying and everything. And they went on. As far as I know, they're still living for Jesus. That's what I'm talking about.

The spirit of the world is this. How many get this? Do you get this? This is the spirit of the world. Change it. Start doing this. Operate in this: Bless those who curse you. Don't repay evil with evil. Repay evil with good that you would **inherit** a blessing. Do you receive it?

Let me just pray for you. If you're here tonight, and there's just a healing that is needed in your heart because maybe you've been cursed, insulted, manipulated, and it's just **diminished** your value. There's Perhaps like me the other night, you know, when this person's name was mentioned, the pain came back. Could I ask you just to raise your hand? I just wanna pray for you, if that applies to you. Thank you for your honesty. Thank you. Thank you. I just wanna pray and ask God just to bring a healing in your heart.

Lord, I just thank you for everyone that is here tonight. I thank you for your heart for all of us, that you love us. And the way you love us is what we read earlier. That's your heart. So, Lord, I ask you to heal what human beings can't do. Lord, that person may never... They may never show up. They may never do the A.O.D. They may never heal it, but I ask you to heal it, Lord. That each one of those people that lifted up their hand would see themselves the way you see them. Heal their broken heart. Heal that wound. And I thank you, Lord – as they pray for and bless those who have cursed them – that you will

bles them. That is in their future – your blessing is in their future. We speak it. We believe it in the name of Jesus. Amen.

Jim encourages us to use the A.O.D. (Ask, Own it, Make a Deposit) strategy to help us heal our hearts and even our relationships. Explain A.O.D. in your own words.

Think about one situation in your life where you need healing in a relationship. What would A.O.D. look like for you?

How can we pray for you?

This Week:

Write in your journal:

1. Take some time this week to pray about how you respond when you feel attacked by another person. Ask the Lord to help you to grow in A.O.D.: Ask, Own it, Deposit.
2. Think of a person who has hurt you recently. What do you think this person needs from you? If you don't know, Ask them. How do you need to Own something in the relationship? If you don't know, ask them. How can you make a Deposit into the relationship that will be meaningful to the other person? Take some time this week to have a loving conversation with them.
3. In your journal, write about how A.O.D. impacted your relationship with this person and continue to pray blessing over them this week.
4. Think of a person who needs this lesson and share it with them this week!