

Lesson 16 – Principles 7

Drilling Down

Read the lesson below and then answer the questions that follow on a separate sheet of paper. If you believe this lesson would be helpful to others you know, feel free to share it with them.

Hydraulic fracturing is the fracturing of rock by a pressurized liquid. Some hydraulic fractures form naturally—certain veins or dikes are examples. Induced hydraulic fracturing or hydrofracturing is a technique in which typically water (the Holy Spirit) is mixed with sand (people the Holy Spirit moves across your surface as a living stone to polish you) and chemicals (the Toxic challenges in your life), and the mixture is injected at high pressure (iron sharpening iron) into a wellbore (through drilling down) to create small fractures (in the stony places of your heart)(typically less than 1mm), along which fluids such as gas, petroleum, uranium-bearing solution, and brine water may migrate to the well. Hydraulic pressure is removed from the well, then small grains of proppant (sand or aluminium oxide) (accountability) hold these fractures open once the rock achieves equilibrium. The technique is very common in wells for shale gas, tight gas, tight oil, and coal seam gas (the valuable resources in your life that are trapped beneath the stony places) and hard rock wells. This well stimulation is usually conducted once in the life of the well and greatly enhances fluid (toxic waste) removal and well productivity (a changed life), but there has been an increasing trend towards multiple hydraulic fracturing as production declines.

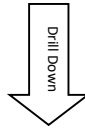
Above is an analogy of what we call “drilling down.” Through this process, it is our desire to help a man who truly wants Godly change in his life. For transformation to take place we must allow the Holy Spirit to move us from the general (or vague) to the specific, from the global to the personal, and from ineffective to applicable in the here and now. By moving through this process we “drill down” to our pivot point, that point in which we change directions. Another term we might use for this pivot point is repentance. When there is true repentance, there will be an immediate and radical change in our thinking, speech, and behavior. It does not result in instant perfection but the change will be abrupt and noticeable.

Let’s look at this from another angle. How many pears must you remove from a pear tree in order to transform it into an apple tree? As Christians, we keep trying to address the fruit and expecting the nature of the tree to change. Instead, we must get to the root of the issue in order to change the fruit we produce. “Produce fruit in keeping with repentance.” (Matthew 3:8) Also read: 1 Timothy 6:10 and Hebrews 12:15.

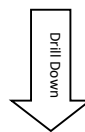
On the next page is a diagram of what this process might look like.

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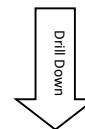
“This lesson gave me new insight”
(Vague)



“The insight I got from this lesson was that God loves us extravagantly”
(Specific but still global)



“The insight I got from this lesson was that God loves me extravagantly”
(Specific and personal but still ineffective)



“God loves me so extravagantly that I no longer have to fear what others think about me. Last week I compromised my principles by joining a brother in bad mouthing my On-Site Manager behind his back because I was afraid that if I stood up for righteousness, I might be seen as a “do-gooder.” Now, if that should ever happen again, I will stand for righteousness and invite the other brother to do the same knowing that working out my salvation and embracing God’s love for me and others is more important to me than man’s opinion of me.”

(Specific, personal, and effecting thinking, speech, and behavior)

1. Share three (3) recent situations where you tried to address some issue or struggle in your life by repenting or trying to change the fruit.
2. By working through the steps shown above, search for the deepest root of each of these three (3) issues/struggles. Share what you find.
3. Write down a declaration for each of these three (3) expressing your repentance for the specific issue/struggle, the true root you found and the truth that changes what you were rooted in.