

## *Awakened to the Word* Session Six Class Outline

A. I'm an advocate of prayer retreats.

Matt. 6:16, “Moreover, when you fast, do not be like the hypocrites, with a sad countenance. For they disfigure their faces that they may appear to men to be fasting. Assuredly, I say to you, they have their reward. 17 But you, when you fast, anoint your head and wash your face, 18 so that you do not appear to men to be fasting, but to your Father who is in the secret place; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you openly.”

1. I suggest your prayer retreat include the following: fasting (water only is best if possible), solitude, word immersion, minimal distractions, Lord's Supper, prayer.
2. Fasting is a normal part of New Testament apostolic Christianity.
3. Fasting is a gift, helping us to pursue the kingdom with spiritual \_\_\_\_\_.
4. I don't fast to change God, but to change \_\_\_\_\_.

B. Ask to be awakened to God's word.

1. Then, if you miss your secret place on a given day, you won't feel condemned; you'll feel ripped off.
2. Those who devote themselves to the secret place because they're trying to gain the Father's affection or approval need to recover the freedom of the gospel.
3. A performance mode (“works”) actually makes God mad.
  - a. Rom. 4:15, “the law [performance] brings about wrath.”
  - b. God gets angry when we try to perform to gain His acceptance because in doing so we actually dishonor the \_\_\_\_\_(work) of Christ.

C. Two words from the Greek New Testament are translated into English as “word”: *logos* and *rhema*.

1. A common distinction:
  - a. *Logos*: the written word.
  - b. *Rhema*: the spoken word.

Matt. 4:4 But He answered and said, ‘It is written, “Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word [*rhema*] that proceeds from the mouth of God.’”

Session Six Class Outline, cont'd

2. How I distinguish the two: A *logos* is a *rhema* God gave somebody \_\_\_\_\_.

- a. When the writers of Scripture received the word from heaven, it came to them as a *rhema*; when they wrote it down, it came to us as a \_\_\_\_\_.
- b. You can't give anyone a *rhema*. Only \_\_\_\_\_ can give a person a *rhema*.
- c. Why we immerse ourselves in *logos*: Eventually we'll receive a \_\_\_\_\_ . Gal. 6:8

3. Once you experience a *rhema*, you're \_\_\_\_\_.

D. This week's assignment:

1. Read chapters 22-27 in *Secrets Of The Secret Place* (unless your leader gives you a different assignment).
2. In the *Companion Study Guide*, complete the section entitled "For Personal Reflection" in chapters 22-27.
3. Come next week prepared to discuss your assigned chapters.
4. Underline in your reading those statements that are most meaningful for you. Is there a statement you would like your group to discuss next week?