

December's Theme

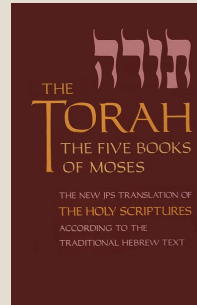
The Gifts of Spirit

Today's Lesson:

By Divine Design

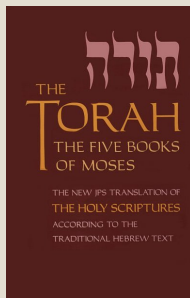
A copy of today's PowerPoint notes are available @ www.unityofbakersfield.org

By Divine Design



Then God said, "Let us make man in our image, after our likeness; So God created man in his own image; male and female he created them." (Gen 1:26-27).

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And God blessed them, and God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth and; have dominion over every living thing that moves upon the earth." (Gen 1:28)

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Made in the image and likeness of God we must therefore be made by Divine Design.

If God is Love then that love must be a part of our divine design.

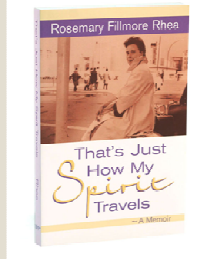
The dictionary defines dominion as, "*The right and power to command, decide, rule, or judge.*" (American Heritage)

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So if we are made by divine design and we are given dominion over all living things, by what decree do we exercise this power we were given?

Love. "*The power that joins and binds in divine harmony the universe and everything in it; the great harmonizing principle known to man.*" - Charles Fillmore

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In her book, That's Just How My Spirit Travels, Rosemary Fillmore Rhea, granddaughter of Charles Fillmore shares this insight...

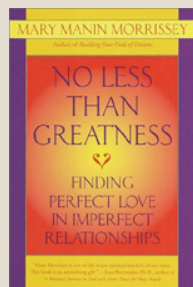
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Each one of us is a living expression of life, and how we live that life is our choice. We human beings seem to be such slow learners; we repeat the same mistakes over and over. Look at our history: wars to end all wars; religious, ethnic, and political wars. And with each new war, we develop more lethal, sophisticated ways to kill one another. Does God do this! Of course not, we do it.

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*Why do we do it? We do it because we have not learned the most important lesson life has to teach us. For some reason, we refuse to practice the basic law of life that has been expounded by all the great teachers of the world—Jesus' first commandment:
Love God with all your heart, soul, mind, strength; and love your neighbor as yourself.*

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In her book, No Less Than Greatness, Mary Manin Morrissey, shares a story that illustrates why we have a hard time living the love commandment.

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*There was a mother who had two sons. She also had precise expectations on how they were to behave and show up in the world of appearances.
Every time they failed her expectations of them she would immediately point out their faults and tell them how imperfect they were.*

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*As teens, the boys started snapping back, and soon every day was filled with constant struggles and arguments over what was “best” for them. As soon as they could they left home to get away from the constant criticism.
Many years later both sons called to say they were coming to spend some time with her.*

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When the younger son arrived, her mouth dropped open. There in the doorway was her “baby boy” with long hair, streaked in blue with a ponytail. His unkept beard covered his face and his clothes were so wrinkled and torn it looked as if he’d been living on the street. He hugged his speechless mom, sat down and started to talk.

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As she looked at him she wanted to blurt out, "What's wrong with you! This isn't how I raised you. You're a stranger in my house, an imposter. What have I done to deserve this disrespect?" But she didn't. Instead she thought of how lonely her life had been without him for all those years.

For years she had been studying spiritual laws and remembered she always had a choice.

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She silently prayed, "What shall I do?" The answer came, "Does your son have to look the way you think he should look in order for you to love him and listen to him? "But that hair, those clothes, his face!" "What do you want more? To be right about your rules or a relationship with your son?"

So she listened and learned more about him as she felt closer than ever before.

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When her second son arrived in his sports car, a three piece designer suit, and a clean shaven face, she sighed with relief. He kissed her and sat down on the couch and started to watch TV.

Instantly she felt frustrated and angry. He can watch TV any time. It's been years since we've shared time together. What's wrong with him? I deserve his attention!

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Again she remembered her lessons and prayed, "What do I do?" Ans: "Does my son have to behave in a certain way, or adhere to my rules in order for me to love and spend time with him?" So she said nothing and sat down next to him and commented on the shows they watched.

As he was leaving he hugged her like he never hugged her before. A hug that was longer

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...and tighter than ever before. It took her breath away. "I can't tell you what this weekend meant to me. Just how good it was to veg out, relax and not worry about how I was to 'show up', respond, or perform. It was great just let go and be with you for a few days. Thank you! I love you!"

Spiritual love is unconditional love that creates, uplifts, and renews all relationships.

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In developing relationships that allow unconditional love to be present three activities must be acknowledged:

Surrender.

Coexisting with unresolved issues.

Develop new patterns of behavior.

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Surrender

We can't do it alone.
We must align ourselves with those who can help us move in a different direction.
Remember: Even Jesus had 12 disciples to help him on his journey.

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Coexisting with unresolved issues.

There are times when we have no immediate answers or solutions to an issue at hand.
It is during these times that we draw upon our spiritual reserves of faith, trust, and courage knowing Spirit will show the way.

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Develop new patterns of behavior.

We're working on something.
You're not in denial when you recognize a problem and behave differently in spite of it. It's the difference between having a problem in your life or making a problem of your life.

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Develop new patterns of behavior.

Don't let the negative events pile up and contaminate your mental environment.
Create healthy boundaries for yourself.
Keep in mind that it takes 21 days to change a habit or behavior.
All relationships happen by design.

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We have been designed to co-create with God. To bring into manifestation our own personal bit of heaven here on earth. God has given us gifts to use and share in order for us to make our heaven.

Join me next week when I talk about

The Joyous Gifts