

## Lesson 7: Living Life God's Way Using the Coaches God Has Given Me

**Spiritual truth to be mastered:** Grateful recognition of God's commitment to take us to levels of excellence and opportunity we could never reach without others' help.

**Why do we need this truth operating in our lives?** Without this skill, we will never really understand God's mediating grace in the body of Christ, nor will we reach the scope and levels of excellence that God intends us to achieve.

### SATURDAY:

I am committed, Father, to holding myself accountable to those You have placed in my life as guardians and teachers according to Your Word.

**Ephesians 4:8-16:** "Therefore it says, 'When He ascended on high, He led captive a host of captives, and He gave gifts to men. Now this expression, 'He ascended,' what does it mean except that He also had descended into the lower parts of the earth? He who descended is Himself also He who ascended far above all the heavens, that He might fill all things. And He gave some as apostles, and some as prophets, and some as evangelists, and some as pastors and teachers, for the equipping of the saints for the work of service, to the building up of the body of Christ; until we all attain to the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a mature man, to the measure of the stature which belongs to the fullness of Christ. As a result, we are no longer to be children, tossed here and there by waves, and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, by craftiness in deceitful scheming; but speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in all aspects into Him, who is the head, even Christ, from whom the whole body, being fitted and held together by that which every joint supplies, according to the proper working of each individual part, causes the growth of the body for the building up of itself in love."

**Hebrews 13:7:** "Remember those who led you, who spoke the word of God to you; and considering the result of their conduct, imitate their faith."

**Hebrews 13:17:** "Obey your leaders and submit to them for they keep watch over your souls, as those who will give an account. Let them do this with joy and not with grief, for this would be unprofitable for you."

**Isaiah 28:10:** "For He says, 'Order on order, order on order, line on line, line on line, a little here, a little there.'"

**Hebrews 5:13-14:** "For everyone who partakes only of milk is not accustomed to the word of righteousness, for he is a babe. But solid food is for the mature, who because of practice have their senses trained to discern good and evil."

We must understand that God does His work through people. We must come to peace with His choice to use fallible humans. God uses people to get us to higher levels of play. We can call these people "coaches." They help us see around our "blind spots." Humility is learning from anyone God selects to teach you.

### How can we practice this truth in our daily lives?

- By affirming and seeking regular input from the coaches in our lives and those close enough to hold us accountable to God's Word.

- By asking God to teach us and train us through those people without resenting their position or our need of them.
- By keeping current record in a journal of the things we are working on and the principles and progress we are learning and making.
- By studying the lives, knowledge, and character skills of people God has called us to pattern ourselves after.

We need to find people who can demonstrate the things they are preaching. We don't seem to have enough coaches. We need people to help us find the way out of our problems and immaturity.

We all need coaches. We will only rise to the level at which we are being coached. What we've seen determines what we become. It is critical, therefore, that we demonstrate the highest level of play for those looking to us.

Every champion has had a coach. A coach carries God's heart for you and has a strategy to get you equipped to serve Father's purposes. To maximize training, we must work with God's coaches, not against them. Most believers spend their time rebuking the coaching and training of God.

Jesus was not a self-made man. He trained and had coaches. Solomon, one of the wisest men to live, was disciplined (coached) by Bathsheba.

Jesus trained well because He let equality go. He trained thoroughly because He wasn't concerned about being equal with His coaches. Jesus wasn't concerned with originality. He said that He only did what the Father did. His goal was to become exactly like our Father. Originality was not an issue. Do you want to learn, or do you want to be equal?

Coaches get us to do things that we could never do on our own. How much change do you want to occur in your life? Two people together create a synergy that results in exponential growth.

**Synergy: From the Greek, *synergos*, meaning working together.**

You must be ready for the Holy Spirit to speak through you. Don't think the wisdom is coming from you. It is from God. If we need this process so much, why do we reject it so often?

Do you think a good coach is concerned with your comfort? NO! God, as our ultimate coach, is not after the elimination of pain; He is after the elimination of sin. We must move out of the mentality that says God would never permit this much pain. Out of ignorance, we can become discouraged in this process. There is always someone God will send to help you if you diligently seek Him.

You must look to see Jesus in the people God has placed in your life. God reveals Himself through people. It may be your friends, leaders, authorities, teachers, parents, etc. At the same time, those who look to you as their authority are looking for Jesus in you.

### **Coaches show us the right tools to use.**

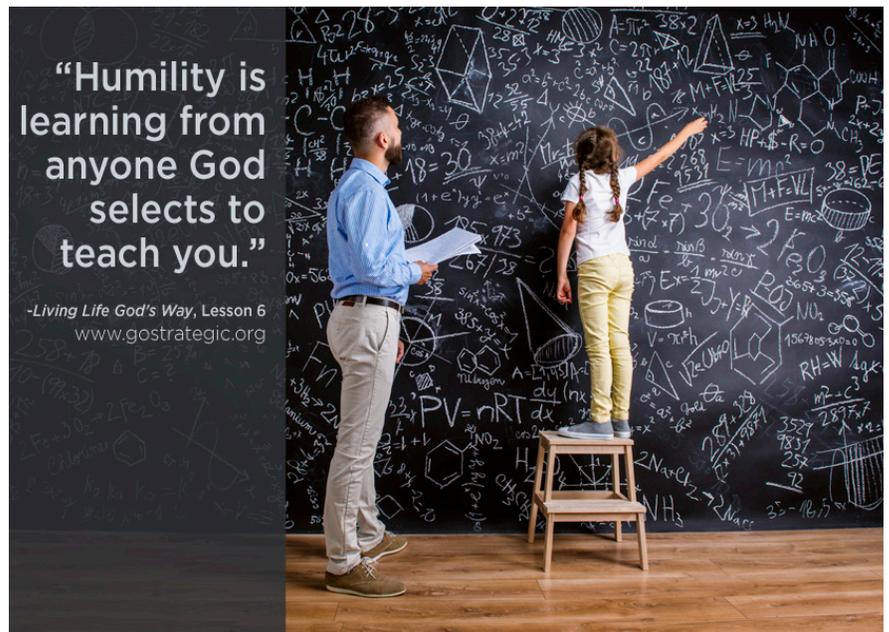
People are only as effective as the tools they are using. Coaches show us the right tools to use. Without the right tools, we become extremely frustrated. Not only do coaches show us the right tools, they show us how to use them.

Are you in accusation against someone in authority over you? Why doesn't God just teach us Himself? Why did Jesus come in a body? God works through flesh. Demons want flesh, because a body is the ticket to the game on earth. Therefore, God uses bodies; people in the flesh are motivated by the Holy Spirit to mediate God's grace for us. We are bridges to God for each other. We must overcome the "dirt field" to get to the "treasure." This will come against your pride.

## Making It Real:

God has placed coaches in your life. They come in all shapes and sizes. They are men and women who have flaws and imperfections. You must seek these people out. You must find your coaches and get into training. All champions have coaches.

**Luke 2:46-47:** “Then, after three days they found Him in the temple, sitting in the midst of the teachers, both listening to them and asking them questions. And all who heard Him were amazed at His understanding and His answers.”



**Matthew 3:15:** “Jesus replied, ‘Let it be so now; it is proper for us to do this to fulfill all righteousness.’ Then John consented.”

**John 5:17-30:** “But He answered them, “My Father is working until now, and I Myself am working.’ For this cause, therefore, the Jews were seeking all the more to kill Him, because He not only was breaking the Sabbath, but also was calling God His own Father, making Himself equal with God. Jesus therefore answered and was saying to them, ‘Truly, truly, I say to you, the Son can do nothing of Himself, unless it is something He sees the Father doing; for whatever the Father does, these things the Son also does in like manner. For the Father loves the Son and shows Him all things that He Himself is doing; and greater works than these will He show Him, that you may marvel. For just as the Father raises the dead and gives them life, even so the Son also gives life to whom He wishes. For not even the Father judges anyone, but He has given all judgment to the Son, in order that all may honor the Son, even as they honor the Father. He who does not honor the Son does not honor the Father who sent Him. Truly, truly, I say to you, he who hears My word, and believes Him who sent Me, has eternal life, and does not come into judgment, but has passed out of death into life. Truly, truly, I say to you, an hour is coming and now is, when the dead shall hear the voice of the Son of God; and those who hear shall live. For just as the Father has life in Himself, even so He gave to the Son also to have life in Himself; and He gave Him authority to execute judgment, because He is the Son of Man. Do not marvel at this; for an hour is coming, in which all who are in the tombs shall hear His voice and shall come forth; those who did the good deeds to a resurrection of life, those who committed the evil deeds to a resurrection of judgment. I can do nothing on My own initiative. As I hear, I judge; and My judgment is just, because I do not seek My own will, but the will of Him who sent Me.”

God’s government comes through people. When we reject the authority above us or that we have been given, we are rejecting God. The following verses in Isaiah give us a good picture of what a culture looks like when it rejects God’s government and peace.

**Isaiah 3:1-12:** “For behold, the Lord GOD of hosts is going to remove from Jerusalem and Judah both supply and support, the whole supply of bread, and the whole supply of water; The mighty man and the warrior, the judge and the prophet, the diviner and the elder, The captain of fifty and the honorable man, the counselor and the expert artisan, and the skillful enchanter. And I will make mere lads their princes and capricious children will rule over them, And the people will be oppressed, each one by another, and each one by his neighbor; the youth will storm against the elder, and the inferior against the honorable. When a man lays hold of his brother in his father’s house, saying, ‘You have a cloak, you shall be our ruler, and these ruins will be under your charge,’ On that day will he protest, saying, ‘I will not be your healer, for in my house there is neither bread nor cloak; you should not appoint me ruler of the people.’ For Jerusalem has

stumbled, and Judah has fallen, because their speech and their actions are against the LORD, to rebel against His glorious presence. The expression of their faces bears witness against them. And they display their sin like Sodom; they do not even conceal it. Woe to them! For they have brought evil on themselves. Say to the righteous that it will go well with them, for they will eat the fruit of their actions. Woe to the wicked! It will go badly with him, for what he deserves will be done to him. O My people! Their oppressors are children, and women rule over them. O My people! Those who guide you lead you astray and confuse the direction of your paths.”

The following are scriptures you should study. Look for the pattern Jesus set of copying His Father. As you read and study these scriptures, ask Father to reveal the nature of His mediating grace.

**John 5:17:** “But He answered them, ‘My Father is working until now, and I Myself am working.’”

**John 5:19:** “Jesus therefore answered and was saying to them, ‘Truly, truly, I say to you, the Son can do nothing of Himself, unless it is something He sees the Father doing; for whatever the Father does, these things the Son also does in like manner.’”

**John 5:24:** “Truly, truly, I say to you, he who hears My word, and believes Him who sent Me, has eternal life, and does not come into judgment, but has passed out of death into life.”

**John 5:30:** “I can do nothing on My own initiative. As I hear, I judge; and My judgment is just, because I do not seek My own will, but the will of Him who sent Me.”

**John 14:16-20:** “And I will ask the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may be with you forever; that is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it does not behold Him or know Him, but you know Him because He abides with you, and will be in you. I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you. After a little while the world will behold Me no more; but you will behold Me; because I live, you shall live also. In that day you shall know that I am in My Father, and you in Me, and I in you.”

**John 14:26:** “But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all that I said to you.”

**John 16:7-14:** “But I tell you the truth, it is to your advantage that I go away; for if I do not go away, the Helper shall not come to you; but if I go, I will send Him to you. And He, when He comes, will convict the world concerning sin, and righteousness, and judgment; concerning sin, because they do not believe in Me; and concerning righteousness, because I go to the Father, and you no longer behold Me; and concerning judgment, because the ruler of this world has been judged. I have many more things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now. But when He, the Spirit of truth, comes, He will guide you into all the truth; for He will not speak on His own initiative, but whatever He hears, He will speak; and He will disclose to you what is to come. He shall glorify Me; for He shall take of Mine and shall disclose it to you.”

**Ephesians 4:8-16:** “Therefore it says, ‘When He ascended on high, He led captive a host of captives, and He gave gifts to men.’ Now this expression, ‘He ascended,’ what does it mean except that He also had descended into the lower parts of the earth? He who descended is Himself also He who ascended far above all the heavens, that He might fill all things. And He gave some as apostles, and some as prophets, and some as evangelists, and some as pastors and teachers, for the equipping of the saints for the work of service, to the building up of the body of Christ; until we all attain to the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a mature man, to the measure of the stature which belongs to the fullness of Christ. As a result, we are no longer to be children, tossed here and there by waves, and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, by craftiness in deceitful scheming; but speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in all aspects into Him, who is the head, even Christ, from whom the whole body, being fitted and held together by that which every joint supplies, according to the proper working of each individual part, causes the growth of the body for the building up of itself in love.”

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**I Thessalonians 5:12-13:** “But we request of you, brethren, that you appreciate those who diligently labor among you, and have charge over you in the Lord and give you instruction, and that you esteem them very highly in love because of their work. Live in peace with one another.”

**John 17:20:** “I do not ask in behalf of these alone, but for those also who believe in Me through their word.”

**I Peter 5:1-7:** “Therefore, I exhort the elders among you, as your fellow elder and witness of the sufferings of Christ, and a partaker also of the glory that is to be revealed, shepherd the flock of God among you, exercising oversight not under compulsion, but voluntarily, according to the will of God; and not for sordid gain, but with eagerness; nor yet as lording it over those allotted to your charge, but proving to be examples to the flock. And when the Chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the unfading crown of glory. You younger men, likewise, be subject to your elders; and all of you, clothe yourselves with humility toward one another, for God is opposed to the proud, but gives grace to the humble. Humble yourselves, therefore, under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you at the proper time, casting all your anxiety upon Him, because He cares for you.”

**Matthew 23:39:** “For I say to you, from now on you shall not see Me until you say, ‘Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord.’”

**Exodus 22:28:** “You shall not curse God, nor curse a ruler of your people.”

### **Questions for Reflection:**

How coachable are you?

In these areas of coachability, how do you respond?:

1. Openness to correction
2. Not being critical of the coach
3. Not being afraid of failure
4. Not being afraid of disappointing the coach
5. Willingness to practice what the coach says
6. Inner faith to achieve my goals
7. Willingness to play with pain
8. Willingness to play where the coach wants me to play

**As you reflect on this lesson, pray about it and make notes in your journal. What is the Lord saying, and what are you thinking about today’s workout?**

