

# Full Throttle Discipleship



# FULL THROTTLE STAGE THREE MANUAL

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# A Tool For Personal Discipleship

## ***PHASE 3***

# ***AMPLIFIED DISCIPLESHIP CONCEPTS***

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## PHASE 3 CURRICULUM

### ***Amplified Discipleship Concepts***

These lessons are designed to deepen understanding of Phase 1 Concepts.

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# The Christian Life Summarized

## 1. Salvation is more than just being saved from Hell

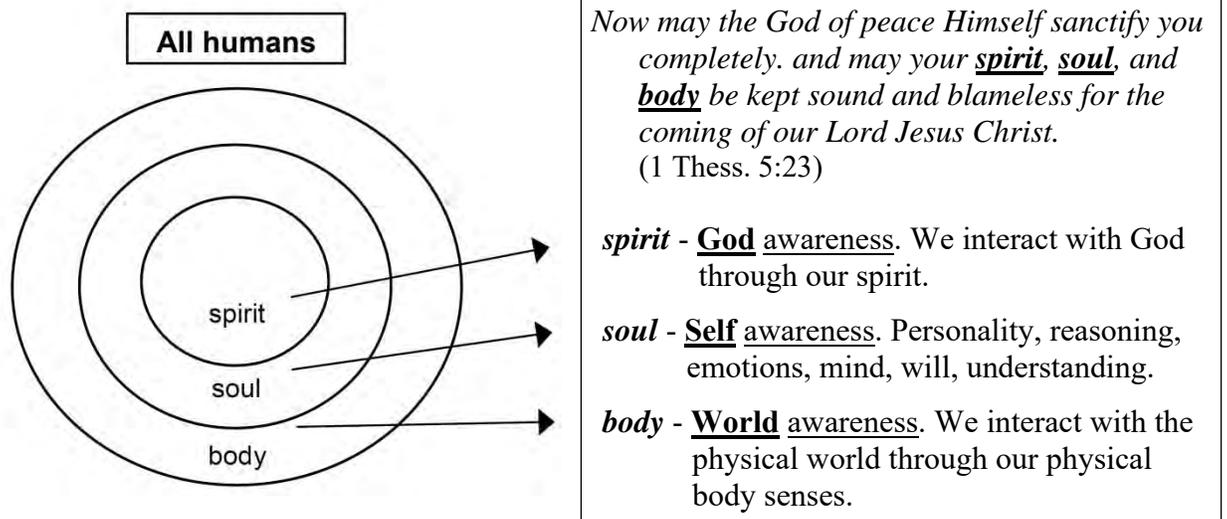
God has a much greater purpose for my life here on earth and into eternity.

(John 10:10) (*Jesus said*) ... I have come so that they may have life and have it **in abundance**.

(1 Cor. 2:9) But as it is written: What eye did not see and ear did not hear, and what never entered the human mind—**God prepared this for those who love Him**.

## 2. Man is a unique creation of God

God set man apart and put His spirit into him. (Genesis 2:7) Then the LORD God formed the man out of the dust from the ground and breathed the breath of life into his nostrils, and the man became a living being.



The entire animal kingdom was created by God. However, the animal kingdom is limited in scope, and without a “spirit”. (In Genesis 2:7, God breathed into man alone His “breath of life.”)

## 3. The problem started with Adam and Eve

God gave a commandment (a law), which they disobeyed. As a result of their disobedience, sin and death entered into the world. (Romans 5:12) *Therefore, just as sin entered the world **through one man**, and death through sin, in this way death spread to all men, because all sinned.*

The Bible describes God as: Loving, Perfect, Sovereign, Faithful, Holy, Just, Merciful, Forgiving. He can do no wrong. He cannot lie. He never changes. **He is totally trustworthy**.

It is critical that we understand **God's** character **and His trustworthiness because** Satan portrays God as someone who cannot be trusted, nor counted on to do what is in my best interest. Satan’s **lie** is that I can obtain peace, happiness, satisfaction, joy and lasting pleasure **independent of** God. (the “root” problem of humanity)

The joy and peace that God intends for me is **only possible in companionship with Him.**

(John 14:27) (*Jesus said*) "... My peace I give to you. **I do not give to you as the world gives....**"  
(Romans 14:17) for the kingdom of God is not eating and drinking, but righteousness, peace, and joy **in the Holy Spirit.**

#### 4. Not everything an unbeliever does is evil

An unbeliever can do many good things from man's perspective. The problem is that man cannot do good that measures up to God's perfection.

**All** that man does is **blemished, distorted, and falls short. God cannot accept "my best."**

Their works (fruits) have no life (eternal), are less than perfect, and cannot please God. Even their good deeds are **temporary, only for this life.**

Eph. 4:18 They are **darkened in their understanding, excluded** from the life of God.

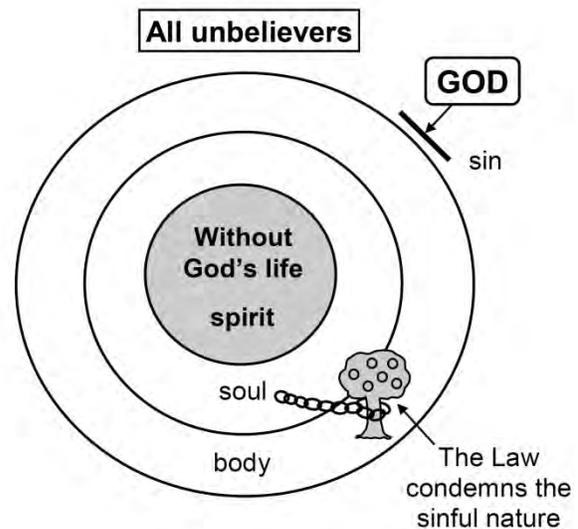
Rom. 3:23 For **all** have sinned and **fall short** ...

Rom. 3:10-12 ... There is **no one** righteous, **not even one.** ... there is **no one** who seeks God.

... There is **no one** who does what is good,...

Rom. 8:7-8 For the mind-set of the flesh is **hostile to God** because it does not submit itself to God's law, for it is **unable to do so.** Those who are in the flesh **cannot please God.**

My human nature can only produce **artificial** fruit. It may look good, but it has **no life.** How much nourishment would I get from eating a piece of artificial fruit? Would it be satisfying?



 = The **human nature** is pictured as a **bad tree**: (Jesus said) ... **neither can a bad tree produce good fruit.** (Matt. 7:18)

#### 5. Salvation

An unbeliever comes to the conclusion (after enough pressure) that things are hopeless and cries out to God. (Romans 10:13) For **everyone** who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.

I need to clearly understand that I can do nothing to earn or deserve salvation. Jesus did that for me.

Salvation is **just the beginning** of the Christian life. "Eternal life" is **not an object**; it is God's life, without end.

The "event" of salvation (my "new birth") is just the first step in my spiritual walk with God, just as physical birth is the first step in the human experience of progressing from childhood to adult maturity.

Many Christians emphasize the event of salvation (and obviously it isn't optional), but then fail to emphasize the importance of the Christian's life between the experience of salvation and the departure from this body.

6. At salvation I receive the Holy Spirit and a new life with God

**Before** (as an unbeliever), I was a **guilty sinner** before a **holy Judge**. **Now** (as a believer), I am a **child** of the **Father**, cared for by a divine Person, the Holy Spirit. I was put into this position of fellowship with Him, by virtue of Jesus' righteousness, not through my own merits.

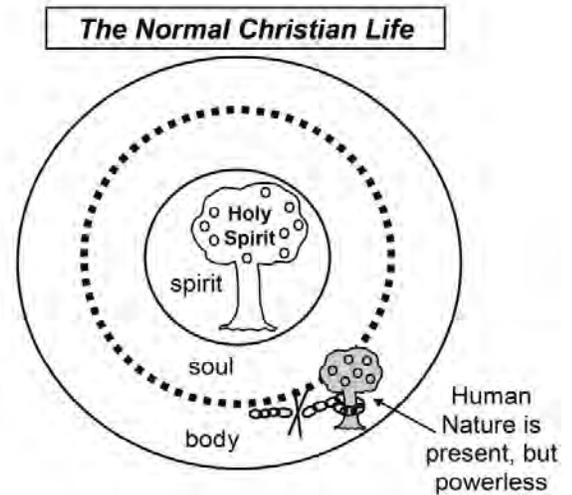
(1 Cor. 1:30) But **it is from Him** that you are in Christ Jesus, who became ... for us—**our righteousness**,

### **THE HOLY SPIRIT IS A PERSON!**

1 Cor. 6:19-20 Don't you know that your body is a **sanctuary of the Holy Spirit** ...

John 16:13 (*Jesus said*) When the Spirit of truth comes, **He will guide you into all the truth...**

Romans 8:16 The Spirit Himself **testifies together with our spirit** that we are God's children.



7. There is good news and bad news!

**Bad News! My human nature has not been changed;** it still cannot produce perfect fruit. I still have the same potential for committing sins after I am saved.

(John 6:63) The Spirit is the One who gives life. **The flesh doesn't help at all.** ...

**Good News! It doesn't matter that my old sinful human nature has not been changed, because God has given me a new nature, His divine nature in the Person of the Holy Spirit.**

(2 Peter 1:3-4) His divine power has given us **everything required for life and godliness** through the knowledge of Him who called us by His own glory and goodness. By these He has given us very great and precious promises, **so that through them you may share in the divine nature.**

### **MY HUMAN NATURE WAS NOT CHANGED WHEN I BECAME A CHRISTIAN!**



= Same sinful human nature, not the least bit improved, still incapable of producing acceptable fruit.

(Gal. 3:3) ... After beginning with the Spirit, **are you now going to be made complete by the flesh?**

(Gal. 5:17) For the flesh desires what is **against the Spirit**, and the Spirit desires what is against the flesh; **these are opposed to each other**,...

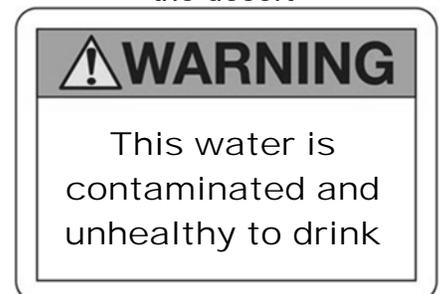
### **THE LAW EXPOSES THE CHARACTER OF MY HUMAN NATURE.**

(Rom. 3:19-20) ... because the knowledge of sin comes through the law.

My human nature is pictured as a **salty spring, unable to support human life:**

(James 3:11-12) Does a spring pour out sweet and bitter water from the same opening? Can a fig tree produce olives, my brothers, or a grapevine produce figs? **Neither can a saltwater spring yield fresh water.**

Imagine the Law as a sign by a water hole in the desert



8. More good news and more bad news

**Good News** = The Holy Spirit is **permanent**. He will **never** leave me.

John 14:16 ... the Father, ... will give you another Counselor to be with you **forever**.

(**Note:** The Holy Spirit helps me to understand and follow Him. He should not be regarded as a Servant who waits for me to command Him.)

**Bad News** = My human nature will not leave me until I physically die. **All** humans have the **same** sinful human nature.

9. Acknowledging Him as Lord

The Lordship decision is a submission of **my will** to His authority, followed by the abiding process (sanctification / spiritual growth).

It's important to realize that I am not "giving up something to God" when I acknowledge Him as Lord and Master, because He already owns me. I am already His. He has bought me. Therefore, to do anything less than unconditionally yield myself to Him is to usurp authority over that which is not mine.

1 Corinthians 6:19-20 Don't you know that your body is a sanctuary of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God? You are not your own, for you were bought at a price. Therefore glorify God in your body.

He is rightfully my Lord, and I need to acknowledge and accept it. He will not "become" my Lord sometime in the future. A refusal to acknowledge God's stated truth will result in forfeiture of blessings both here on earth and at the Tribunal of Christ.

(See Lesson 3-5 for more discussion on Lordship)

10. Abiding in fellowship with the Lord

The condition of **living in fellowship** with Him is called **ABIDING**. **Everyone starts the Christian life here**.

**Illustration of Abiding:** If I hold a small object and you let go of it, the force of gravity overcomes the object and it immediately falls. Think of gravity as a representation of the way in which my human nature repels me away from God and towards sin. Now I place that object on my open palm. Because the power of my hand is greater than the force of gravity, the object can safely "rest" on my palm. The object does not fall, even though the force of gravity has not diminished.



The Holy Spirit can be represented by my hand, and I can be represented by the object. For as ever long **as I desire** I can confidently "rest" in Him, that is, I can continually experience **His** power over my sinful nature.

This is a place of **rest**. This is the condition of a **branch** on a tree. (John 15)

Matthew 11:28-30 "Come to Me, all of you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you **rest**. All of you, take up My yoke and learn from Me, because I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find **rest** for yourselves. For My yoke is **easy** and My burden is **light**."

11. Should I expect to live a sinless life?

I should continue to think of gravity as a picture of the way in which my sinful nature attracts me to fall. Do I go through the day expecting to physically fall? Of course not. Although I must always remain alert, I should not “expect” to be dominated by the sinful nature.

1 John 1:9, 2:1 ... My little children, I am writing you these things so that you may not sin. But **if** anyone does sin, we have an advocate with the Father—Jesus Christ the Righteous One.  
Gal. 5:16 I say then, walk by the Spirit **and you will not carry out the desire of the flesh.**

12. What is the Holy Spirit doing as I abide in fellowship with Him?

- **He is increasingly producing His fruit through my life.**

Gal. 5:22-23 But **the fruit of the Spirit** is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faith, gentleness, self-control. Against such things there is no law.

John 15:5 ... “The one who remains in Me and I in him produces **much fruit**,...”

- **He glorifies the Father through me.**

John 15:8 “My Father is glorified **by this**: that you produce **much fruit** ...”

- **He is causing me to grow in spiritual maturity.**

John 15:2 ... and **He prunes** every branch that produces fruit **so that it will produce more fruit.**

Rom. 12:2 ... but **be transformed by the renewing of your mind**, so that you may discern what is the good, pleasing, and perfect will of God.

- **He causes me to experience His joy.**

John 15:11 “I have spoken these things to you **so that My joy may be in you** and **your joy may be complete.**”

- **He is producing an eternal inheritance for me.**

John 15:16 ... I chose you. I appointed you that you should go out and produce fruit and **that your fruit should remain**,...

2 Cor. 4:17 For our momentary light affliction is **producing for us an absolutely incomparable eternal weight of glory.**

- **He is attracting others to Himself through my life.**

Acts 1:8 (*Jesus said*) But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come on you, and **you will be My witnesses** in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.”

13. Living in abiding fellowship is “conditional”.

I still have the human nature, and God will not take away my right to choose. At any moment I can choose to remove myself from the condition of “rest” (abiding), and allow my human nature to reign as my master.



Going back to the hand illustration; if I am not resting on the hand it is because I have **chosen** to remove myself. This has nothing to do with the issue of salvation, but rather with the fruitfulness of my life here on earth.

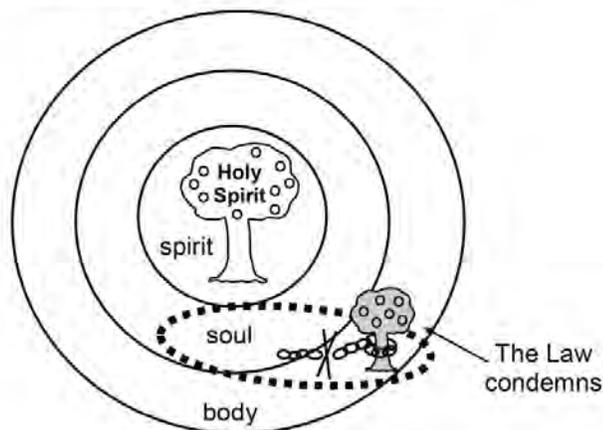
The **Christian husband - wife relationship** is meant to be a **model** for abiding fellowship.

Eph. 5:31-32 ... a man will leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two will become one flesh. This mystery is profound, but I am talking about **Christ and the church**.  
 Eph. 4:30 And **don't grieve** (*offend*) God's Holy Spirit....

As a Christian I have that living water **ready to flow** through my life. But when I am out of abiding fellowship, the **tap is turned off**. Jesus said in John 7:38-39 “*The one who believes in Me, as the Scripture has said, will have **streams of living water** flow from deep within him.*” He said this about **the Spirit**....”

14. As a Christian, I can live unreconciled with the Holy Spirit

**A believer who is not abiding**



**If I choose to submit to the sinful nature I will find myself here, but I do not have to stay here!**

I do not need to be out of fellowship with the Holy Spirit **any longer than I choose** to be.

Restoration to the position of abiding fellowship will take place **immediately** upon confession of the offense(s) for which the Holy Spirit is holding me accountable.

Note: The circular “dotted line” represents the “conditional” aspect of abiding.

**How can I know if I am out of fellowship (not abiding)?** Usually symptoms indicate an ailing body. Similarly I should look for “**on-going**” spiritual **symptoms** of the sinful nature, such as:

- stumbling
- impatience
- frustration
- dissatisfaction
- worry
- striving
- lack of peace
- sense of defeat
- complaining
- anxiety
- anger
- irritability
- addictive behavior
- critical or judgmental attitude
- other on-going symptoms?

**IMPORTANT:** In a healthy family the **oversight** of parent-child harmony is the responsibility of the parents, **not** the children. In the same way, the Holy Spirit oversees my abiding harmony with Him, and I need to be **continually** sensitive to His promptings, since my judgment is often flawed.

15. Why do some Christians live unreconciled with the Holy Spirit?

Some are unwilling to give Him authority over their lives. Do I think of myself as walking **side by side** with the Lord, but **I am in charge** (that is, **He's my Partner?**). Is He just there to help me when I think I have a need? Or do I see Him as **my Master**, the One I **follow** as **His servant**? That is **Lordship!**

He doesn't ask me to design my future and let Him fit in at my convenience. It is the other way around. **He** has a personalized plan and He desires for me to fit into it, **if I am willing**.

Some see God as the **Divine 911**. They call upon Him when things get out of hand. (Is God my co-pilot in case I get lost?) **Do I want God, or just His blessings?**



Some think that God's greatest priority is **to make me happy here on earth!** As a matter of fact He does want my happiness, but not just temporary. God wants to give me lasting satisfaction. If left on my own I will usually accept temporary satisfaction. Because God loves me and wants what is best for me, **He will not let me be content with less** than what He has planned for me, in companionship with Him. **My happiness** is a **by-product** of living in fellowship with Him. God loves me so much that He will only let me experience His true joy as I abide in fellowship with Him.

Who knows what will best satisfy me, me or God? I come into the Christian life with a perceived mental list of what is good and what is bad, what makes me happy and what doesn't. I **need to unlearn** many habits and misconceptions that I brought into the Christian life, and some I've learned since I became a Christian. As a Christian I cannot expect God to fit into **my** program. He has **better** things, things that can only be experienced through trusting Him.

Romans 12:1-2 Therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, I urge you to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God; this is your spiritual worship. Do not be conformed to this age, but **be transformed by the renewing of your mind**, so that you may discern what is the good, pleasing, and perfect will of God.

Can I do **“good” spiritual deeds** while living out of fellowship with the Holy Spirit? Absolutely! I can attend **church services**, **read my Bible**, **pray**, **give money**, etc. **Doing good things is no guarantee** that I am abiding in Christ.

Paul warns us in 1 Corinthians 13:1-3 If I speak human or angelic languages but do not have love, I am **a sounding gong** or **a clanging cymbal**. If I have the gift of prophecy and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith so that I can move mountains but do not have love, **I am nothing**. And if I donate all my goods to feed the poor, and if I give my body in order to boast but do not have love, **I gain nothing**.

## 16. How to identify “Unresolved Issues”

Often, being overcome by sin is a symptom of a problem. There is a good chance that the **most troublesome areas** for me are **symptoms** and not the root problem. That is, He will not allow me to abide in fellowship with Him and have victory in one area of my life while I am **consciously allowing** disobedience and defeat in another area.

### **What is keeping me from abiding in fellowship?**

- **Unforgiveness?**

Mark 11:25 ...**if you have anything against anyone, forgive him**,...

- **Unreconciled relationships?**

Matthew 18:15 “If your brother sins against you, **go and rebuke him in private**. If he listens to you, you have won your brother.”

Matthew 5:23-24 ... **First go** and **be reconciled** with your brother, and **then** come and offer your gift.

- **Restitution?**

Numbers 5:5-7 ... When a man or woman commits any sin against another, that person acts unfaithfully toward the LORD and is guilty. The person is to confess the sin he has committed. He is to **pay full compensation**, add a fifth of its value to it, and give it to the individual he has wronged.

- **Unconfessed sin?** (Consider “sin” to be “**anything that is displeasing to the Lord.**”)

Proverbs 28:13 The one who conceals his sins will not prosper, but whoever **confesses** and **renounces** them will find mercy.

1 John 1:9-10 **If we confess** our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. If we say, “We don’t have any sin,” we make Him a liar, and His word is not in us.

## 17. Need for restoration

Yes, it is true that sin is an offence against God’s holiness. However, the greatest effect that my sin has on my relationship with God is that **it disrupts** my abiding fellowship with Him, and hinders Him from blessing and using me. **God cannot bear His good fruit in my life while I am choosing to allow my human nature to reign.**

John 15:4-5 (*Jesus said*) “Remain in Me, and I in you. Just as a branch is unable to produce fruit by itself **unless it remains** on the vine, so neither can you **unless you remain in Me**. I am the vine; you are the branches. The one who remains in Me and I in him produces much fruit, because **you can do nothing without Me.**”

**Only what is motivated by the Holy Spirit has eternal value.**

**King David** is an example of a believer living out of fellowship for about **nine months**. (2 Samuel 11:1 - 12:25)

God’s desire is for me to be **restored** to abiding fellowship quickly. The Holy Spirit wants to reveal to me whatever disrupted my fellowship. I only need to be honest with Him and to acknowledge whatever He shows me. I must ask the Lord to show me in what way(s) I have offended Him.



## Understanding the Predispositions of my Human Nature (*Identifying the enemy, will help me to increasingly depend less on self.*)

New believers often say, "I thought when I became a Christian I wasn't going to be tempted anymore", or "Some of the things I used to do as an unbeliever I thought would disappear, but instead I find I'm still capable of doing them!"

I will always have temptation and will need to deny my fleshly nature. I must understand that my old sinful human nature has not been improved. But there is good news! So let's study this together.

Do you look around in church services thinking that the Christian life is a breeze for everyone else, but not for you? Everyone else is clapping and smiling as they sing in church, making it easy to conclude that *those* Christians do not have the struggles with sin that I have.

Maybe you think the apostle Paul didn't have to struggle with sin the way you do. After all, he was "super spiritual". It's easy to conclude that my sinful nature is different than other believers', or their sinful nature is less wicked than my sinful nature. But the truth is **we all have the same sinful nature**, inherited from Adam.

2 Corinthians 5:17 Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away, and look, new things have come.

Doesn't this verse mean my sinful nature is gone; it is dead? No. My old sinful human nature does not cease to exist. It is not annihilated or overhauled, nor does God make it new. God's provision for victory over my sinful nature was to implant in me His divine nature in the Person of the Holy Spirit. By giving me His new nature, He freed me so I can walk in the Spirit. Walking in the Spirit is called "**abiding**".

Galatians 5:16 I say then, walk by the Spirit and you will not carry out the desire of the flesh.

Ok, if all this is true, why do I still have this predisposition to listen to and follow my sinful human nature? Think about how during my entire life I have focused on behaving properly, from my earliest childhood until I became a Christian. God now wants to change my focus **from outward behavior to inward transformation**, because **as I allow Him to transform my inward convictions and values, my behavior will always follow**.

Romans 12:2 Do not be conformed to this age, but **be transformed by the renewing of your mind**, so that you may discern what is the good, pleasing, and perfect will of God.

For inward transformation to take place, I must understand the two dynamics of **Outward Behavior** and **Inward Transformation**. Otherwise, I will be dismayed by temptations and feelings and desires that I thought I would no longer have, and I won't understand what is happening. That is why so many new believers think "I will no longer be tempted to sin, because God is going to make my life a joy and I'll always be at peace and **God is going to do it all**."

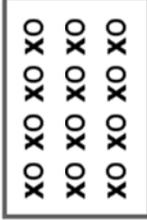
Worse yet, Christians may say, "I'm so bad that I'm beyond repair", or "I tried the Christian life and I thought I was going to have a joyful life with God, but instead I see these same desires welling up in me, so I must not be saved."

At birth my mind was like an empty whiteboard



My learning process (from family, friends, TV, internet, social media, the world's culture, teachers, Satan, etc.)

Acquired understanding about this life, values, etc.



My worldview does not disappear at salvation

God never forces me, but as I choose to be teachable, He will use His Word and other means to gradually illuminate areas of my understanding that He wants to alter. (Sanctification)

Spiritual Growth (Sanctification) results in increasingly more Spiritual fruit. Because of the change in my worldview, my choices begin to be motivated by love and truth and not selfishness. Through it I am blessed.

P H Y S I C A L D E A T H



child

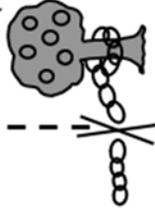
### My Predispositions Toward Self-Dependence

### 3 Areas of Independence from God

- 1) **Strength** (My body & its appetites, including works & behavior)
- 2) **Wisdom** (My understanding & knowledge)
- 3) **Wealth** (My possessions)

Jeremiah 9:23-24

**Slave of the sinful human nature**  
(spiritually dead in relation to God)



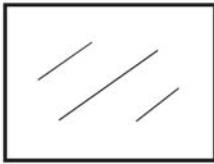
If I do not understand the unchanged tendencies of my old sinful human nature, I will most likely have the same problem that the Galatians had – trusting in their own goodness and works, even as believers.

**Galatians 3:1-3** ...Did you receive the Spirit by the works of the law or by hearing with faith? Are you so foolish? After beginning with the Spirit, are you now going to be made complete by the flesh?

**I am freed from the power of the sinful nature and ALIVE TO GOD!**  
(dead = in relation to the sinful human nature)

Now the sinful human nature is like a "deposed dictator" (powerless, yet continually claiming to have authority).

Let's analyze this diagram ("Understanding the Predispositions of my Sinful Human Nature"), because identifying the enemy and its tactics will help me to increasingly depend less on myself and more on God.



1. At birth my mind was like an empty whiteboard. There's nothing on the "whiteboard" when I am born. I have not yet acquired any values or convictions.

2. As I grow, I acquire my convictions, values and perspective of life from my parents, friends, school, TV, internet, social media, etc. (This is true for whatever culture we are raised in). We call this our **worldview**. All these external influences shape my understanding of life. These values or convictions (or lack thereof) are processed in my mind.



I take this worldview / value system (good and bad) into my Christian life. This worldview does not disappear at the Cross.

(NOTE: Some of my worldview and understanding is contrary to God; some is not. In the diagram, the X's represent "understanding that is contrary to God", and the O's represent "understanding that is not necessarily contrary to God".

3. When I became a Christian, the Holy Spirit came into my life and He wants me to follow His Truth, and not be conformed to what the world says. He wants to transform (modify) my worldview to conform to His Truth.

John 16:13-15 When the Spirit of truth comes, **He will guide you** into all the truth. For He will not speak on His own, but He will speak whatever He hears. He will also **declare to you** what is to come. **He will glorify Me**, because He will take from what is Mine and **declare it to you**....,

4. God never forces me, but as I choose to be teachable, He will use His Word and other means to gradually illuminate areas of my understanding that He wants to alter.

John 17:17 Sanctify them by the truth; Your word is truth;  
Ephesians 4:22-24 You took off your former way of life, the old self that is corrupted by deceitful desires; you are being renewed in the spirit of your minds; you put on the new self, the one created according to God's likeness in righteousness and purity of the truth.

But I have to cooperate with Him by allowing Him to make those changes. Psalms 63:1 (David wrote) *God, ... I **eagerly** seek You. I **thirst** for You....*

This process of transformation and spiritual growth is called "**sanctification**" and results in increasingly more spiritual fruit. As my worldview is changed, my choices begin to be motivated by love and truth and not selfishness. Through it I am blessed.

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5. The next challenge: Who is in charge of deciding what needs to be changed, how to make the changes and in what order?

Left on my own, I can easily conclude that God leaves it up to me to make these decisions.

John 14:26 Jesus said, “But the Counselor, **the Holy Spirit**—the Father will send Him in My name—**will teach you all things** and remind you of everything I have told you.”

John 16:13 Jesus said “When the Spirit of truth comes, He will guide you into all the truth.”

One huge temptation to avoid is the assumption that imitating the behavior of other believers will certainly lead to a life that is pleasing to God.

I can conclude that these people have already read the Bible and therefore know what needs to be changed. I can assume that they have allowed God to use His Word to change their worldview, so then I can take a shortcut and model my behavior after them rather than relying on the Bible.

Theoretically, that should be true *if* the other believers are faithfully following God's Word. After all, the Apostle Paul said, “*Imitate me, as I also imitate Christ*” (1 Corinthians 11:1). If I imitate Paul then I theoretically should be following Christ because Paul is following Christ and I'm following Paul.

Why is this such a risky assumption? Because many older believers have probably made the same error - following their peers who had followed their peers. And so the process is duplicated again and again, resulting in many churches being filled with believers who may or may not be following God's Word.

Think of this example: Have you ever made a photocopy of a document? And then duplicated the copy? And then another copy of the last copy? After 5 or 6 such duplications, how clear is the last copy as compared to the original?

*Spiritual mentoring can help me understand how to rely on the Holy Spirit's inward transformation rather than copying the behavior of others.*

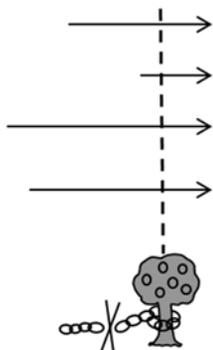
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**How shall I grow?:** The Holy Spirit is the One in charge of making the changes in my value system, because I don't really know on my own what is pleasing to God and what is not pleasing to God. In this graphic, the G's represent areas of my understanding (worldview) that God has changed to His perspective.

“As a Christian is transformed in his mind and is made more like Christ, he comes to approve and desire God's will, not his own will for his life. Then he discovers that God's will is what is good for him, and that it pleases God, and is complete in every way. It is all he needs. But only by being renewed spiritually can a believer ascertain, do, and enjoy the will of God.” (Walvoord, John F., and Zuck, Roy B., *The Bible Knowledge Commentary*, (Wheaton, Illinois: Scripture Press Publications, Inc.) 1983, 1985.



6. From the moment I became a believer, until the day I die, God is at work in me, changing my perspective of life. This process will never stop while I am living here on earth. This means that I am never going to get to the place in my Christian life where God doesn't want to make changes in me -- so that I can become all He wants me to be. He always wants me to continue to grow.



In battle it helps to identify the enemy and his tactics. In our spiritual battle, understanding my predispositions toward self-dependence will help me to increasingly depend less on myself and learn to depend more on God, with the Holy Spirit guiding me.

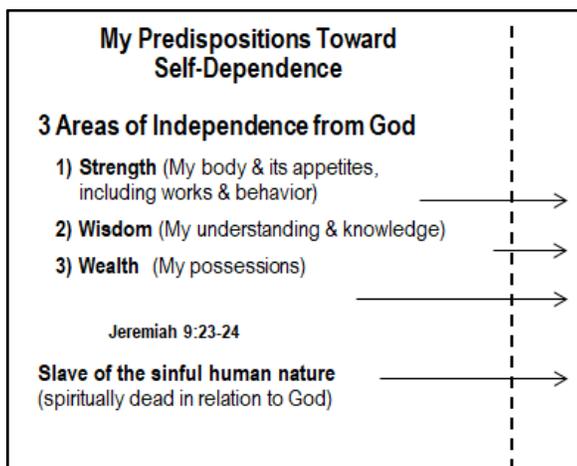
7. My sinful human nature has a propensity towards self-dependence in three major areas, and God wants to illuminate these areas.

Jeremiah 9:23-24 This is what the LORD says: “Let not the wise man boast of his **wisdom** or the strong man boast of his **strength** or the rich man boast of his **riches**, but let him who boasts boast about this: that he understands and knows Me, that I am the LORD,... (NIV)

The world system (enemy) promotes independence from God, and Satan looks for ways to deceive me into believing that I can live independently of God and be satisfied.

In the Garden of Eden Satan deceived Adam and Eve, in essence, persuading them, “God made you, but God doesn't have your best interest at heart, and here are some things that will truly satisfy you, independent of God”. **Adam and Eve chose to seek happiness independent of God.**

The three areas of independence are:



1. **STRENGTH: My body and its appetites, including works and behavior.**

- Concerning the body, take notice of how the world promotes beauty and physical strength as being a source of happiness.

2. **WISDOM: My understanding and knowledge.**

- In the realm of understanding the world promotes the idea that having more knowledge will make me happier. If I get more degrees and more knowledge I will be more satisfied.

3. **WEALTH: My possessions.**

- “The more possessions I have the happier I will be.” Unfortunately, no matter how much “stuff” I have, I will not find true happiness, because Jesus says my happiness does not consist of the things I possess. (Matthew 6:19-24)

People go after these different things, attempting to fill the void in their soul, when God is the only One that can truly satisfy us.

Verse 24 of Jeremiah 9 says we should “*understand and know God*”. That “knowing” means that I know God’s heart and I know Him personally, which speaks of more than just salvation.

Just like in a healthy husband-wife relationship, the more time they spend together throughout the years, the better they know each other, learning the likes and dislikes of each other. Their relationship flourishes and becomes more intimate. That's how it should be between God and me.

Some might ask, "Should I not strive towards a healthy body, or is it wrong to acquire possessions, or gather more knowledge?" These things are not bad in themselves, but they become a problem when I give them a higher priority than God intends. Having knowledge, a healthy body and possessions can become sinful if they **replace** God's priorities.

God wants to be the most important thing in my life, and He wants to determine to what degree I should pursue any of these three areas. **God wants to be #1 in my life with everything else falling into place under His authority.**

If I want to possess something regardless of what God wants for me, it can become sin. But it pleases God when I ask Him, "God, I want 'this' and if it's acceptable to You, and if You determine that this would be good for me, then I would like to have it."

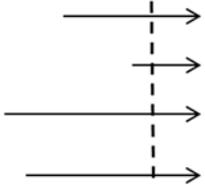
God wants me to let Him do the choosing of what things are best for me because God alone knows what is best for me and what He wants to do with my life.



8. The Good News of Salvation: Before the cross I was a slave of the sinful nature. I was dead in relation to God (separated from Him). At the moment of the cross I received the Holy Spirit.



9. The arrows in the graphic (beneath the cross) represent the tendencies I had before salvation, which continue after I become a believer. (the predisposition toward sin)



The great news is that while these tendencies and predispositions of the sinful nature don't change, I am no longer bound or a slave to the sinful nature. I am freed from the sinful nature's power. **God's provision for me to walk in victory is the Holy Spirit.**

Galatians 3:1-3 ... Did you receive the Spirit by observing the law, or by believing what you heard? Are you so foolish? After beginning with the Spirit, are you now trying to attain your goal by human effort? (NIV)

If I do not understand the unchanged tendencies of my old sinful human nature, I will most likely have the same problem that the Galatians had – trusting in their own goodness and works, even as believers. Galatians 3:1-3 also helps me to understand this predisposition towards self-independence from God.

Paul is asking the Galatians if when they received Christ as their Savior was it because they were doing the right things (behavior) or did their salvation come through faith? He knew they would know the answer was by faith.

We all have the same tendency -- to expect our behavior to go from bad to good now that we are believers, and to think that my correct behavior is all that God cares about. Yes, God does want the right behavior, BUT not because I'm focused on the right behavior, but because **the right behavior is a product of my inward transformation.**

Paul says to the Galatian believers and to me, “Just as you were unable to produce acceptable behavior as an unbeliever, so as a believer you are still incapable of producing acceptable behavior in your own strength.”

**The secret is to stop focusing on good behavior.** This sounds counter-intuitive! God wants to **be** the focus. As we desire to get to **know** God, He changes our inward perspective of life and **that** is what is going to produce the behavior that is acceptable to Him.

**Caution:** The (same) sinful nature is like **a deposed dictator**, powerless, yet continually claiming to have authority. It is never going to change until the day I die. The sinful nature is always going to be trying to persuade me that IT is what is in control of my life. But it is not – unless I allow it.

10. In order to not allow the sin nature to dominate my life, I have to walk in fellowship with the Holy Spirit, which is called “abiding”. As I am abiding and walking in the Spirit I will not fulfill the desire of the flesh. (Galatians 5:16) *“I say then, walk by the Spirit and you will not carry out the desire of the flesh.”*

**Condition of “Abiding”**  
The normal Christian Life  
*“walking in the Spirit”*



I am either submitted to the Holy Spirit or submitted to the sinful nature. There is no grey area in this matter. I am submitted to someone or something.

When I am out of fellowship with the Holy Spirit I am automatically submitted to the sinful nature.

When I am walking in the Spirit (abiding), the sinful nature is not reigning in my life. But at any given moment I can allow myself to become out of fellowship with the Holy Spirit, at which time I will find myself under the power of the sinful nature.

While on this earth I am never going to get to the place in my Christian life where God doesn't want to continue transforming my understanding in some area so that I see things from His perspective. Jesus always saw life from God's perspective and God is molding me into the image of His Son!

Genesis 1:27 So God created man in His own image; He created him in the image of God; He created them male and female.

2 Corinthians. 3:18 And we, who with unveiled faces all reflect the Lord's glory, are being transformed into His likeness with ever-increasing glory, which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit. (NIV)

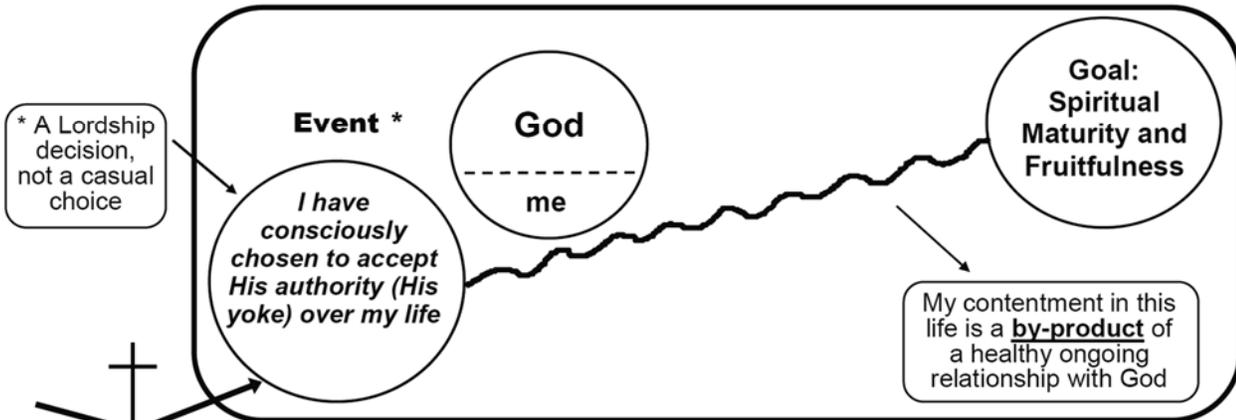
11. So how do I allow God to continue to transform me? By getting to know Him more intimately every day. (see Lesson 1-2)

- a) Listening to God through reading **His Word**
- b) Conversing with God in **prayer**
- c) **Meeting regularly** with other believers for teaching, prayer, Bible study, accountability and encouragement
- d) **Being continually aware that He is present**

# Two Kings – Two Types of Believers

## THE “NORMAL” CHRISTIAN LIFE (God is my “Master”)

This on-going process includes: “Abiding”, “Pruning”, “Sanctification”, Learning what is pleasing to Him. (Focus tends to be on “inward transformation”)



“But the one sown on the good ground—this is one who hears and understands the word, who does bear fruit and yields: some 100, some 60, some 30 times what was sown.” Matthew 13:23

**King David** is an Old Testament example

## THE “ABNORMAL” CHRISTIAN LIFE (God is my “Partner”)

70 – 80% of American Christians?

**A Divided Loyalty**  
Jesus said, “No one can be a slave of two masters, ...”  
Matt. 6:24



“I give God a reasonable part of my life and hopefully that satisfies His expectations.” (Focus tends to be on “external behavior.”)

Hopeful harmony with God

“God blesses (helps) me as I seek to satisfy my aspirations and fulfill my goals in life.” (I hope for His blessings on my terms)

Goal: My Happiness in this life

“As for the seed that fell among thorns, these are the ones who, when they have heard, go on their way and are choked with worries, riches, and pleasures of life, and produce no mature fruit.” Luke 8:14,

**King Saul** is an Old Testament example

## The Purpose of This Lesson Is:

- To contrast a “God-dependent” disposition with a “self-dependent” disposition (see Proverbs 3:5-6).
  - To change the focus of attention from “outward behavior” to “inward transformation”. (Romans 12:1-2)
1. The main difference between the two types of believers, is that of the **disposition** toward the authority (Lordship) of Jesus in a Christian’s life.
  2. Many Christians perceive their spiritual life as having a divided authority, that is, with God governing in some areas, while the Christian has authority over other areas; and that it is the Christian’s right, or privilege, to decide over which areas God should exercise authority. A problem arises because Jesus stated clearly that there can only be **one** master in a Christian’s life. (Matt. 6:24)
  3. A believer, unless taught otherwise, will have a natural tendency to assume authority over the main areas of their life, while granting to God authority over limited “spiritual” areas.
  4. Many believers think that the relinquishing of authority over their life (accepting His yoke) is a long process rather than a **one-time** conscious choice. The problem with presenting Lordship as a process is that it results in the Christian, often unknowingly, assuming that their own priorities have a rightful place of supremacy over God’s priorities. There is a long-term daily aspect of surrender, just as marriage partners need to daily reinforce their initial covenant and vows.
  5. During the spiritual mentoring process, the mentor needs to discern how the mentee (apprentice) perceives God’s authority over his/her life. Christians who have acknowledged Christ’s Lordship over their life will often be able to identify the approximate time and circumstances surrounding that **event**. The reason for this is that the choice to accept His rightful authority (His yoke) is **not** a casual decision.
  6. As a Christian I need to understand that God’s stated ownership is an **absolute**, which is not at all dependent on my acceptance or acknowledgment of it. An acceptance or acknowledgment of what God says is truth simply removes a major obstacle to Him using and blessing me in the way He desires. To reject His Lordship is to usurp authority that is not mine. Jesus asked, “*Why do you call Me **Lord**, Lord, and don’t do the things I say?*” (Luke 6:46).
  7. If I, as a Christian try to serve two masters (God and myself), I have a **divided loyalty** (double minded), attempting to satisfy God while at the same time perceiving God as someone who will help me achieve my goals and aspirations in this life.
  8. King Saul is an Old Testament example of a believer who was unwilling to surrender his **will** to God, but rather chose to rely on his human understanding (self-dependence). In stark contrast King David is an example of a believer who accepted God’s authority over his life. Obviously David was guilty of grave sins, yet God testifies of his disposition of submission in Acts 13:22.  
King Saul’s sins may not outwardly seem as grievous to man, yet God’s disapproval is very evident, due to Saul’s unwillingness to accept His authority.  
**KING SAUL’S PROBLEM WAS ONE OF THE WILL (LORDSHIP), WHILE KING DAVID’S WAS ONE OF BEHAVIOR.**
  9. I will either perceive myself as a servant to God, or I will perceive God as my helper/partner.

**NOTE: Maturity has to be factored in also. A Christian may have made a lordship decision (and be surrendered, yet be immature.)**

## King Saul – A Self-Dependent Believer (King Saul reigned for 40 years – Acts 13:21)

Both kings were chosen by God, and God’s presence was evident in both of them. Each was disobedient to God and each was confronted by a prophet of God. Their responses to God’s spokesmen, Samuel and Nathan, reveal their **distinct heart dispositions** towards God. Man tends to look at outward appearance (easier to be misled), but God looks at the heart attitude (and is never misled). “... *Man does not see what the Lord sees, for man sees what is visible, but the Lord sees the **heart**.*” (1 Sam. 16:7)

1. King Saul was **chosen** by God, and the Holy Spirit was evidenced in his life.  
(1 Sam. 9-10)

1 Samuel 9:17 When Samuel saw Saul, the LORD told him, “Here is the man I told you about; he will rule over My people.”

1 Samuel 10:6-7 (*Samuel said*) The Spirit of the LORD will control you, you will prophesy with them, and you will be **transformed into a different person**. When these signs have happened to you, do whatever your circumstances require because **God is with you**.

1 Samuel 10:9-10 When Saul turned around to leave Samuel, **God changed his heart**, and all the signs came about that day. When Saul and his attendant arrived at Gibeah, a group of prophets met him. Then **the Spirit of God took control of him**, and he prophesied along with them.

2. King Saul’s outward appearance was very attractive and acceptable to the people.

1 Samuel 9:2 He had a son named Saul, an **impressive** young man. There was **no one more impressive** among the Israelites than he. He stood a head taller than anyone else.

1 Samuel 10:22–24 ... **he stood a head taller than anyone else**. Samuel said to all the people, “Do you see the one the LORD has chosen? There is **no one like him** among the entire population.” ...

3. King Saul was given a simple command: **to wait** for Samuel to come to offer the sacrifice to God.

1 Samuel 10:8 (*Samuel said*) “Afterward, go ahead of me to Gilgal. **I will come** to you to offer burnt offerings and to sacrifice fellowship offerings. **Wait** seven days **until I come** to you and show you what to do.”

### **1 Samuel 13:8–14**

:8 He waited seven days for the appointed time that Samuel had set, but Samuel didn’t come to Gilgal, and the **troops were deserting** him.

:9 So Saul said, “Bring me the burnt offering and the fellowship offerings.” Then **he offered the burnt offering**.

:10 Just as he finished offering the burnt offering, Samuel arrived. So Saul went out to greet him,

:11 and Samuel asked, “What have you done?” Saul answered, “**When I saw** that the troops were deserting me **and** you didn’t come within the appointed days **and** the Philistines were gathering at Michmash,”

:12 **I thought**: The Philistines will now descend on me at Gilgal, and I haven’t sought the LORD’s favor. So I forced myself to offer the burnt offering.”

:13 Samuel said to Saul, “You have been **foolish**. You have **not kept** the command which the LORD your God gave you. It was at this time that the LORD would have permanently established your reign over Israel,”

:14 “but **now your reign will not endure**. The LORD has found **a man loyal to Him**, and the LORD has appointed him as ruler over His people, **because you have not done** what the LORD commanded.”

Note: On the seventh day, the day Samuel was to arrive, Saul decided he could wait no longer and unlawfully took on himself the priestly responsibility of offering community sacrifice. (See Leviticus 6:8-13)

4. King Saul was given another command, but disobeyed again and was confronted by Samuel. (1 Sam. 15:1-35)

:1-3 Samuel told Saul, ...“This is what the LORD of Hosts says, ... Now go and attack the Amalekites and **completely destroy everything** they have. **Do not spare them**. Kill men and women, children and infants, oxen and sheep, camels and donkeys.”

:4-7 ... Saul came to the city of Amalek and set up an ambush in the wadi.... Saul struck down the Amalekites.

a. Saul once again chose to follow his own reasoning rather than follow instructions that didn't seem to concur with his human understanding.

:8-9 He captured Agag king of Amalek alive, but he completely destroyed all the rest of the people with the sword. **Saul and the troops spared Agag**, and the **best of** the sheep, cattle, and **choice animals**, as well as the **young rams** and the **best of everything** else. They were **not willing** to destroy them, but they did destroy all the **worthless** and **unwanted** things.

Question? What was wrong with Saul's reasoning?

b. Saul was more concerned about the approval of men than the approval of God.

:10-12 Then the word of the LORD came to Samuel, ... “**Saul ... has not carried out** My instructions.” ... Early in the morning Samuel got up to confront Saul, but it was reported to Samuel, “Saul went to Carmel where **he set up a monument for himself**. Then he turned around and went down to Gilgal.”

Question? What is the purpose of a monument? Why was he not repentant and responsive to the Lord?

c. When confronted by Samuel, Saul defends his reasoning.

:13-15 When Samuel came to him, Saul said, “May the LORD bless you. **I have carried out the LORD's instructions**.” Samuel replied, “Then what is this sound of sheep and cattle I hear?” Saul answered, “**The troops** brought them from the Amalekites and spared the **best** sheep and cattle in order **to offer a sacrifice** to the LORD **your** God, but the rest **we** destroyed.”

:16-19 “Stop!” exclaimed Samuel. “Let me tell you what the LORD said to me last night.” “Tell me,” he replied. Samuel continued, “Although you once considered yourself unimportant, have you not become the leader of the tribes of Israel? The LORD anointed you king over Israel and then sent you on a mission and said: ‘Go and completely destroy the sinful Amalekites. Fight against them until you have annihilated them.’ So **why didn't you obey** the LORD? Why did you rush on the plunder and do what was **evil** in the LORD's sight?”

:20-21 “But **I did obey** the LORD!” Saul answered. “I went on the mission the LORD gave me: I brought back Agag, king of Amalek, and I completely destroyed the Amalekites. **The troops**

took sheep and cattle from the plunder—**the best** of what was set apart for destruction—**to sacrifice** to the LORD **your** God at Gilgal.”

:22-23 Then Samuel said: “Does the LORD take pleasure in burnt offerings and sacrifices as much as in obeying the LORD? Look: **to obey** is better than sacrifice, **to pay attention** is better than the fat of rams. For **rebellion** is like the sin of divination, and **defiance** is like wickedness and idolatry. Because **you have rejected** the word of the LORD, He has rejected you as king.”

Question? What are the flaws in Saul’s reasoning? How does God describe Saul’s attitude?

d. Saul finally acknowledges his sin, but is still focused on men’s approval, rather than God’s approval.

:24-25 Saul answered Samuel, “**I have sinned**. I have transgressed the LORD’s command and your words. **Because I was afraid of the people**, I obeyed them. Now therefore, please forgive my sin and return with me so I can worship the LORD.”

:26-29 Samuel replied to Saul, “I will not return with you. Because you **rejected** the word of the LORD, the LORD has rejected you from being king over Israel.” When Samuel turned to go, Saul grabbed the hem of his robe, and it tore. Samuel said to him, “The LORD has torn the kingship of Israel away from you today and has given it to your neighbor who is better than you...”

:30-35 Saul said, “**I have sinned**. Please **honor me** now **before the elders** of my people and **before Israel**. Come back with me so I can bow in worship to the LORD **your** God.” Then Samuel went back, following Saul, and Saul bowed down to the LORD... Samuel went to Ramah.

e. God tells us why Saul died. (also read 1 Samuel 28:19)

1 Chronicles 10:13-14 Saul died **for his unfaithfulness** to the LORD because he did not keep the LORD’s word. **He even consulted a medium for guidance, but he did not inquire of the LORD**. So the LORD put him to death and turned the kingdom over to David son of Jesse. ...

### King David – A God-Dependent Believer (King David reigned for 40 years – 2 Sam. 5:4-5)

1. King David was chosen by God, prepared by God, and blessed by God. David was a “spiritual” believer, who had a passion for the Lord.

1 Sam. 16:1 The LORD said to Samuel, “How long are you going to mourn for Saul, since I have rejected him as king over Israel? Fill your horn with oil and go. I am sending you to Jesse of Bethlehem because **I have selected a king** from his sons.”

1 Sam. 16:13 So Samuel took the horn of oil, anointed him in the presence of his brothers, and **the Spirit of the LORD took control of David from that day forward**...

1 Sam. 16:18 One of the young men answered, “I have seen a son of Jesse of Bethlehem who knows how to play the lyre. He is also a valiant man, a warrior, eloquent, handsome, and **the LORD is with him**.”

1 Sam. 18:14 ... and (*David*) continued to be successful in all his activities **because the LORD was with him**.

Psalm 34:1–14 (*David wrote*) **I will praise the LORD at all times; His praise will always be on my lips. I will boast in the LORD;** the humble will hear and be glad. Proclaim Yahweh’s greatness with me; **let us exalt His name together.** ... Taste and see that the LORD is good. How happy is the man who takes refuge in Him! You who are His holy ones, fear Yahweh, ... Come, children, **listen to me; I will teach you the fear of the LORD.**

Psalm 63:1–8 (*David wrote*) God, You are my God; **I eagerly seek You. I thirst for You; my body faints for You** in a land that is dry, desolate, and without water. So **I gaze on You** in the sanctuary to see Your strength and Your glory. **My lips will glorify You** because **Your faithful love is better than life.** So **I will praise You as long as I live;** at Your name, I will lift up my hands. **You satisfy me** as with rich food; my mouth will praise You with joyful lips. When I think of You as I lie on my bed, **I meditate on You** during the night watches because You are my helper; I will rejoice in the shadow of Your wings. **I follow close to You;** Your right hand holds on to me.

2. However, David offended God and lived out of fellowship with Him for a period of months. (2 Samuel 11 and 24)

### **2 Samuel 11:1-27**

:1 In the spring when kings march out to war, ... David remained in Jerusalem.

:2–5 One evening David got up from his bed and strolled around on the roof of the palace. From the roof he **saw** a woman bathing—a very beautiful woman. So David sent someone **to inquire** about her, and he reported, “This is Bathsheba, daughter of Eliam and wife of Uriah the Hittite.” David sent messengers to **get her**, and when she came to him, he **slept with** her. ... The woman conceived and sent word to inform David: “I am pregnant.”

:6–13 David sent orders to Joab: “Send me Uriah the Hittite.” When Uriah came to him, ... he said to Uriah, “Go down to your house and wash your feet.” So Uriah left the palace, and a gift from the king followed him. But Uriah ... did not go down to his house. ... So Uriah stayed in Jerusalem that day and the next. Then David invited Uriah to eat and drink with him, and David got him drunk. ...but he did not go home.

:14–25 The next morning David wrote a letter to Joab and sent it with Uriah. In the letter he wrote: Put Uriah at the front of the fiercest fighting, then withdraw from him **so that he is struck down and dies...** **Uriah the Hittite also died.** Joab sent someone to report to David all the details of the battle. ...The messenger reported to David, “... Your servant Uriah the Hittite is also dead.” David told the messenger, “Say this to Joab: ‘... the sword devours all alike.’”

:26–27 ... David had her brought to his house. She became his wife and bore him a son. However, the LORD considered what David had done to be **evil**.

- a. As Samuel had confronted Saul, the prophet Nathan confronted David.

2 Samuel 12:1–4 So the LORD sent Nathan to David. When he arrived, he said to him: “There were two men in a certain city, one rich and the other poor. The rich man had a large number of sheep and cattle, but the poor man had nothing except one small ewe lamb that he had bought. He raised it, and it grew up, living with him and his children. It shared his meager food and drank from his cup; it slept in his arms, and it was like a daughter to him. Now a traveler came to the rich man, but the rich man could not bring himself to take one of his own sheep or cattle to prepare for the traveler who had come to him. Instead, he took the poor man’s lamb and prepared it for his guest.”

:5–6 David was infuriated with the man and said to Nathan: “As the LORD lives, the man who did this deserves to die!”

:7–12 Nathan replied to David, “**You** are the man! This is what the LORD God of Israel says: ‘I anointed you king over Israel, and I delivered you from the hand of Saul. I gave your master’s house to you and your master’s wives into your arms, and I gave you the house of Israel and Judah, and if that was not enough, I would have given you even more. Why then have you despised the command of the LORD by doing what I consider evil? **You struck down** Uriah the Hittite with the sword and **took** his wife as your own wife—**you murdered him** with the Ammonite’s sword. Now therefore, the sword will never leave your house because **you despised Me** and took the wife of Uriah the Hittite to be your own wife.’ “This is what the LORD says, ‘I am going to bring disaster on you from your own family: I will take your wives and give them to another before your very eyes, and he will sleep with them publicly. You acted in secret, but I will do this before all Israel and in broad daylight.’”

b. But unlike Saul, David immediately accepted full blame for his sin, and was immediately forgiven. (Also see Psalm 51)

:12:13 David responded to Nathan, “**I have sinned against the LORD.**” Then Nathan replied to David, “**The LORD has taken away your sin;** you will not die.”

:12:14 However, because you treated the LORD with such contempt in this matter, **the son born to you will die.**”

3. David’s forgiveness by God was complete.

:12:24 Then David comforted his wife Bathsheba; he went and slept with her. She gave birth to a son and named him **Solomon. The LORD loved him,** ...

(**Note:** God chose Solomon to build His temple. Solomon was used by God to write some portions of Scripture. Solomon is also listed in the genealogy of Jesus.)

**God’s testimony about David (after his death).**

1 Kings 14:8 ... My servant David, who **kept My commands** and followed Me **with all of his heart**, doing only **what is right in My eyes**.

Acts 13:22 ... He raised up David as their king and testified about him: ‘I have found David the son of Jesse, a man **loyal to Me**, who will carry out **all My will.**’

4. Discussion:

Both Saul and David were believers. One had **not** surrendered his will (Lordship) to the Lord, and sinned; the other **had** surrendered his will to the Lord, but also sinned.

As a trait of life, **Saul sought the approval of other people**, while as a trait of life, **David sought the approval of God.**

In a poll or court of public opinion, whose sin would people consider more grievous? Why?

Whose sin did the Lord consider more grievous? Why? What were the consequences of their sins?

Being “**self-dependent**” (self-reliant) does not mean everything I do is wrong (before people), and being “**spiritual**” does not mean everything I do is right (before God).

***“Integrity is doing the right thing, even when no one else is watching.” C.S. Lewis  
(When there’s only God and you.)***

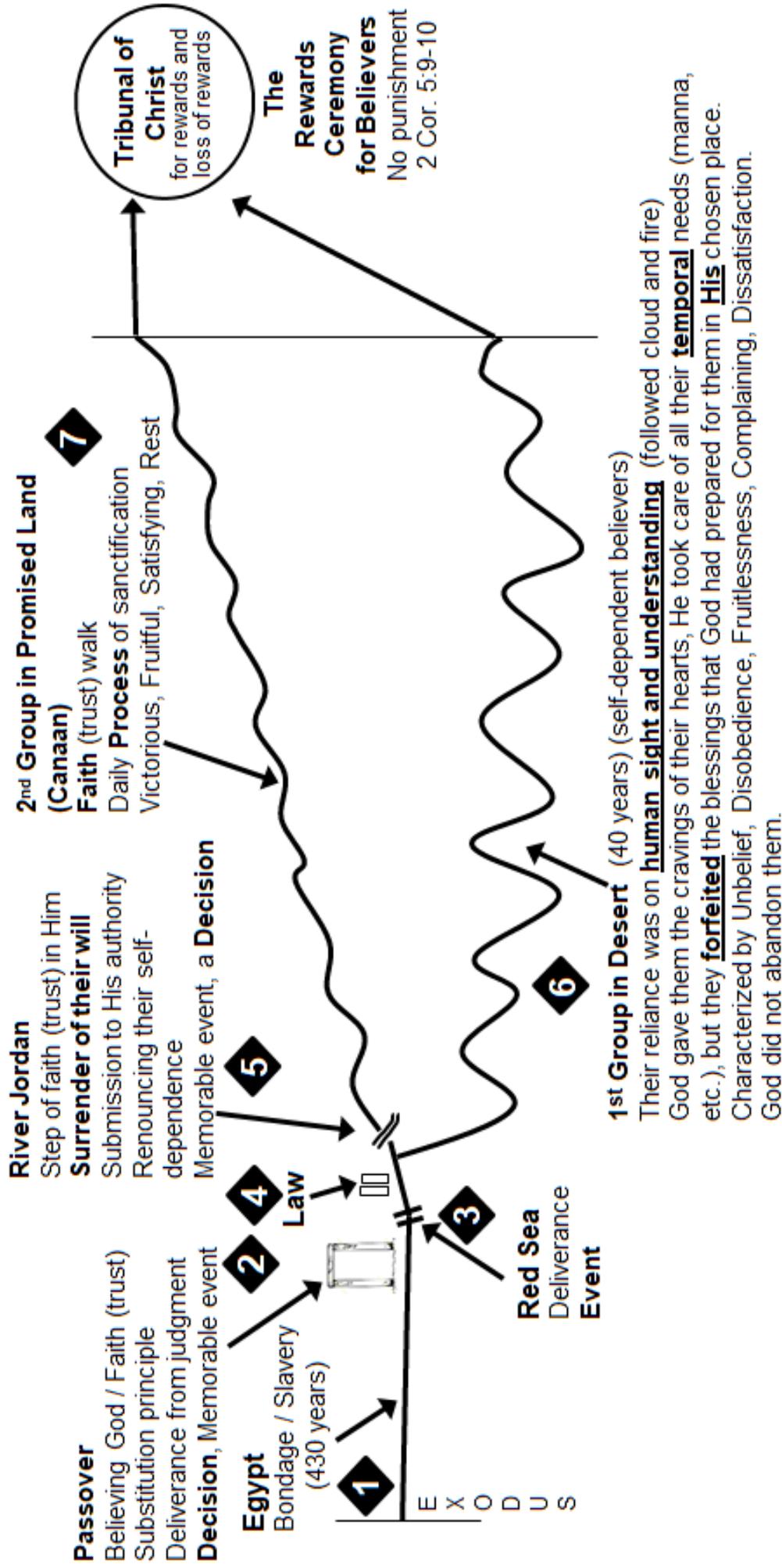
# “The Israelite Journey” as an Analogy to “My Christian Journey” Lesson Guide

**NOTE: The mentor should carefully read this Guide before meeting with the mentee.**

1. The main purpose of this lesson is to acquaint me with the journey of the Israelites from their enslavement in Egypt to the conquest of Canaan (through the book of Joshua). The Israelite journey should serve as an illustration and model to help me better understand my personal relationship with God.  
  
1 Cor. 10:11 Now these things happened to them as examples, and they were written as a warning to us, on whom the ends of the ages have come.
2. I should focus on the Israelites, that is, on **their disposition** towards God and God’s perspective of them. As a result of having understood Lesson 3-3, I should begin on my own to draw parallels (and contrasts) with my personal life and that of other Christians.
3. This overview will emphasize the events, attitudes and principles that will serve to illustrate characteristics of my life (my worldview) and my attitude towards God.
4. As needed, discuss the enslavement of the Israelites in Egypt. (Consider who was my “taskmaster” during my “enslavement” - before I was a believer?)
5. Regarding Exodus 3:7-8a--A detail often overlooked in the episode of the burning bush, is what God revealed to Moses about His intended dealing with the Israelites. He had a two-step plan for them. The **first** step was to take them **OUT OF** Egypt. The **second** step was to take them directly **INTO** the Promised Land, the chosen place of His blessings. **It was never God’s intention for them to forfeit His blessings in Canaan and consequently spend a fruitless time in the desert.**  
  
Discuss the parallels between God’s deliverance of the Israelites from Egypt (their enslavement) and God’s deliverance of me from what I was enslaved to, before I became a believer. Am I wandering in a spiritual desert, or am I living in my Spiritual Promised Land?
6. In Exodus 12, the Passover event (Point 2) note the emphasis of the substitutionary principle discussed in Lesson 1-3.
7. As needed, discuss the crossing of the Red Sea and the giving of the Law (10 Commandments).
8. God’s dealing with the Israelites at the Jordan River and their attitude towards Him is very significant. As I read Numbers 13 and 14, (Point 5, page 151) emphasize God’s desire for the Israelites to trust His promises about His good intentions and plans for them in Canaan, the special destination where He wanted to bless them.  
  
It needs to be understood from the Scriptures that God only wanted to bless His children, the Israelites. There is no evidence of any wrongdoing on God’s part, yet the Israelites, as believers, still refused to consider Him trustworthy. Their unwillingness to trust in His character was based on illogical human reasoning. (Prov. 3:5-6)  
  
Are there parallels in this episode to **my** Christian journey?

# Overview of the Israelite Journey

He brought us out in order to bring us in; To give us the land... Deuteronomy 6:23

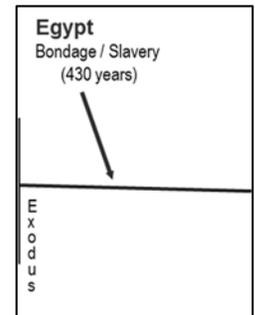


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## Verses Related to the Israelite Journey

1

The Israelites had been in bondage in Egypt for about 400 years, when God spoke to Moses at the burning bush and revealed to him His two-step plan.



Exodus 3:7–8 Then the LORD said, “I have observed the misery of My people in Egypt, and have heard them crying out because of their oppressors, and I know about their sufferings. I have come down **to rescue them from the power of the Egyptians** and **to bring them from** that land **to a good and spacious land**, a land flowing with milk and honey ...

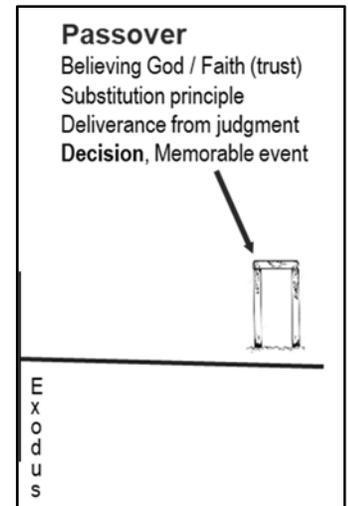
Ezekiel 20:5-6 Say to them: This is what the Lord GOD says: On the day I chose Israel, I swore an oath to the descendants of Jacob’s house and made Myself known to them in the land of Egypt. I swore to them, saying: I am Yahweh your God. On that day I swore to them that I would **bring them out of** the land of Egypt **into** a land **I had searched out for them**, a land flowing with milk and honey, **the most beautiful of all lands**.

Additional readings for Point 1: Exodus 1-10, Exodus 12:40

2

God sent judgments against the Egyptians. The last one was the “Passover.”

Exodus 12:21-23 Then Moses summoned all the elders of Israel and said to them, “Go, select an animal from the flock according to your families, and **slaughter the Passover animal**. Take a cluster of hyssop, dip it in the blood that is in the basin, and **brush** the lintel and the two doorposts **with some of the blood** in the basin. None of you may go out the door of his house until morning. When the LORD passes through to strike Egypt and **sees the blood** on the lintel and the two doorposts, He will pass over the door and not let the destroyer enter your houses to strike you.”



Exodus 12:29-31 Now **at midnight** the LORD struck every firstborn male in the land of Egypt, from the firstborn of Pharaoh who sat on his throne to the firstborn of the prisoner who was in the dungeon, and every firstborn of the livestock. During the night Pharaoh got up, he along with all his officials and all the Egyptians, and there was a loud wailing throughout Egypt because there wasn’t a house without someone dead. He summoned Moses and Aaron during the night and said, “Get up, **leave** my people, both you and the Israelites, and go, worship Yahweh as you have asked.”

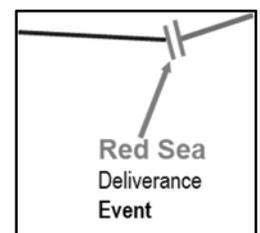
Additional readings for Point 2: Exodus Chapters 11-12, Exodus 12:41, Hebrews 11:28

3

God divided the Red Sea and delivered Israel from Pharaoh’s army.

**Exodus 14:21-28**

:21-22 Then Moses stretched out his hand over the sea. The LORD drove the sea back with a powerful east wind all that night and **turned the sea into dry land**. So the waters were divided, and the Israelites went through the sea on dry ground, with the waters like a wall to them on their right and their left.



:23-25 The Egyptians set out in pursuit—all Pharaoh’s horses, his chariots, and his horsemen—and went into the sea after them. Then during the morning watch, the LORD looked down on the Egyptian forces from the pillar of fire and cloud, and threw them into confusion. He caused their chariot wheels to swerve and made them drive with difficulty. “Let’s get away from Israel,” the Egyptians said, “because Yahweh is fighting for them against Egypt!”

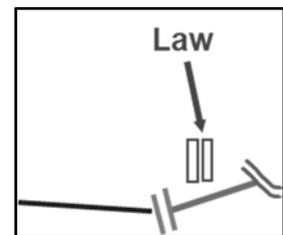
:26-28 Then the LORD said to Moses, “Stretch out your hand over the sea so that the waters may come back on the Egyptians, on their chariots and horsemen.” So Moses stretched out his hand over the sea, and at daybreak the sea returned to its normal depth. While the Egyptians were trying to escape from it, **the LORD threw them into the sea**. The waters came back and covered the chariots and horsemen, the entire army of Pharaoh, that had gone after them into the sea. **None of them survived**.

Additional readings for Point 3: Exodus 14:1-15:21, 1 Corinthians 10:1-2, Hebrews 11:29

4

God appeared at Mt. Sinai, and gave the Ten Commandments and the Law.

Exodus 19:18-20 Mount Sinai was completely enveloped in smoke because the Lord came down on it in fire. Its smoke went up like the smoke of a furnace, and the whole mountain shook violently. As the sound of the trumpet grew louder and louder, Moses spoke and God answered him in the thunder....



Exodus 24:12 The Lord said to Moses, “Come up to Me on the mountain and stay there so that I may give you the stone tablets with the law and commandments I have written for their instruction.”

Additional readings for Point 4: Exodus 19-20

5

The Israelites arrived at the River Jordan, where they had to make a decision. Was God trustworthy? Would He take care of them? Could they believe His promises, or was the risk too great?

Twelve men, one from each tribe of Israel, were graciously given a preview of Canaan by God.

**Numbers 13** (read also Deuteronomy 1:20-25)

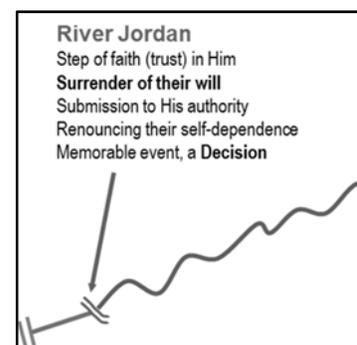
:1-2 The LORD spoke to Moses: “Send men to scout out the land of Canaan **I am giving** to the Israelites. Send one man who is a leader among them from each of their ancestral tribes.”

:23 When they came to the Valley of Eshcol, they cut down a branch with **a single cluster** of grapes, which was carried on a pole **by two men**. They also took some pomegranates and figs.

:25-29 At the end of **40 days** ... They brought back a report for them and the whole community, and **they showed them the fruit** of the land. They reported to Moses: “We went into the land where you sent us. **Indeed it is flowing with milk and honey**, and here is some of its fruit. **However**, the people living in the land are strong, and the cities are large and fortified....”

:30 Then **Caleb** ... said, “**We must go up and take possession** of the land ...”

:31-33 But the men who had gone up with him responded, “**We can’t** go up against the people **because they are stronger than we are!**” So **they gave a negative report** to the Israelites about the land: ... “The land we passed through to explore is one that **devours its inhabitants**, and all the people we saw in it are **men of great size**....”



## Numbers 14

- :1-4 **(an illogical argument, built on groundless human reasoning)** Then the whole community broke into loud cries, and the people wept **that night**. All the Israelites complained about Moses and Aaron, and the whole community told them, “If only we had died in the land of Egypt, or if only we had died in this wilderness! **Why is the LORD bringing us into this land to die by the sword? Our wives and little children will become plunder**. Wouldn’t it be better for us to go back to Egypt?” So they said to one another, “Let’s appoint a leader and go **back to Egypt**.”
- :5-9 **(a logical argument, based on faith in God’s promises)** ... **Joshua** ... and **Caleb** ... tore their clothes and said to the entire Israelite community: “The land we passed through and explored is **an extremely good land**. If the LORD is pleased with us, He will bring us into this land, a land flowing with milk and honey, and give it to us. Only **don’t rebel** against the LORD, and **don’t be afraid** of the people of the land, for we will devour them. **Their protection has been removed** from them, and **the LORD is with us. Don’t be afraid** of them!”
- :10-12 While the whole community threatened to stone them, the glory of the LORD appeared to all the Israelites at the tent of meeting. The LORD said to Moses, “How long will these people **despise Me**? How long will they **not trust in Me despite all the signs** I have performed among them? I will strike them with a plague and destroy them....”
- :13-16 But Moses replied to the LORD, “The Egyptians will hear about it, for by Your strength You brought up this people from them. They will tell it to the inhabitants of this land. They have heard that You, LORD, are among these people, ... If You kill this people with a single blow, the nations that have heard of Your fame will declare, ‘Since the LORD wasn’t able to bring this people into the land **He swore to give them**, He has slaughtered them in the wilderness.’”
- :17-19 “So now, may my Lord’s power be magnified ... Please **pardon** the wrongdoing of this people, in keeping with the greatness of Your faithful love, just as **You have forgiven them from Egypt until now**.”
- :20-25 The LORD responded, “**I have pardoned them** ... Yet as surely as I live and as the whole earth is filled with the LORD’s glory, **none of the men who have seen** My glory and the signs I performed in Egypt and in the wilderness, and have tested Me these **10 times** and **did not obey Me**, will ever see the land I swore to give their fathers. None of those who have despised Me will see it. But since My servant **Caleb has a different spirit** and **has followed Me completely**, I will bring him into the land where he has gone, and his descendants will inherit it.”
- :26-35 Then the LORD spoke to Moses and Aaron: “How long must I endure this evil community that **keeps complaining about Me**? I have heard the Israelites’ complaints that they make against Me.” Tell them: “As surely as I live, this is the LORD’s declaration, I will do to you exactly as I heard you say. Your corpses will fall in this wilderness—all of you who were registered in the census, the entire number of you **20 years old or more** —**because you have complained about Me**. I swear that **none of you will enter the land** I promised to settle you in, **except Caleb** ... and ... **Joshua** ... I will bring your children whom you said would become plunder into the land **you rejected**, and they will enjoy it. But as for you, your corpses will fall in this wilderness. Your children will be shepherds in the wilderness for 40 years and **bear the penalty for your acts of unfaithfulness** until all your corpses lie scattered in the wilderness. You will bear the consequences of your sins 40 years based on the number of the 40 days that you scouted the land, **a year for each day**....”

:36-40 So the men Moses sent to scout out the land, and who returned and incited the entire community to complain about him by spreading a negative report about the land—those men who spread the negative report about the land were **struck down by the LORD**. **Only Joshua ... and Caleb ... remained alive** of those men who went to scout out the land. When Moses reported these words to all the Israelites, the people were overcome with grief. They got up early **the next morning** and went up the ridge of the hill country, saying, “Let’s go to the place the LORD promised, **for we were wrong**.”

:41–45 But Moses responded, “Why are you going against the LORD’s command? It won’t succeed. Don’t go, because **the LORD is not among you** and **you will be defeated** by your enemies. The Amalekites and Canaanites are right in front of you, and you will fall by the sword....” **But they dared to go** up the ridge of the hill country, even though the ark of the LORD’s covenant and Moses did not leave the camp. Then the Amalekites and Canaanites who lived in that part of the hill country came down, attacked them, and routed them as far as Hormah.

Additional readings for Point 5: Genesis 15:1-21, Numbers 13-14

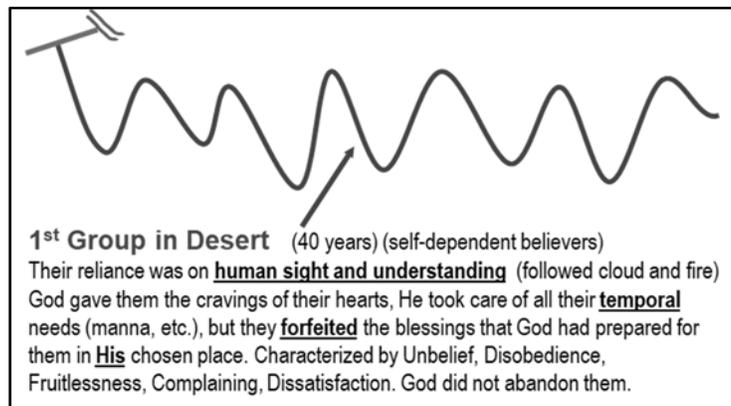


The following passages express God’s perspective of the Israelites, and the Israelite’s perspective of God.

a. Nehemiah relates God’s faithfulness and the Israelites’ self-dependent disposition (carnality).

**Nehemiah 9:7-21**

:7-12 You are Yahweh, the God who chose Abram ... You found his heart faithful in Your sight, and made **a covenant** with him **to give the land** of the Canaanites, Hittites, Amorites, Perizzites, Jebusites, and Girgashites—**to give it to his descendants**. **You have kept Your promise, for You are righteous**. You



saw the oppression of our ancestors in Egypt and heard their cry at the Red Sea. **You performed signs and wonders against Pharaoh**, all his officials, and all the people of his land, for You knew how arrogantly they treated our ancestors. You made a name for Yourself that endures to this day. **You divided the sea** before them, and they crossed through it on dry ground. **You hurled their pursuers into the depths** like a stone into churning waters. You led them with **a pillar of cloud by day**, and with **a pillar of fire by night**, to illuminate the way they should go.

:13-15 You came down on Mount Sinai, and **spoke to them from heaven**.... **You provided bread from heaven** for their hunger; **You brought them water from the rock** for their thirst. **You told them to go in and possess the land** You had sworn to give them.

:16-21 But our ancestors acted arrogantly; they became stiff-necked and did not listen to Your commands. **They refused to listen** and **did not remember** Your wonders You performed among them. They became stiff-necked and appointed a leader **to return to their slavery** in Egypt. But You are a forgiving God, gracious and compassionate, slow to anger and rich in faithful love, and You did not abandon them. Even after they had cast an image of a calf for themselves and said, “This is your God who brought you out of Egypt,” and they had

**committed terrible blasphemies, You did not abandon them** in the wilderness because of Your great compassion. During the day the pillar of cloud never turned away from them, guiding them on their journey. And during the night the pillar of fire illuminated the way they should go. **You sent Your good Spirit to instruct them. You did not withhold Your manna** from their mouths, and You gave them water for their thirst. You provided for them in the wilderness 40 years and **they lacked nothing. Their clothes did not wear out, and their feet did not swell.**

- b. The Psalmists relate God's faithfulness and the Israelites' self-dependent disposition (carnality).

**Psalm 78:12-43**

:12-16 **He worked wonders in the sight of their fathers** in the land of Egypt, ... **He split the sea** and brought them across; ... **He led them** with a cloud by day and with a fiery light throughout the night. **He split rocks** in the wilderness and gave them drink as abundant as the depths. **He brought streams out of the stone** and made water flow down like rivers.

:17-19 **But they continued to sin** against Him, **rebell**ing in the desert against the Most High. **They deliberately tested God**, demanding the food they craved. They spoke against God, saying, "Is God able to provide food in the wilderness?"

:20-25 "Look! He struck the rock and water gushed out; torrents overflowed. **But can He also provide bread or furnish meat for His people?**" Therefore, the LORD heard and became furious; then fire broke out against Jacob, and anger flared up against Israel because **they did not believe God** or rely on His salvation. He gave a command to the clouds above and opened the doors of heaven. He rained manna for them to eat; **He gave them grain from heaven. People ate the bread of angels. He sent them an abundant supply of food.**

:26-31 He made the east wind blow in the skies and drove the south wind by His might. **He rained meat on them** like dust, and winged birds like the sand of the seas. He made them fall in His camp, all around His tent. They ate and were completely satisfied, for **He gave them what they craved**. Before they had satisfied their desire, while the food was still in their mouths, God's anger flared up against them, and He killed some of their best men. He struck down Israel's choice young men.

:32-37 **Despite all this**, they kept sinning and **did not believe His wonderful works**. He made their days end in futility, their years in sudden disaster. **When He killed some of them, the rest began to seek Him**; they repented and searched for God. They remembered that God was their rock, the Most High God, **their Redeemer**. But **they deceived Him** with their mouths, **they lied to Him** with their tongues, **their hearts were insincere** toward Him, and **they were unfaithful** to His covenant.

:38-43 Yet He was compassionate; **He atoned for their guilt** and did not destroy them. He often turned His anger aside and did not unleash all His wrath. He remembered that they were only flesh, a wind that passes and does not return. How often they rebelled against Him in the wilderness and **grieved Him** in the desert. They constantly **tested God** and **provoked the Holy One of Israel**. They **did not remember** His power shown on the day He redeemed them from the foe, when He performed His miraculous signs in Egypt and His wonders in the region of Zoan.

Psalm 81:10-16 "I am Yahweh your God, who brought you up from the land of Egypt. Open your mouth wide, and **I will fill it.**" "But My people **did not listen** to Me; Israel **did not obey** Me. **So I gave them over to their stubborn hearts to follow their own plans.** If only My people

would listen to Me and Israel would follow My ways, I would quickly subdue their enemies and turn My hand against their foes.” But He would feed Israel with the best wheat. “**I would satisfy you** with honey from the rock.”

Psalm 105:36-45 ... Then He brought Israel out with silver and gold, and no one among His tribes stumbled. Egypt was glad when they left, for the dread of Israel had fallen on them. He spread **a cloud** as a covering and gave **a fire** to light up the night. They asked, and **He brought quail** and **satisfied them with bread from heaven. He opened a rock**, and water gushed out; it flowed like a stream in the desert. For He remembered His holy promise to Abraham His servant. He brought His people out with **rejoicing**, His chosen ones with shouts of joy. He gave them the lands of the nations, and **they inherited what other peoples had worked for**....

### Psalm 106:7-27

:7-12 Our fathers in Egypt **did not grasp the significance** of Your wonderful works **or remember Your many acts of faithful love**; instead, they rebelled by the sea—the Red Sea. **Yet He saved them** because of His name, to make His power known. He rebuked **the Red Sea**, and **it dried up**; He led them through the depths as through a desert. He saved them from the hand of the adversary; **He redeemed them** from the hand of the enemy. Water covered their foes; not one of them remained. **Then they believed His promises and sang His praise.**

:13-18 **They soon forgot** His works and **would not wait for His counsel**. They were **seized with craving** in the wilderness and **tested God** in the desert. **He gave them what they asked for, but sent a wasting disease among them**....

:19-20 At Horeb they made a calf and **worshiped the cast metal image**. They exchanged their glory for the image of a grass-eating ox.

:21-23 **They forgot God their Savior**, who did great things in Egypt, wonderful works in the land of Ham, **awe-inspiring acts** at the Red Sea. So He said He would have destroyed them—if Moses His chosen one had not stood before Him in the breach to turn His wrath away from destroying them.

:24-27 **They despised the pleasant land** and **did not believe His promise**. **They grumbled** in their tents and did not listen to the LORD’s voice. So He raised His hand against them with an oath that He would make them fall in the desert and would disperse their descendants among the nations, scattering them throughout the lands.

c. Isaiah relates God’s faithfulness.

Isaiah 63:11-14 Then He remembered the days of the past, the days of Moses and his people. Where is He who brought them out of the sea with the shepherds of His flock? Where is He who put **His Holy Spirit among the flock**? He sent His glorious arm to be at Moses’ right hand, divided the waters before them to obtain eternal fame for Himself, and led them through the depths like a horse in the wilderness, so that they did not stumble. Like cattle that go down into the valley, **the Spirit of the LORD gave them rest**. You led Your people this way to make a glorious name for Yourself.

d. Stephen relates God’s faithfulness and the Israelites’ self-dependent disposition (carnality).

Acts 7:36-44 This man led them out and performed **wonders and signs** in the land of Egypt, at the Red Sea, and in the wilderness 40 years.... He received living oracles to give to us. Our ancestors were **unwilling** to obey him, but pushed him away, and **in their hearts turned back to Egypt**!... “Our ancestors had the tabernacle of the testimony in the wilderness, ...

e. Paul relates God's faithfulness and the Israelites' self-dependent disposition (carnality).

1 Cor. 10:1-5 Now I want you to know, brothers, that our fathers were **all** under the cloud, **all** passed through the sea, and **all** were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea. They **all** ate the same spiritual food, and **all** drank the same spiritual drink. For **they drank from a spiritual rock** that followed them, and **that rock was Christ**. But God was not pleased with **most** of them, for they were struck down in the wilderness.

Additional readings for Point 6: Deuteronomy 8:1-5, Nehemiah 9:7-21, Acts 7:39

7

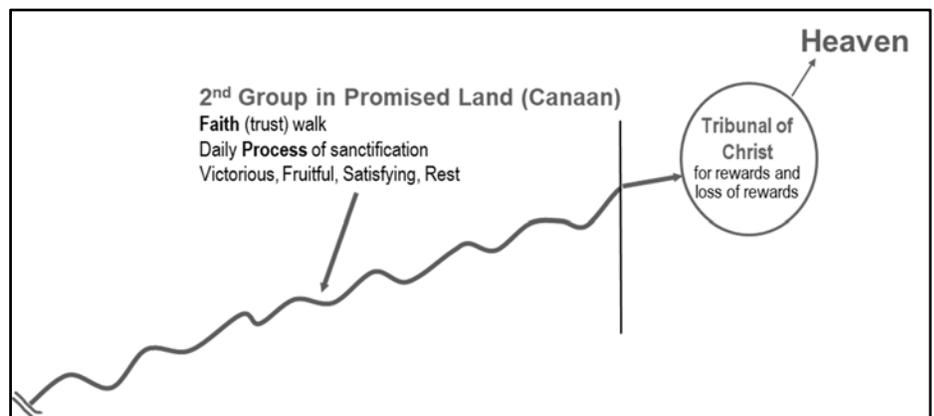
The Second Group Of Israelites Chose To Enter Into Canaan.

a. God had made a covenant with Abraham, with Isaac, and with Jacob, promising to give the chosen land of Canaan to them and their descendants forever.

### Genesis 12:1-9

:1-3 The LORD said **to Abram**: **“Go out from your land, your relatives, and your father’s house to the land that I will show you...”**

:7-9 Then the LORD appeared to Abram and said, **“I will give this land to your offspring.”**



Gen. 13:14-18 ... the LORD said to Abram, “Look from the place where you are. Look north and south, east and west, for I will give you and your offspring **forever all** the land that you see.... Get up and walk around the land, through its length and width, for I will give it to you.” ...

Gen. 17:1-8 When Abram was **99 years old**, the LORD appeared to him, “... I will establish My covenant between Me and you, and I will multiply you greatly.” “... I will keep My covenant between Me and you, and your future offspring throughout their generations, as **an everlasting covenant** to be your God and the God of your offspring after you. And to you and your future offspring **I will give the land** where you are residing—all the land of Canaan—as **an eternal possession**, ...”

Gen. 26:1-6 The LORD appeared to him (Isaac) and said, ... “stay in this land as a foreigner, and I will be with you and bless you. For I will give all these lands to you and your offspring, and I will confirm the oath that I swore to your father Abraham. ... I will give your offspring all these lands,...”

Gen. 28:10-22 Jacob ... reached a certain place and spent the night there ... And he dreamed: A stairway was set on the ground with its top reaching heaven, and God's angels were going up and down on it. Yahweh was standing there beside him, saying, “I am Yahweh, the God of your father Abraham and the God of Isaac. **I will give you and your offspring the land** that you are now sleeping on...” When Jacob awoke from his sleep, he said, “Surely the LORD is in this place, and I did not know it.” He was afraid and said, “What an awesome place this is! This

is none other than **the house of God**. This is **the gate of heaven**.” ... and named the place **Bethel**,

**Gen. 35:9-15**

:9-11 God appeared to Jacob again ... and He blessed him. God said to him: “Your name is Jacob; you will no longer be named Jacob, but your name will be Israel.” So He named him **Israel**....

:12-15 **I will give to you the land** that I gave to Abraham and Isaac. And I will give the land to your future descendants....

b. Moses reminded them of where they had been and where they were going.

**Deuteronomy 8:1-10** (read also Deuteronomy 2:7)

:1-6 ...“Your clothing did not wear out, and your feet did not swell these 40 years. Keep in mind that the LORD your God has been disciplining you just **as a man disciplines his son**. So keep the commands of the LORD your God by walking in His ways and fearing Him.

:7-10 For the LORD your God is bringing you into a good land, a land with streams of water, springs, and deep water sources, flowing in both valleys and hills; a land of wheat, barley, vines, figs, and pomegranates; a land of olive oil and honey; a land where you will eat food **without shortage**, where you will **lack nothing**; a land whose rocks are iron and from whose hills you will mine copper. When you eat and are **full**, you will praise the LORD your God for the good land He has given you.

Deut. 11:10-12 “For the land you are entering to possess is not like the land of Egypt, from which you have come, where you sowed your seed and irrigated by hand as in a vegetable garden. **But the land you are entering to possess is a land of mountains and valleys, watered by rain from the sky. It is a land the LORD your God cares for. He is always watching over it from the beginning to the end of the year.**”

c. From the beginning they needed to rely on God, not on self. This was an important step of faith.

Joshua 3:13-16 “**When the feet** of the priests who carry the ark of the LORD, the Lord of all the earth, **come to rest** in the Jordan’s waters, its waters will be cut off. The water flowing downstream will stand up in a mass.” **When** the people broke camp to cross the Jordan, the priests carried the ark of the covenant ahead of the people. Now the Jordan overflows its banks throughout the harvest season. But **as soon as** the priests carrying the ark reached the Jordan, **their feet touched the water** at its edge and the water flowing downstream stood still, rising up in a mass ... and the people crossed opposite Jericho.

d. The crossing was memorialized. (Symbolic)

**Joshua 4:1-9** (See also 4:19-24)

:1-4 After the entire nation had finished crossing the Jordan, **the LORD spoke to Joshua**: “Choose 12 men from the people, one man for each tribe, and command them: Take **12 stones** from this place in the middle of the Jordan where the priests are standing, carry them with you, and set them down **at the place** where you spend the night.”

:5-7 “... so that this will be **a sign** among you. In the future, when your children ask you, ‘What do these stones mean to you?’ you should tell them, ‘The waters of the Jordan were cut off in front of the ark of the LORD’s covenant. When it crossed the Jordan, the Jordan’s waters were cut off.’ Therefore these stones **will always be a memorial** for the Israelites.”

:8-9 The Israelites did just as Joshua had commanded them. The 12 men took stones ... They carried them **to the camp** and set them down there. Joshua also set up 12 stones **in the middle of the Jordan** where the priests who carried the ark of the covenant were standing. The stones are there to this day.

e. God re-instituted circumcision, and the Passover was celebrated.

Joshua 5:2-9 At that time the LORD said to Joshua, “Make flint knives and circumcise the Israelite men again.” So Joshua made flint knives and circumcised the Israelite men.... **This is the reason** Joshua circumcised them: All the people who came out of Egypt who were males—all the men of war—had died in the wilderness along the way after they had come out of Egypt. Though all the people who came out were circumcised, none of the people born in the wilderness along the way were circumcised after they had come out of Egypt. For the Israelites wandered in the wilderness 40 years until all the nation’s men of war who came out of Egypt had died off **because they did not obey** the LORD. So the LORD vowed never to let them see the land He had sworn to their fathers to give us, a land flowing with milk and honey. Joshua raised up their sons in their place; it was these he circumcised. They were still uncircumcised, since they had not been circumcised along the way. After the entire nation had been circumcised, they stayed where they were in the camp until they recovered. The LORD then said to Joshua, “**Today I have rolled away the disgrace of Egypt** from you.” Therefore, that place is called Gilgal to this day.

Joshua 5:10 While the Israelites camped at Gilgal on the plains of Jericho, they kept **the Passover** on the evening of the fourteenth day of the month.

f. The pillar of fire and the pillar of cloud were no longer mentioned once they entered the Promised Land. It was now a “faith” walk, not a “sight” walk.

g. They immediately began receiving God’s prepared blessings.

Joshua 5:11-12 **The day after** Passover they ate unleavened bread and roasted grain from the produce of the land. And **the day after** they ate from the produce of the land, **the manna ceased**. Since there was **no more manna** for the Israelites, they ate from the crops of the land of Canaan that year.

Exodus 16:35 The Israelites ate manna for 40 years, **until** they came to an inhabited land. They ate manna **until** they reached the border of the land of Canaan.

h. God had already prepared the way for them.

Joshua 2:8-11 (*Rahab told the two spies*) ... “I know that **the LORD has given you this land** and that **the terror of you has fallen on us**, and everyone who lives in the land is **panicking** because of you. For we have heard how the LORD dried up the waters of the Red Sea before you when you came out of Egypt, and what you did to ... the two Amorite kings you completely destroyed across the Jordan. When we heard this, **we lost heart**, and **everyone’s courage failed** because of you, for **the LORD your God is God** in heaven above and on earth below.”

Exodus 15:14-16 When the peoples hear, they will shudder; **anguish will seize** the inhabitants of Philistia. ... the inhabitants of Canaan will **panic**; and **terror** and **dread** will fall on them.

i. Why did God want to destroy the inhabitants of Canaan?

Deut. 9:4-6 ... the LORD will drive out these nations before you **because of their wickedness**. You are not going to take possession of their land because of your righteousness or your integrity....

Deut. 18:9-12 “When you enter the land the LORD your God is giving you, do not imitate the detestable customs of those nations. No one among you is to make his son or daughter pass through the fire, practice divination, tell fortunes, interpret omens, practice sorcery, cast spells, consult a medium or a familiar spirit, or inquire of the dead. Everyone who does these things is detestable to the LORD, and the LORD your God is driving out the nations before you **because of these detestable things**.”

Ezra 9:10-12 ... the commands You gave through Your servants the prophets, saying: “The land you are entering to possess is an impure land. The surrounding peoples have filled it from end to end with **their uncleanness by their impurity and detestable practices**. ...”

j. They met the Commander of the Lord’s army, who was there to direct and fight their battles.

Joshua 5:13-15 When Joshua was near Jericho, he looked up and saw a man standing in front of him with a drawn sword in His hand. Joshua approached Him and asked, “Are You for us or for our enemies?” “**Neither**,” He replied. “I have now come **as commander of the LORD’s army**.” Then Joshua bowed with his face to the ground in worship and asked Him, “What does my Lord want to say to His servant?” The commander of the LORD’s army said to Joshua, “Remove the sandals from your feet, for the place where you are standing is holy.” And Joshua did so.

Deut. 20:3-4 (*Moses had given God’s promise to Israel*) ... ‘Listen, Israel: Today you are about to engage in battle with your enemies. Do not be cowardly. Do not be afraid, alarmed, or terrified because of them. For the LORD your God is the One who goes with you **to fight for you** against your enemies to give you victory.’

Acts 7:45 ... the nations that **God drove out** before our fathers, ...

Acts 13:19 then **after destroying seven nations** in the land of Canaan, He gave their land to them as an inheritance.

Note: the conquest of Canaan took about 7 years.

k. Some years later, after having conquered the land of Canaan, the 2<sup>nd</sup> group of Israelites testified of God’s faithfulness and blessings - what He had originally intended for the 1<sup>st</sup> group.

Joshua 21:44-45 **The LORD gave them rest** on every side according to **all** He had sworn to their fathers. **None of their enemies were able to stand against them**, for the LORD handed over **all** their enemies to them. **None** of the good promises the LORD had made to the house of Israel failed. **Everything was fulfilled**.

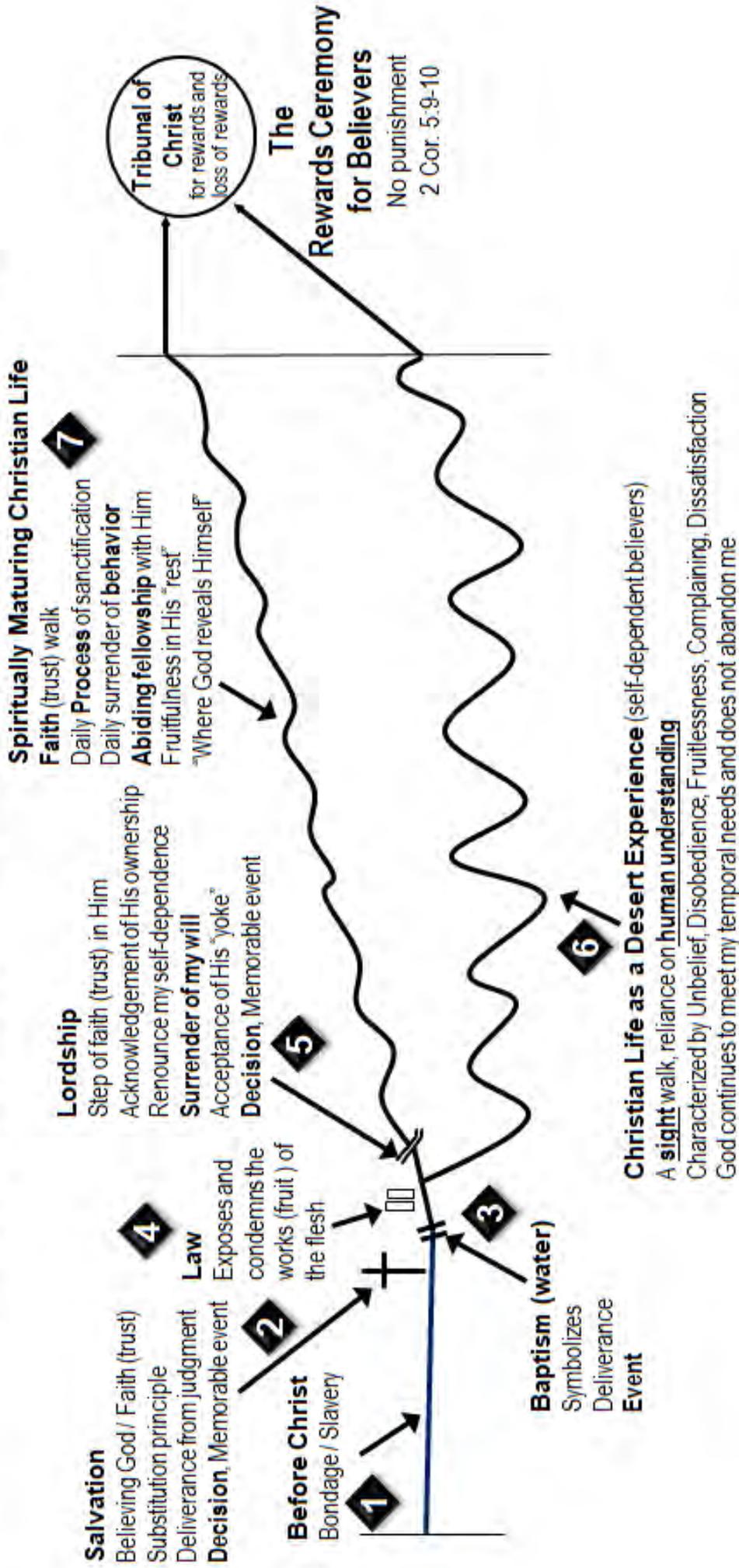
Joshua 23:14 ... you know with all your heart and all your soul that **none** of the good promises the LORD your God made to you has failed. Everything was fulfilled for you; **not one** promise has failed.

Joshua 23:3 ...and you have seen for yourselves everything the LORD your God did to all these nations on your account, because **it was the LORD your God who was fighting for you**.

Additional readings for Point 7: Deuteronomy 8:6-10, Joshua 1-4, Joshua 21:44-45

# Overview of My Christian Journey

*He brought me out of bondage to sin to bring me into my "promised land"*



# Explanation of “My Christian Journey” Diagram

This diagram is an overview of my Christian journey, which is parallel to the diagram of the Israelite journey discussed earlier in this lesson.

There are two groups of Christians displayed in the diagram, represented by Point #6 and Point #7.

In the previous diagram the first group of Israelites is represented in Point #6. In this diagram Point #6 represents the Christian’s wandering in the “Spiritual Desert.” For a believer this is the **abnormal** Christian life. If I find myself inhabiting the desert experience, I am not there because God wants me to be there, but because I have chosen to forfeit God's place of blessing. God blesses the place that **He** has chosen. It doesn't matter how much I ask God to bless the place that **I** choose. God’s desire is for me to go into the place of His choice, and there He will bless me.

In the Old Testament Canaan was the place that God had chosen, of which He said, “In this place you will enjoy My blessing. You could go anywhere else, but you will not enjoy My blessing.” Likewise God is asking me to trust Him in **His** place of blessing. This requires a “faith walk”.

The following verses from Hebrews were written to Christians of today and refer back to the Old Testament, explaining that there are things in the Old Testament that I need to consider as an example for me.

Hebrews 3:16-4:1 For who heard and rebelled? Wasn’t it really all who came out of Egypt under Moses? And who was He provoked with for 40 years? Was it not with those who sinned, whose bodies fell in the wilderness? And who did He swear to that they would not enter **His rest**, if not those who disobeyed? So we see that they were unable to enter **because of unbelief. Therefore, while the promise to enter His rest remains**, let us fear that none of you should miss it.

Hebrews 4:9–11 Therefore, a Sabbath rest **remains** for God’s people. For the person who has entered His rest has rested **from his own works**, just as God did from His. **Let us then make every effort to enter that rest**, so that no one will fall into the same pattern of disobedience.

The majority of the Israelites did not enter the Promised Land because they were unwilling to walk by faith; they chose to only walk by sight. The same can be true for me today.

God wants me to be willing to trust Him by faith in His character. He doesn't ask me to live the Christian life in my own strength. He wants to do it through me. It's not what I do for God that's important; it's what I allow God to do through me.

**Let’s review each Point on the diagram.**

**1** This period of time before I became a Christian is equivalent to the Israelite’s bondage and slavery in Egypt.

Ephesians 2:1-3 And you were **dead in your trespasses and sins** in which you previously walked according to the ways of this world, according to the ruler who exercises authority over the lower heavens, the spirit now working in the disobedient. We too all previously lived among them in our **fleshly desires**, carrying out the inclinations of our flesh and thoughts, and we were by nature **children under wrath** as the others were also.

Ephesians 2:12 At that time you were **without the Messiah**, excluded from the citizenship of Israel, and foreigners to the covenants of the promise, **without hope** and **without God** in the world.

Romans 3:9-18 What then? Are we any better? Not at all! For we have previously charged that **both Jews and Gentiles are all under sin**, as it is written: There is no one righteous, not even one. There is no one who understands; **there is no one who seeks God**. All have turned away; all alike have become useless. **There is no one who does what is good, not even one**. Their throat is an open grave; they deceive with their tongues. Vipers' venom is under their lips. Their mouth is full of cursing and bitterness. Their feet are swift to shed blood; ruin and wretchedness are in their paths, and the path of peace they have not known. There is no fear of God before their eyes.

2

This represents salvation. The Cross is equivalent to the Passover in the Old Testament. The Israelites trusted God and left Egypt through the Passover event.

1 Corinthians 5:7 Clean out the old yeast so that you may be a new batch. You are indeed unleavened, for Christ our Passover has been sacrificed.  
John 1:29 The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him and said, "Here is the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!"

3

This represents baptism. It is equivalent to the Israelites crossing through the Red Sea.

1 Corinthians 12:12-13 For as the body is one and has many parts, and all the parts of that body, though many, are one body—so also is Christ. 13 For we were all baptized by[c] one Spirit into one body—whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free—and we were all made to drink of one Spirit.  
Romans 6:3-4 Or are you unaware that all of us who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into His death? Therefore we were buried with Him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, so we too may walk in a new way of life.

4

This represents the Law. The Law serves to expose the fruit of our sinful nature. We could ask, is the Law good or bad? It is good. But God never intended for anybody to be saved by following the Law?

Romans 7:7-24 What should we say then? Is the law sin? Absolutely not! On the contrary, I would not have known sin if it were not for the law. For example, I would not have known what it is to covet if the law had not said, Do not covet. And sin, seizing an opportunity through the commandment, produced in me coveting of every kind. For apart from the law sin is dead. Once I was alive apart from the law, but when the commandment came, sin sprang to life and I died. The commandment that was meant for life resulted in death for me. For sin, seizing an opportunity through the commandment, deceived me, and through it killed me. So then, the law is holy, and the commandment is holy and just and good. ... For we know that the law is spiritual, but I am made out of flesh, sold into sin's power. For I do not understand what I am doing, because I do not practice what I want to do, but I do what I hate. And if I do what I do not want to do, I agree with the law that it is good. ... So I

discover this principle: When I want to do what is good, evil is with me. For in my inner self I joyfully agree with God's law....

Galatians 5:14 For the entire law is fulfilled in one statement: Love your neighbor as yourself.

Galatians 5:18 But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law.

5

This represents Lordship which is a relinquishment of my independence. This is equivalent to the Israelites crossing the river Jordan in order to go into the place of God's blessing.

Matthew 11:28-30 "Come to Me, all of you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you **rest**. All of you, **take up My yoke** and **learn from Me**, because I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find **rest** for yourselves. For My yoke is **easy** and My burden is **light**."

Luke 14:25-33 Now great crowds were traveling with Him. So He turned and said to them: "If anyone comes to Me and does not hate his own father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters—yes, and even his own life—he cannot be My disciple. Whoever does not bear his own cross and come after Me cannot be My disciple. ... In the same way, therefore, every one of you who does not say good-bye to all his possessions cannot be My disciple.

6

This represents a Christian wandering in their "spiritual desert" and is equivalent to the first group of Israelites wandering in the wilderness.

Luke 8:14 As for the seed that fell among thorns, these are the ones who, when they have heard, go on their way and are **choked with worries, riches, and pleasures of life, and produce no mature fruit**.

Acts 7:39 Our ancestors were unwilling to obey him, but pushed him away, **and in their hearts turned back to Egypt**.

7

This represents my spiritual Promised Land as a believer. This is equivalent to the Land of Canaan for the Israelites.

Matthew 13:23 But the one sown on the good ground—**this is one who hears and understands the word, who does bear fruit** and yields: some 100, some 60, some 30 times what was sown."

John 15:1-17 "I am the true vine, and My Father is the vineyard keeper. Every branch in Me that does not produce fruit He removes, and **He prunes every branch that produces fruit so that it will produce more fruit**. You are already clean because of the word I have spoken to you. Remain in Me, and I in you. Just as a branch is unable to produce fruit by itself unless it remains on the vine, so neither can you unless you remain in Me. ... **My Father is glorified by this: that you produce much fruit and prove to be My disciples**. ... You did not choose Me, but I chose you. I appointed you that you should go out and produce fruit and that your fruit should remain, so that whatever you ask the Father in My name, He will give you. This is what I command you: Love one another.

NOTE: The main difference between Points #6 and #7 is Point #6 is **a sight walk** and Point #7 is **a faith walk**. God has said that ...*the just shall live by faith*. Romans 1:17. The **normal** Christian life is a faith walk, not faith in myself, but faith in God. (read also Proverbs. 3:5-6)

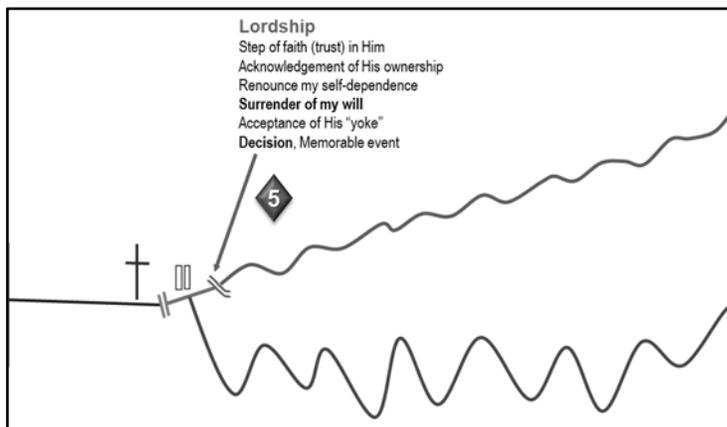
The following verses from the letter to the Hebrews provide a New Testament perspective of the Old Testament example of the Israelites. (These Scripture portions can be read at the disciple's convenience.)

### Hebrews 3:1-19

- :1-6 Therefore, **holy brothers** and **companions in a heavenly calling**, consider Jesus, the apostle and high priest of our confession; He was faithful to the One who appointed Him, just as Moses was in all God's household. For Jesus is considered worthy of more glory than Moses, just as the builder has more honor than the house. Now every house is built by someone, but the One who built everything is God. Moses was faithful as a servant in all God's household, as a testimony to what would be said in the future. But Christ was faithful as a Son over His household. And we are that household if we hold on to the courage and the confidence of our hope.
- :7-11 Therefore, as the Holy Spirit says: Today, if you hear His voice, do not harden your hearts as in the rebellion, on the day of testing in the wilderness, where your fathers tested Me, tried Me, and saw My works for 40 years. Therefore I was provoked with that generation and said, "They always go astray in their hearts, and they have not known My ways." So I swore in My anger, "They will not enter **My rest**."
- :12-15 Watch out, brothers, so that there won't be in any of you an evil, unbelieving heart that departs from the living God. But encourage each other daily, while it is still called today, so that none of you is hardened by sin's deception. For we have become companions of the Messiah if we hold firmly until the end the reality that we had at the start. As it is said: Today, if you hear His voice, do not harden your hearts as in the rebellion.
- :16-19 For who heard and rebelled? Wasn't it really all who came out of Egypt under Moses? And who was He provoked with for 40 years? Was it not with those who sinned, whose bodies fell in the wilderness? And who did He swear to that they would not enter **His rest**, if not those who disobeyed? So we see that they were unable to enter **because of unbelief**.

### Hebrews 4:1-11

- :1-5 **Therefore**, while **the promise to enter His rest remains**, let us fear that none of you should miss it. For we also have received the good news just as they did; but the message they heard did not benefit them, since they were not united with those who heard it in faith (for **we** who have believed **enter the rest**), in keeping with what He has said: So I swore in My anger, they will not enter My rest. And yet His works have been finished since the foundation of the world, for somewhere He has spoken about the seventh day in this



way: And on the seventh day God rested from all His works. Again, in that passage He says, “they will never enter My rest.”

:6-8 Since **it remains for some to enter it**, and those who formerly received the good news did not enter because of disobedience, again, He specifies a certain day—today—speaking through David after such a long time, as previously stated: Today, if you hear His voice, do not harden your hearts. For if Joshua had given them rest, God would not have spoken later about another day.

:9-11 Therefore, a Sabbath **rest remains** for God’s people. For the person who has entered His rest has rested from his own works, just as God did from His. **Let us then make every effort to enter** that rest, so that no one will fall into the same pattern of disobedience.

### Hebrews 4:12-16

:12-13 For the word of God is living and effective and sharper than any double-edged sword, penetrating as far as the separation of soul and spirit, joints and marrow. It is able to judge the ideas and thoughts of the heart. No creature is hidden from Him, but all things are naked and exposed to the eyes of Him to whom we must give an account.

:14-16 Therefore, since we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens—Jesus the Son of God—let us hold fast to the confession. For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but One who has been tested in every way **as we are**, yet without sin. Therefore let us approach the throne of grace with boldness, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us at the proper time.

### Hebrews 5:1-14

:1-3 For every high priest taken from men is appointed in service to God for the people, to offer both gifts and sacrifices for sins. He is able to deal gently with those who are ignorant and are going astray, since he is also subject to weakness. Because of this, he must make a sin offering for himself as well as for the people.

:4-11 No one takes this honor on himself; instead, a person is called by God, just as Aaron was. In the same way, the Messiah did not exalt Himself to become a high priest, but the One who said to Him, You are My Son; today I have become Your Father, also said in another passage, You are a priest forever in the order of Melchizedek. During His earthly life, He offered prayers and appeals with loud cries and tears to the One who was able to save Him from death, and He was heard because of His reverence. Though He was God’s Son, He learned obedience through what He suffered. After He was perfected, He became the source of eternal salvation for all who obey Him, and He was declared by God a high priest in the order of Melchizedek. We have a great deal to say about this, and it’s difficult to explain, since you have become too lazy to understand.

### Hebrews 5:12 – 6:12 (referring to spiritual growth from immaturity to maturity and fruitfulness.)

5:12-14 Although **by this time** you ought to be teachers, you need someone to teach you the **basic principles** of God’s revelation again. You need milk, not solid food. Now everyone who **lives on milk** is **inexperienced** with the message about righteousness, because he is **an infant**. But solid food is for the **mature**—for those whose senses have been **trained** to distinguish between good and evil.

6:1-6 **Therefore**, leaving **the elementary message** about the Messiah, let us go on **to maturity**, not laying again the foundation of repentance from dead works, faith in God, teaching about ritual washings, laying on of hands, the resurrection of the dead, and eternal judgment. And we will do this if God permits. For it is impossible to renew to repentance those who were once

**enlightened**, who **tasted** the heavenly gift, became **companions with the Holy Spirit**, **tasted** God's good word and the powers of the coming age, and who have fallen away, because, to their own harm, they are recrucifying the Son of God and holding Him up to contempt.

6:7–12 For **ground** that has drunk the rain that has often fallen on it and that produces vegetation **useful** to those it is cultivated for **receives a blessing** from God. But if it produces **thorns and thistles**, it is **worthless** and about to be cursed, and will be **burned at the end**. Even though we are speaking this way, dear friends, in your case we are confident of the better things **connected with** salvation. For God is not unjust; He will not forget your work and the love you showed for His name when you served the saints—and you continue to serve them. Now we want each of you to demonstrate the same diligence for the final realization of your hope, so that you won't become lazy but will be imitators of those who **inherit the promises** through faith and perseverance.

As a believer I am warned to not follow the Israelite's example.

### **1 Cor. 10:1-14**

:1-5 Now I want you to know, brothers, that our fathers were all under the cloud, all passed through the sea, and all were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea. They all ate the same spiritual food, and all drank the same spiritual drink. For **they drank from a spiritual rock** that followed them, and **that rock was Christ**. But God was not pleased with **most** of them, for they were struck down in the wilderness.

:6-10 Now these things became **examples for us, so that we will not desire evil things as they did**. Don't become idolaters as some of them were; as it is written, the people sat down to eat and drink, and got up to play. Let us not commit sexual immorality as some of them did, and in a single day 23,000 people fell dead. Let us not test Christ as some of them did and were destroyed by snakes. Nor should we complain as some of them did, and were killed by the destroyer.

:11 Now these things happened to them **as examples**, and they were written **as a warning to us**, on whom the ends of the ages have come.

# Summary of the Characteristics of the Two Groups

## Characteristics of a "Promised Land" Experience

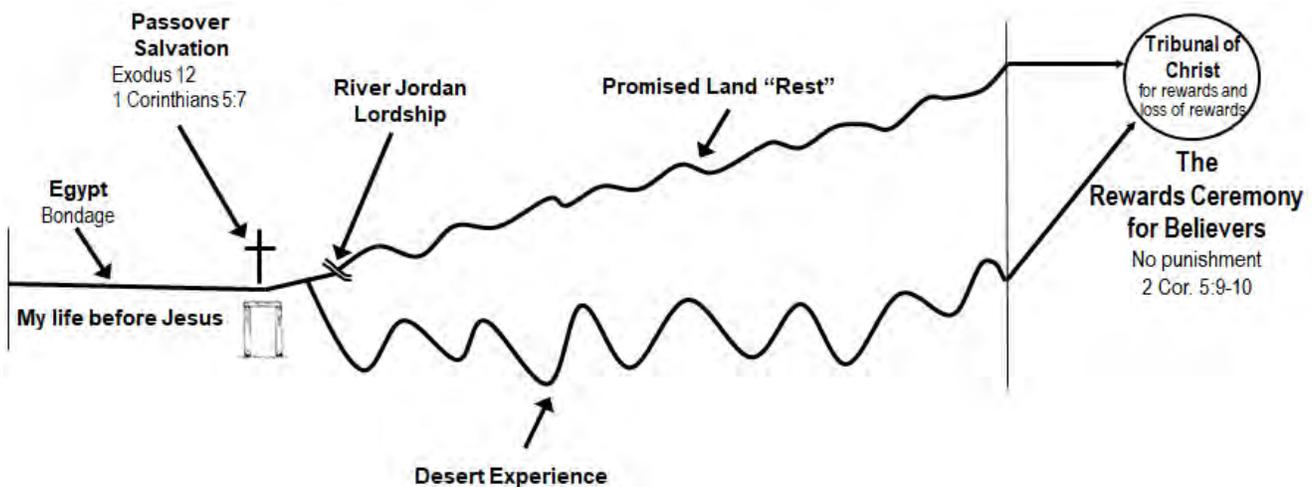
Heb. 4:9-11 Therefore, **a Sabbath rest remains for God's people**. For the person who has entered **His rest** has rested **from his own works**, just as God did from His. **Let us then make every effort to enter** that rest, so that no one will fall into the same pattern of disobedience.

Joshua 21:44-45 The LORD gave them **rest** on every side ... **None** of their enemies were able to stand against them, for the LORD handed over **all** their enemies to them. **None** of the good promises the LORD had made to the house of Israel failed. **Everything** was fulfilled.

Matt. 11:28-30 "Come to Me, all of you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you **rest**. All of you, **take up My yoke** and **learn from Me**, because **I am gentle** and **humble** in heart, and you will find **rest** for yourselves. For My yoke is **easy** and My burden is **light**."

Eph. 5:31-32 ... a man will leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two will become **one flesh**. This mystery is profound, but I am talking about **Christ and the church**.

Matt. 13:23 "But the one sown on the good ground—this is one who hears and understands the word, who **does bear fruit** and yields: some 100, some 60, some 30 times what was sown."



## Characteristics of a "Desert" Experience

1 Cor. 10:11 Now these things happened to them **as examples**, and they were written **as a warning to us**, on whom the ends of the ages have come.

Heb. 3:19-4:1 ... So we see that they were unable to enter **because of unbelief**. Therefore, while **the promise to enter His rest remains, let us fear that none of you should miss it**.

Luke 8:14, Matt. 13:22 ... these are the ones who, when they have heard, go on their way and are choked with **worries, riches, and pleasures** of life, and produce no mature fruit.

1 Cor. 3:15 If anyone's work is burned up, **it will be lost, but he will be saved**; yet it will be like an escape through fire.

# “Lordship”

This lesson will help to reinforce and provide further understanding of my decision to acknowledge His lordship over my life, and recognize Christ as my Master.

God has a great and beautiful plan for my entire life. Am I willing to yield my personal rights to Him and give Him permission to orchestrate my life to His perfect ends?



1. I belong to God because He created me. (Doesn't the Creator have absolute authority over His creation?)

Deut. 10:14 The heavens... **belong to** the LORD your God, as does the earth and **everything** in it.  
Psalm 100:3 ... **He made us**, and **we are His**—His people...  
Jer. 10:23 ...a man's way of life is **not his own**; **no one** who walks **determines his own steps**.  
Rom. 14:7-8 For **none of us** lives to himself, and **no one** dies to himself. If we live, we live **for the Lord**; and if we die, we die **for the Lord**. Therefore, whether we live or die, **we belong to the Lord**.

2. God says that as a Christian I have been bought (redeemed) from slavery to sin by the blood of His Son. That purchase has given Him legal ownership of my entire life. His ownership of me is an absolute fact that does not depend on my acknowledgment or acceptance of it

1 Cor. 6:19-20 Don't you know that your body is a sanctuary of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God? You are **not your own**, for you were **bought** at a price. Therefore glorify God in your body.  
2 Cor. 5:15 And He died for all so that those who live should **no longer live for themselves**, but **for the One** who died for them and was raised.  
I Peter 1:18-19 For you know that **you were redeemed** from your empty way of life inherited from the fathers, not with perishable things like silver or gold, but **with the precious blood of Christ**, like that of a lamb without defect or blemish.

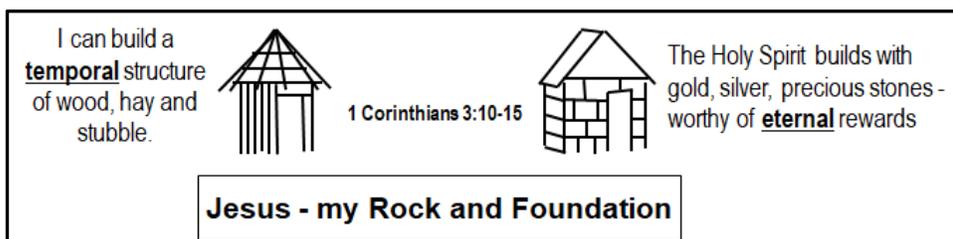
3. Salvation: Before I became a Christian, I was enslaved by my human nature (inherited from Adam). I always resisted God and was not able to please Him. That same human nature still resides in me as a Christian. It is not the least bit improved. God did not repair my rebellious human nature, but rather He gave me a new divine nature in the Person of the Holy Spirit.

Mat. 7:17-18 In the same way, every good tree produces good fruit, but **a bad tree** produces bad fruit. A good tree can't produce bad fruit; **neither can a bad tree produce good fruit.**

Gal. 3:1-3 You foolish Galatians! Who has hypnotized you, before whose eyes Jesus Christ was vividly portrayed as crucified? I only want to learn this from you: Did you receive the Spirit by the works of the law or by hearing with faith? Are you so foolish? After beginning with the Spirit, **are you now going to be made complete by the flesh?**

Gal. 5:17 For **the flesh desires what is against the Spirit**, and the Spirit desires what is against the flesh; these are opposed to each other, so that you don't do what you want.

4. Salvation also speaks of a foundation, Jesus Christ, upon which the construction of my life will take place.



Lordship - The quality and duration of that construction depends on whom **I choose** as the architect and contractor. When I give the Lord permission, allowing Him to **manage** my life, **He** will build a beautiful eternal house of gold, silver and precious stones on that foundation. That house will survive The Tribunal of Christ. However, if I am unwilling to let Him manage the construction, **I** will be building a **temporary** house of wood, hay and straw which will only last for the duration of my life here on earth, and will become ashes at The Tribunal of Christ.

Daily Walk in Fellowship (Abiding) - My **“building materials”** that are available to the Holy Spirit fall into three categories:

1. My **“time”**
2. My **“energy”**
3. My **“possessions”** (both tangible and intangible possessions.)

The Lord has given me **free will**, which means that I have the privilege of moment by moment **allowing** Him to use those **resources** that He has granted me. But I am also free at any moment to **deny** Him use of any or all of those resources (building materials), during which time I will be using those same resources to build myself a temporary structure for this life here on earth. The Lord will not force me to let Him use my resources, even though He always has my best interest at heart.

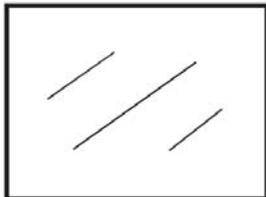
1 Cor. 3:10-15 According to God's grace that was given to me, I have laid **a foundation** as a skilled master builder, and another **builds on it**. But **each one must be careful how he builds on it**. For no one can lay any other foundation than what has been laid down. That foundation is Jesus Christ. If anyone builds on that foundation with **gold, silver, costly stones, wood, hay, or straw**, each one's work will become obvious, for the day will disclose it, because it will be revealed by fire; **the fire will test the quality** of each one's work. If anyone's work that he has built survives, he will receive **a reward**. If anyone's work is burned up, it will **be lost, but he will be saved**; yet it will be like an escape through fire.

Psalm 127:1 Unless the Lord builds a house, its builders labor over it in vain;...

Ecc. 3:14 I know that **all** God does will last **forever**;...

5. I should accept a role as a “disciple” (apprentice learner), allowing the Holy Spirit “access” to every area of my being.

From infancy I began to accumulate ideas and concepts about life, my worldview. When I became a Christian that worldview did not disappear, but rather has remained in my mind much like written material on a whiteboard. Some of those ideas and concepts are in harmony with God, others are not. Only the Holy Spirit knows what needs to be changed in my thinking. That is why I need to give the Holy Spirit “access” to my “mental whiteboard”, my mind and be open to whatever changes He determines best. Yielding up that authority to Him speaks of “Lordship,” after which the process of the renewing of my mind will allow me to increasingly view life from His perspective.



**Caution:** If I intentionally (or through ignorance) am unwilling to acknowledge His authority over my mind (understanding) I will very likely adopt a perceived list of “Do’s” and “Don’ts”. That list would typically include what seems to be acceptable Christian behavior, based on the average spiritual expectations as modeled by older Christians I interact with. The danger is that fellowship with the Holy Spirit will be severely threatened when He speaks to me about areas of my thinking or behavior that are outside these arbitrary parameters. The result is often a recurring cycle of disobedience, frustration, repentance and brokenness. This will continue until my will is surrendered.

Romans 12:2 Do not be conformed to this age, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may discern what is the good, pleasing, and perfect will of God.

Luke 6:40 A disciple is not above his teacher, but everyone who is fully trained will be like his teacher.

6. The title “Lord” implies a Master – servant relationship.

Matthew 22:37-38 He said to him, “Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the greatest and most important command.”  
John 13:13 (*Jesus said*) “You call Me Teacher and Lord. This is well said, for I am.”  
Luke 6:46 (*Jesus said*) “Why do you call Me ‘Lord, Lord,’ and don’t do the things I say?”  
John 14:21,23 (*Jesus said*) “The one who has My commands and keeps them is the one who loves Me...” Jesus answered, “If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word.”

Note: Older Christians who have not yet acknowledged His Lordship tend to be threatened by the Master-servant relationship, imagining that it borders on “bondage.” That is, indeed, the lie the enemy wants us to believe. As a Christian I should understand that the God-ordained Master-servant relationship is intended to be liberating.

7. He is my Master, and I should view myself as His servant (slave).

Matthew 10:24-25 (*Jesus said*) “A disciple is not above his teacher, or a slave above his master. It is enough for a disciple to become like his teacher and a slave like his master...”  
Matthew 20:26-28 (*Jesus said*) “... whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant, and whoever wants to be first among you must be your slave; just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life—a ransom for many.”  
Romans 1:1 Paul, a slave of Christ Jesus,...  
1 Cor. 7:22-23 Likewise he who is called as a free man is Christ’s slave. You were bought at a price;...

Phil. 2:5-8 **Make your own attitude** that of Christ Jesus, who, existing in the form of God, did not consider equality with God as something to be used for His own advantage. Instead He emptied Himself by assuming the form of **a slave**, taking on the likeness of men. And when He had come as a man in His external form, He **humbled Himself** by becoming **obedient** to the point of death even to death on a cross.

2 Tim. 2:4 No one serving as **a soldier** gets entangled in the concerns of civilian life; he seeks to please the recruiter.

1 Peter 2:16 As **God's slaves**, live as free people, but don't use your freedom as a way to conceal evil.

NOTE ON ROMANS 1:1 Paul identified himself first as a servant of Christ Jesus. "Servant" (*doulos*) means slave, a person **owned by another**. Paul wore this title gladly (Gal. 1:10; Titus 1:1), reveling in the Old Testament picture of a slave who in love binds himself to his master for life (Ex. 21:2-6). (Walvoord, John F., and Zuck, Roy B., *The Bible Knowledge Commentary*, (Wheaton, Illinois: Scripture Press Publications, Inc.) 1983, 1985.)

8. God expects those things I value to be yielded to His Lordship.

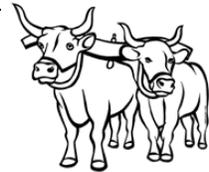
Matthew 10:37-39 (*Jesus said*) "The person who loves father or mother **more than Me** is not worthy of Me; the person who loves son or daughter **more than Me** is not worthy of Me. And **whoever doesn't take up his cross** and **follow Me** is not worthy of Me. Anyone finding his life will lose it, and anyone losing his life because of Me will find it."

Matthew 19:29-30 (*Jesus said*) "And everyone who has **left houses, brothers or sisters, father or mother, children, or fields** because of My name will receive 100 times more and will inherit eternal life. But many who are first will be last, and the last first."

Luke 5:10-11 ... James and John, ... Simon ... Then they brought the boats to land, **left everything, and followed Him**. (see also Luke 5:27-28)

9. Jesus appeals to me to accept His yoke (an event where I relinquish my perceived right to live and make decisions independently), followed by learning from Him (a process of learning to walk daily in harmony with Him).

Matthew 11:28-30 "Come to Me, all of you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you **rest**. All of you, **take up My yoke** and **learn from Me**, because I am **gentle** and **humble** in heart, and you will find **rest** for yourselves. For My yoke is **easy** and My burden is **light**."



*"Beware of refusing to go to the funeral of your own independence."*

(Taken from *My Utmost for His Highest* by Oswald Chambers – Dec 9. (c) 1935 by Dodd Mead & Co., renewed (c) 1963 by the Oswald Chambers Pub. Assn., Ltd., and is used by permission of Discovery House Pub., Box 3566, Grand Rapids MI 49501. All rights reserved.)

10. God wants me to offer my body to Him.

Romans 6:13,18-19 ... For just as you offered the parts of yourselves as slaves to moral impurity, and to greater and greater lawlessness, so now **offer them as slaves** to righteousness, which results in sanctification.

Romans 11:33-36, 12:1-2 ... For **from** Him and **through** Him and **to** Him are **all** things....

**Therefore**, brothers, by the mercies of God, I urge you to **present your bodies** as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God; this is your spiritual worship. Do not be conformed to this

age, but **be transformed** by the renewing of **your mind**, so that you may discern what is the good, pleasing, and perfect will of God.

11. God has to be more important than my very life.

Luke 14:26-33 (*Jesus said*) “If anyone comes to Me and does not hate his own father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters—yes, and **even his own life**—he cannot be My disciple. Whoever does not bear his own cross and come after Me **cannot** be My disciple. ... In the same way, therefore, **every one of you who does not say good-bye to all his possessions cannot be My disciple.**”

Luke 9:23-24 Then He said to them all, “If anyone wants to come with Me, he must **deny himself, take up his cross** daily, and **follow Me**. For whoever wants to save his life will lose it, but whoever **loses his life because of Me** will save it.”

John 12:24-26 (*Jesus said*) “I assure you: Unless a grain of wheat falls to the ground and **dies**, it remains by itself. But **if it dies**, it produces a large crop. The one who loves his life will lose it, and the one who **hates his life in this world** will keep it for eternal life. If anyone serves Me, **he must follow Me**. Where I am, there My servant also will be;...”

Acts 20:24 “(*Paul*) But **I count my life of no value to myself**, so that I may finish my course and the ministry I received from the Lord Jesus, to testify to the gospel of God’s grace.”

Acts 21:13 ...Then Paul replied, “... For **I am ready** not only **to be bound** but also **to die** in Jerusalem for the name of the Lord Jesus.”

Rev. 12:11 They conquered him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony, for they **did not love their lives** in the face of death.

**NOTE ON LUKE 14:26-33** The stress here is on the priority of love (cf. Matt. 10:37. The person who loves father or mother **more than** Me is not worthy of Me; the person who loves son or daughter **more than** Me is not worthy of Me).

One’s loyalty to Jesus must come before his loyalty to his family or even to life itself. Indeed, those who did follow Jesus against their families’ desires were probably thought of as hating their families. (Walvoord, John F., and Zuck, Roy B., *The Bible Knowledge Commentary*, (Wheaton, Illinois: Scripture Press Publications, Inc.) 1983, 1985.)

*If God loves me, can only do what is in my best interest, and never makes mistakes, what would be a logical reason for not embracing Him as Master?*

When it’s clearly explained, I will view Lordship as “good news,” as evidence of God’s love for me.

Unfortunately, many older believers who have never had Lordship clearly explained to them, upon hearing it, tend to perceive it as “bad news,” equating it to “bondage.”

## 12. ILLUSTRATIONS AND TERMINOLOGY THAT DESCRIBE LORDSHIP.

a. Relinquishing my independence - as in a wedding ceremony (Marriage "Covenant").

Marriage consists of an event (a wedding ceremony), followed by a daily ongoing process. The **wedding ceremony** represents a relinquishment of my right to make independent decisions, in favor of being joined (yoked) with another. The **marriage process** is designed to be a growing relationship, learning to live and walk in harmony with a spouse. This process represents the manner in which I learn to live and walk in harmony with the Holy Spirit.

Eph. 5:32 This **mystery** is profound, but I am talking about **Christ and the church**.

b. Entering His rest (as pictured in the O.T. Israelites).

At the burning bush, God laid out to Moses His original purpose for the Israelites.

Ex. 3:7-8 Then the LORD said, "I have observed the misery of My people in Egypt,... I have come down to rescue them **from** the power of the Egyptians and to bring them from that land **to** a good and spacious land, a land flowing with milk and honey,...

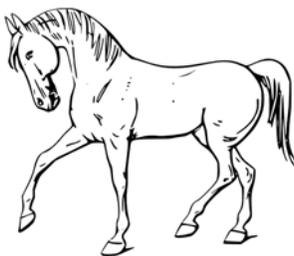
The **1<sup>st</sup> group** was unwilling to accept God's plan. (Num. 13:1-2, 23-33, 14:1-11, 19-24)

The **2<sup>nd</sup> group** was willing to entrust themselves into God's care. (Josh. 21:44-45, 23:14)

**Warning for me:** Rom. 15:4 For whatever was written in the past was written **for our instruction**, so that we may have hope through endurance and through the encouragement from the Scriptures. (see also Heb. 4:9-11)

c. A wild mustang.

A wild mustang could be used to depict Lordship - The goal is to end up with an animal that is



**available, trained and useful** to its owner (Master). But **first** the mustang's **will** (his resistance to another's authority) must be broken. Upon acceptance of another's authority over it, the mustang is not yet considered to be the least bit trained, or useful. However, it now has a **mindset** (disposition, attitude) that will allow it to **begin** the **process** of being trained (transformed), which will over time produce an animal that is useful to its owner. Until the **will** (mindset, disposition) is changed the animal can never be trained.

Psa. 32:9 **Do not be like a horse or mule**, without understanding, that must be controlled with bit and bridle or else it will not come near you.

d. Car illustration

Imagine an auto which could represent my life. I am sitting in the driver's seat, while Jesus sits in the passenger seat. Because God allows me to hold the steering wheel, I may erroneously conclude that God is simply seated at my side, ready to help whenever **I determine** I have a need. Hence the bumper sticker, "God is my co-Pilot". Even though I may acknowledge that Jesus is holding the "title" to the auto, there is a fear of relinquishing control of the steering wheel.



The Lord doesn't want to be in my life as a co-Pilot, He wants to be in charge and direct the course of my life. "Lordship" is really an issue of "control", and it is sad that so many believers are unwilling to let God have control of the steering wheel, because they're afraid of where He might take them. If given control, God will always do what is in my best interest. God wants me to learn to keep my hands on the steering wheel, while actively and voluntarily relying on the Lord to provide directions.

e. Illustration of Two Doors

What do I as a believer have to face when I look at the future?

Shortly after becoming a Christian I come to a fork in the road where I see a door, through which I can visualize the future. I see goals and material belongings that would seem to satisfy my needs and desires in this life, at least based on my previous experience. Those goals and material belongings don't appear to be unacceptably evil. In fact I've seen many Christians seeking after the same things. Using my God-given skills and intellect, those things appear to be obtainable, especially now that I can count on God to assist me when needed.

**It seems reasonable that if God delivered me from unhappiness when He saved me, my happiness would now be one of His priorities.**

But wait, I see through another door. It is as though there is a sign beyond the entrance with a message from Jesus saying, "Come follow Me, I have a better plan prepared for you." He seems to want me to trust Him alone to give me fulfillment and satisfaction in this life and beyond. He seems to be telling me that the things I've seen through the other door only give temporary satisfaction for this life, but what He has prepared for me has eternal value.

Since I can't visualize anything He seems to be promising, how does He expect me to make a sensible evaluation? Does He really expect me to just trust Him on blind faith? That doesn't seem very reasonable since I'm just a new Christian and don't have much faith yet. Maybe further along I'll understand better, when I have more faith.

### 13. My Life Can Be Categorized Into Three Areas

Make 3 columns		
Wisdom / Knowledge	Strength / Might / Beauty	Wealth / Possessions / Power
Advertisements typically target these three areas with the purpose of producing dissatisfaction.		

There are THREE AREAS over which His Lordship needs to be considered; over my **possessions**; over my **body**; and over my **understanding**. Why three areas? Because a failure to yield to His authority over these three areas can keep me from going on to maturity in Christ to bear eternal fruit.

Luke 8:14 As for the seed that fell among thorns, these are the ones who, when they have heard, go on their way and are choked with **worries, riches, and pleasures of life**, and produce **no mature fruit**. (*Matthew 13:22 ... unfruitful.*)

## 14. Is God Totally Good?

- Can He be totally counted on?
- What does the Bible say about God's character?
- What does the evil one say about God's character?
- Just as a typical small child recognizes the authority of a parent, I easily understand that God ought to be in charge.
- Is there a logical reason to not entrust myself totally to His authority? At The Tribunal of Christ what excuse could I offer for not doing so?
- If God has already given me what was most valuable to Him, how can I ever conclude that He would deny me that which is of so much less value?

(Romans 8:32) He did not even spare His own Son but offered Him up for us all; how will He not also with Him grant us everything?

*Many older believers tend to equate Lordship to "bondage," while most new believers will equate Lordship to "freedom" (if it is clearly and correctly explained).*

## 15. Our Daily Bread                      Surrender

In the early 1940s, the president of Dallas Seminary, Lewis Sperry Chafer, gave a very brief banquet speech. Introduced after a long program, he announced his subject:

"The Reasonableness of Fully Surrendering Our Lives To God."

Then, because of the lateness of the hour, he gave only the three points of his message.

Reason 1: **God is all-wise and knows better than anyone else what is best for my life.**

Reason 2: **He is almighty and has the power to accomplish what is best for me.**

Reason 3: **God loves me more than anyone else does.**

Chafer concluded, "**Therefore the most logical thing I can do is surrender my life to God.** What more can I say? What more need I say?"

The apostle Paul had the same conviction. He knew that prison and hardship awaited him in Jerusalem, but he also knew that God wanted him to go (Acts 20:22-23). Even his sorrowing friends wisely concluded, "The will of the Lord be done" (21:14). They knew that Paul was right.

No matter what happens, when we do God's will we're in the safest place in all the world. The Lord is all-wise, almighty, and all-loving. Doesn't it make sense to surrender your life to Him? –HVL

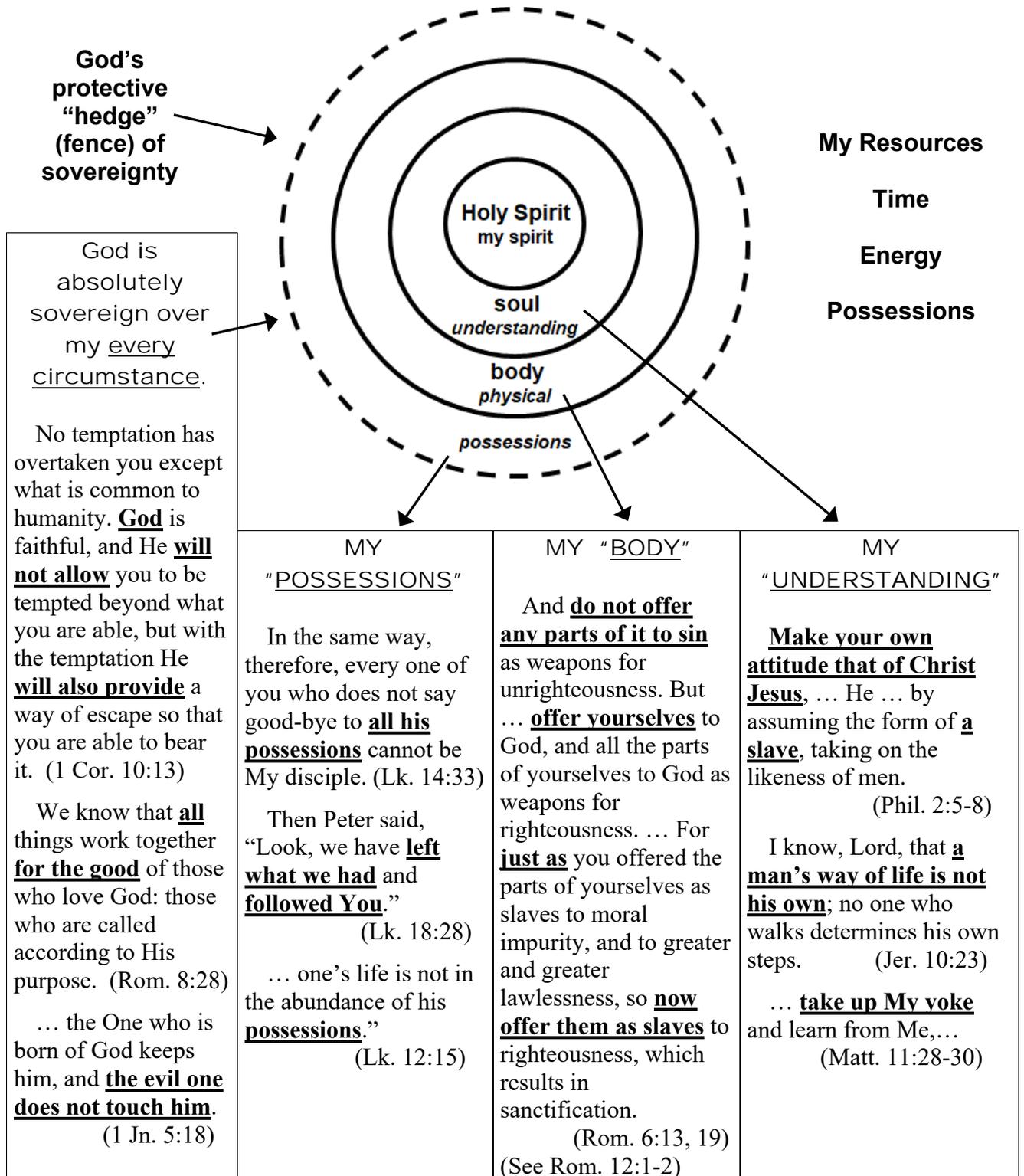
*All to Jesus I surrender,  
All to Him I freely give;  
I will ever love and trust Him,  
In His presence daily live. --Van de Venter*

**Surrender means victory when we surrender to God.**

(October 24, 1998) Herbert Vander Lugt, *Our Daily Bread*  
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# Lordship: Three Areas of My Life to Surrender

## Three Areas of Temptations, Trials, Tribulations and Surrender



## God Was at Work in 3 Areas of Job's Life

(The story of Job is often presented with an emphasis on “suffering and patience.”  
We believe the greater lesson is “how God molds His children.”)

1. Job was a man who had a passion for God.

Job 1:1 There was a man in the country of Uz named Job. He was a man of **perfect integrity**, who **feared God** and **turned away from evil**.

Job 23:12 (*Job said*) ... **I have treasured the words of His mouth more than my daily food**.

2. God had tremendously blessed Job.

Job 1:2-3 He had **seven sons** and **three daughters**. His estate included **7,000 sheep**, **3,000 camels**, **500 yoke of oxen**, **500 female donkeys**, and **a very large number of servants**. Job was **the greatest man among all the people of the east**.

3. God had a hedge (fence) of protection around Job and all that pertained to Job. This hedge represents God's sovereignty, against which the enemy is powerless. This same hedge surrounds every believer.

Job 1:8-10a Then the LORD said to Satan, “Have you considered My servant Job? **No one else** on earth is like him, a man of perfect integrity, who fears God and turns away from evil.” Satan answered the LORD, “Does Job fear God for nothing? Haven't You placed **a hedge around him, his household, and everything he owns**?”

Illustration: There are tribes in Africa who traditionally built a hedge (zariba) around their village to protect themselves and their livestock from marauding predators. 1 Peter 5:8 implores us: *Be serious! Be alert! Your adversary the Devil is prowling around **like a roaring lion**, looking for anyone he can devour.*

4. In order for Satan to afflict Job (even in the area of possessions), he had to be granted permission by God.

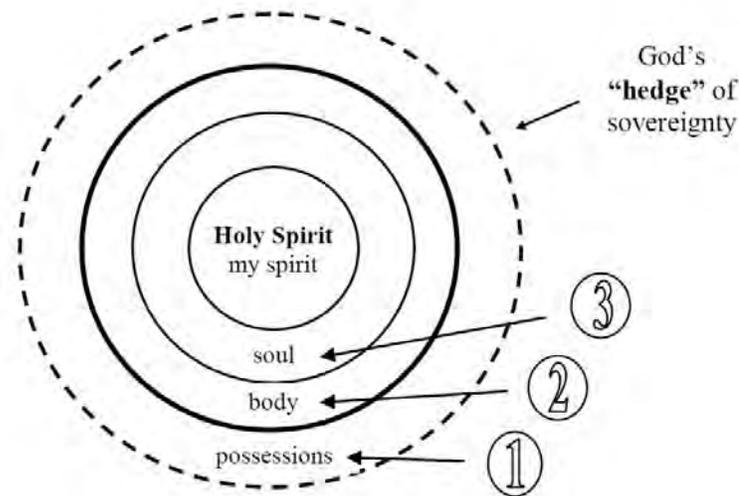
Job 1:10b-12 “You have blessed the work of his hands, and his possessions have increased in the land. But stretch out Your hand and strike **everything he owns**, and he will surely curse You to Your face.” “Very well,” the LORD told Satan, “**everything he owns** is in your power.

However, **you must not lay a hand on Job himself**.” So Satan left the LORD's presence.

NOTE: The enemy, Satan, had no power, nor right in himself, to afflict Job (or any believer). He only had power over Job to the degree granted to him by God. Satan has been allowed by God to exert power and influence in this present world, but only to the degree that it accomplishes God's purposes. It is comforting to know that God's absolute sovereignty and dominion over all His creation has never been, and will never be, the least bit compromised.

Prov. 21:30 **No wisdom, no understanding, and no counsel** will prevail against the LORD.

Dan. 4:35 All the inhabitants of the earth are counted **as nothing**, and He does **what He wants** with the army of heaven and the inhabitants of the earth. There is **no one** who can hold back His hand or say to Him, “What have You done?”



God granted Satan permission to enter through the hedge and afflict Job in the area of possessions, but He ordered Satan to not go into the next area, that of the body.

① **Job 1:12-19**

:12 “Very well,” the LORD told Satan, “**everything he owns** is in your power. However, **you must not lay a hand on Job himself.**” So Satan left the LORD’s presence.

:13-15 One day when Job’s sons and daughters were eating and drinking wine in their oldest brother’s house, a messenger came to Job and reported: “While **the oxen** were plowing and **the donkeys** grazing nearby, the Sabians swooped down and took them away. They struck down **the servants** with the sword, and I alone have escaped to tell you!”

:16 He was still speaking when another messenger came and reported: “A lightning storm struck from heaven. It burned up **the sheep** and **the servants** and devoured them, and I alone have escaped to tell you!”

:17 That messenger was still speaking when yet another came and reported: “The Chaldeans formed three bands, made a raid on **the camels**, and took them away. They struck down **the servants** with the sword, and I alone have escaped to tell you!”

:18-19 He was still speaking when another messenger came and reported: “**Your sons and daughters** were eating and drinking wine in their oldest brother’s house. Suddenly a powerful wind swept in from the desert and struck the four corners of the house. It collapsed on the young people so that they died, and I alone have escaped to tell you!”

5. Even though Job was crushed, overwhelmed and bewildered by the

① happenings, Job had long before acknowledged that God is the rightful sovereign Lord over all creation, including all that God had given him. His response was the evidence of that conviction.

Job 1:20-22 Then Job stood up, tore his robe, and shaved his head. He fell to the ground and worshiped, saying: Naked I came from my mother’s womb, and naked I will leave this life. The LORD gives, and the LORD takes away. Praise the name of Yahweh. Throughout all this **Job did not sin** or blame God for anything.

6. Having lost the battle in the area of possessions, Satan returned to request permission to afflict Job in the area of the body. God granted Satan permission to enter into the area of the physical body, but ordered him to not go further, into the area of the understanding/ the soul.

**Job 2:1-7**

:1-5 One day the sons of God came again to present themselves before the LORD, and Satan also came with them to present himself before the LORD. The LORD asked Satan, “Where have you come from?” “From roaming through the earth,” Satan answered Him, “and walking around on it.” Then the LORD said to Satan, “Have you considered My servant Job? No one else on earth is like him, a man of perfect integrity, who fears God and turns away from evil. **He still retains his integrity**, even though you incited Me against him, to destroy him without just cause.” “**Skin for skin!**” Satan answered the LORD. “A man will give up everything he owns in exchange for his life. But stretch out Your hand and strike **his flesh and bones**, and he will surely curse You to Your face.”

:6 “Very well,” the LORD told Satan, “he is in your power; only **spare his life**.”

:7 So Satan left the LORD’s presence and infected Job with **terrible boils from the sole of his foot to the top of his head**.

7. Job was once again dismayed and bewildered by the happenings. But as with his possessions, Job had long before concluded that God is the rightful sovereign Lord over all creation, including his body. And again his response was the evidence of that conviction.

Job 2:8-10 Then Job took a piece of broken pottery to scrape himself while he sat among the ashes. His wife said to him, “Do you still retain your integrity? Curse God and die!” “You speak as a foolish woman speaks,” he told her. “Should we accept only good from God and not adversity?” Throughout all this **Job did not sin** in what he said.

For the next 29 chapters (chapters 3-31) Job defends himself against the accusations of his three friends.

8. God wanted to focus Job’s attention on an error he had in the area of his understanding. God used Elihu, a young man who had been listening to the debate, to expose Job’s spiritual pride (chapters 32-37), after which He spoke directly to Job.

Job 32:2-3 Then Elihu ... became angry. He was angry at Job **because he had justified himself rather than God**. He was also angry at Job’s three friends because they had failed to refute him and yet had condemned him.

Job 33:8-12 (*Elihu to Job*) ... I have heard these very words: “**I am pure, without transgression; I am clean and have no guilt**. But **He finds reasons** to oppose me; **He regards me as His enemy**. He puts my feet in the stocks; He stands watch over all my paths.” But I tell you that **you are wrong** in this matter, since **God is greater** than man.

Job 33:32 (*Elihu to Job*) But if you have something to say, answer me; speak, for **I would like to justify you**.

Job 34:5-6 (*Elihu continued*) For Job has declared, “**I am righteous, yet God has deprived me of justice**. Would I lie about my case? My wound is incurable, though **I am without transgression**.”

34:12 (*Elihu*) Indeed, it is true that **God does not act wickedly** and **the Almighty does not pervert justice.**

34:17-18 (*Elihu*) Could one who hates justice govern the world? **Will you condemn the mighty Righteous One?**

34:35-37 (*Elihu*) “**Job speaks without knowledge; his words are without insight.**” ...

NOTE: The way in which Elihu gently and humbly pointed out Job’s error is a worthy example of Galatians 6:1-2, where the Lord instructs us: Brothers, if someone is caught in any wrongdoing, you who are spiritual should **restore such a person with a gentle spirit,** watching out for yourselves so you also won’t be tempted. **Carry one another’s burdens;** in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ. (Gal. 6:1-2)

9. God then corrected Job directly (chapters 38-41).

Job 38:1-4 Then the LORD answered Job from the whirlwind. He said: Who is this who obscures

③ My counsel **with ignorant words?**...

Job 40:1-2 The LORD answered Job: Will the one who contends with the Almighty **correct Him?** Let him who argues with God give an answer.

Job 40:8 (*God said to Job*) **Would you really challenge My justice? Would you declare Me guilty to justify yourself?**

10. Job acknowledged his error to God and repented.

Job 42:1-6 Then Job replied to the LORD: I know that You can do anything and no plan of Yours can be thwarted. You asked, “Who is this who conceals My counsel with ignorance?” Surely **I spoke about things I did not understand,** things too wonderful for me to know. You said, “Listen now, and I will speak. When I question you, **you will inform Me.**” I had heard rumors about You, but now my eyes have seen You. Therefore **I take back my words and repent** in dust and ashes.

③

11. God rebuked the three accusers and restored Job.

Job 42:7-8 ...He (*the LORD*) said to Eliphaz the Temanite: “I am angry with you and your two friends, for you have not spoken the truth about Me, **as My servant Job has.** Now take seven bulls and seven rams, go to My servant Job, and offer a burnt offering for yourselves. Then **My servant Job will pray for you. I will surely accept his prayer** and not deal with you as your folly deserves. For you have not spoken the truth about Me, **as My servant Job** has.”

③

Job 42:9-12 ... After Job had prayed for his friends, the LORD restored his prosperity and **doubled** his previous possessions. All his brothers, sisters, and former acquaintances came to his house and dined with him in his house. They sympathized with him and comforted him concerning all the adversity **the LORD** had brought on him. Each one gave him a qesitah (*a unit of monetary value*) and a gold earring. So the LORD blessed the last part of Job’s life **more than** the first....

Note: **For more Scriptures on “Suffering” see Lesson 1-14**

# 3 Areas of Temptations, Trials, Tribulations and Surrender

Column 1

Column 2

Column 3

Column 4

Column 5

Column 6

	Gen. 3:6 Independence	Luke 4:1-12 Dependence	Jeremiah 9:23-24	Luke 8:14 "The Sower"	1 John 2:15-16
Introduction →  Our "Resources"	6a Then the woman saw that the tree	1-2a Then Jesus ... full of the Holy Spirit, and was led by the Spirit ... to be <b>tempted</b> by the Devil.	23a This is what the Lord says:	14a ... the ones who, when they have heard, ... <b>are choked</b>	15-16a Do not love <b>the world</b> or the things that belong to the world.
Self Mind Understanding Will Personality Emotions Reasoning  (I Am) "soul"	6d and that it was desirable <b>for obtaining wisdom</b> .	9-12 So he took Him to Jerusalem, had Him stand on the pinnacle of the temple, and said to Him, "If You are the Son of God, throw Yourself down from here. ... Jesus answered him, "It is said: <b>Do not test the Lord your God.</b> "	23b The wise man must not boast in <b>his wisdom</b> ;	14b with <b>worries</b>	16d ...the <b>pride</b> in one's lifestyle
(I Do) "body"	6b was <b>good for food</b> .	2b-4 He ate nothing during those days, and when they were over, <b>He was hungry</b> . The Devil said to Him, "If You are the Son of God, <b>tell this stone to become bread</b> ." But Jesus answered him, "It is written: Man must not live on bread alone."	23c the strong man must not boast in <b>his strength</b> ;	14d and <b>pleasures of life</b>	16b the <b>lust of the flesh</b> ,
Appetites Food Health Strength Physical Beauty Appearance	6c and <b>delightful to look at</b> .	5-8 So he took Him up and <b>showed</b> Him all the <b>kingdoms</b> of the world ... If You, then, will worship me, <b>all will be Yours</b> ." And Jesus answered him, "It is written: Worship the Lord your God, and serve Him only."	23d the wealthy man must not boast in <b>his wealth</b> .	14c <b>riches</b>	16c the <b>lust of the eyes</b> ,
(I Have) "possessions"	6e So <b>she took</b> some of its fruit and <b>ate it</b> ; ... and <b>he ate it</b> .	<b>Who do I have in heaven but You? And I desire nothing on earth but You.</b> (Psalm 73:25)	24 But the one who boasts should boast in this, <b>that he understands and knows Me</b> .	14e and <b>produce no mature fruit</b> .	16e is not from the Father, but <b>is from the world</b> .
Conclusion →	To Yield to His Oversight and Management "Lordship"				

R O W 1

R O W 2

R O W 3

**Note:** Advertisements typically target areas in Rows 1, 2 or 3, with the purpose of producing dissatisfaction.

## My "Old Self" and My "New Self"

I should not view my daily life as being a **difficult** and **frustrating** struggle with sin, to be **endured** until I am finally delivered through death (an unpleasant, but necessary experience) into heaven.

Although I want to experience a consistently abundant life, I should not reason that only "very spiritual" believers are able to achieve that goal. God has provided **everything** I need to live the abundant life.

**2 Peter 1:3-4** His divine power has given us **everything** required for life and godliness through the **knowledge** of Him who called us by His own glory and goodness. By these **He has given us very great and precious promises**, so that through them you may share in the divine nature, **escaping the corruption that is in the world because of evil desires**.

*My Christian Life is not just "avoiding" bad behavior,  
but rather Walking in the Spirit.*

Many Christians are satisfied with **NOT** walking in the flesh. But is God simply satisfied with me **NOT** stealing or **NOT** getting drunk anymore?

It's a **misconception** for me to think that my Christian life is simply NOT doing "**bad**" things, characterized by "**bad behavior**".

One of the dangers of behavior-oriented Christianity (**behavior manipulation**) is that I tend to say "Before I was a Christian, I did bad things; now that I'm a Christian I stopped doing those things." But is that completely true for me?

If I am just focused on **NOT** doing bad things, typically it's for **PEOPLE**. BUT if my focus is on doing **what is pleasing** to God, then my focus is on **GOD**.

**If my focus is on pleasing God**, then I will **NOT** be doing the "sins" of my Old Self (walking in the flesh). Often, Christians think that when I'm walking "in the flesh", I can stop that behavior in my own **strength**. Walking "in the Spirit" (the "New Self") can only happen when I'm **abiding** in the Spirit.

*It's not enough just to get rid of the darkness,  
but I need to have LIGHT.*

Why is it **critical** for me to walk in the Spirit?

**Ephesians 4:11-13** And He personally gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, some pastors and teachers, for the training of the saints in the work of ministry, to build up the body of Christ, until we **all** reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of God's Son, **growing into a mature man [person] with a stature measured by Christ's fullness**.

1. My human nature is sinful, independent, and beyond repair.

Jer 17:9 The heart is more **deceitful** than anything else, and **incurable**,...

John 6:63 The Spirit is the One who gives life. **The flesh doesn't help at all**....

Rom 3:10-12 As it is written: There is **no one** righteous, **not even one**. ... there is **no one** who seeks God. ... All alike have become **useless**. There is **no one** who does what is good, **not even one**.

Rom 7:18 For I know that **nothing good lives in me, that is, in my flesh**....

Rom 8:8 **Those who are in the flesh cannot please God**.

Gal 5:17 For **the flesh desires what is against the Spirit**, and the Spirit desires what is against the flesh; these **are opposed** to each other, so that you don't do what you want.

2. I can attempt to improve my outward behavior (behavior manipulation), but God focuses my attention on the root problem - my sinful human nature. My outward behavior is simply the evidence of the real problem.

Matt 5:21-22 (*Jesus said*)... "You have heard that it was said to our ancestors, Do not murder, and whoever murders will be subject to judgment. But I tell you, everyone who is **angry** with his brother will be subject to judgment."

5:27-28 "You have heard that it was said, Do not commit adultery. But I tell you, everyone who looks at a woman to **lust** for her has already committed adultery with her in his heart."

Matt 15:19 For **from the heart** come evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, sexual immoralities, thefts, false testimonies, blasphemies.

3. The purpose of the Law is to make evident the sinfulness of my human nature, in order to persuade me not to rely on it, but rather on the Holy Spirit.

Galatians 3:1-5 You foolish Galatians! Who has hypnotized you, before whose eyes Jesus Christ was vividly portrayed as crucified? I only want to learn this from you: **Did you receive the Spirit by the works of the law or by hearing with faith?** Are you so foolish? After beginning with the Spirit, **are you now going to be made complete by the flesh?**

Rom 3:19-20 Now we know that whatever the law says speaks to those who are subject to the law, **so that every mouth may be shut** and the whole world may become subject to God's judgment. For **no one will be justified in His sight by the works of the law**, because **the knowledge of sin comes through the law**. (*See also Heb. 7:18-19*)

Rom 5:20 The law came along **to multiply the trespass**....

Gal 5:22-23 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faith, gentleness, self-control. **Against such things there is no law**.

Rom 4:15 For the law produces wrath. And **where there is no law, there is no transgression**.

Rom 5:13 ... **sin is not charged to a person's account when there is no law**.

Rom 10:4 **For Christ is the end of the law for righteousness** to everyone who believes.



**Note:** The Law could be pictured as a sign beside a salty spring in the desert, **"WARNING! THIS WATER IS CONTAMINATED AND UNHEALTHY TO DRINK."**  
**Salt-water "looks like" fresh water, but it is unable to support human life.**

4. In Ephesians 4 & 5 Paul lists (on the left side) **things I shouldn't be doing**. But God does not just want us to have a life of **avoiding** sin. Instead, Paul is pointing out (on the right side) that God wants me to have a life of consistently **walking in the Spirit** because God wants to bless me and **He wants to use me in the lives of others**. God wants to bless me and bless others through me!

	OLD SELF (Walking in the flesh)		NEW SELF (Walking in the Spirit)
4:14-15	... no longer be little children, ...	<b><u>BUT</u></b>	speaking the truth in love, <b><u>let us grow</u></b> in every way into Him who is the head ...
4:17-24	... You should no longer walk as the Gentiles walk, ... You took off your former way of life, the old self ...	<b><u>AND</u></b>	... <b><u>being renewed</u></b> in the spirit of your minds; you <b><u>put on the new self</u></b> , the one created according to God's likeness in righteousness and purity of the truth.
4:25	... Since you put away lying, ...	...	<b><u>Speak the truth</u></b> , each one to his neighbor,
4:28	The thief must no longer steal.	<b><u>INSTEAD</u></b>	he must <b><u>do honest work</u></b> , ... so that he has something <b><u>to share</u></b> ...
4:29	No foul language is to come from your mouth,	<b><u>BUT</u></b> (silent?)	... only <b><u>what is good for building up</u></b> ...
4:31-32	All bitterness, anger and wrath, shouting and slander must be removed from you, along with all malice.	<b><u>AND</u></b>	<b><u>be kind and compassionate</u></b> to one another, <b><u>forgiving</u></b> one another, just as God also forgave you in Christ.
5:3-4	But sexual immorality and any impurity or greed should not even be heard of among you. ... Coarse and foolish talking or crude joking are not suitable,	<b><u>BUT</u></b> <b><u>RATHER</u></b>	... <b><u>giving thanks</u></b> . (as a habit)
5:7-10	... do not become their partners. For you were once darkness, ...	<b><u>BUT</u></b>	... <b><u>Walk as children of light</u></b> ... <b><u>discerning what is pleasing to the Lord</u></b> .
5:11-13	Don't participate in the fruitless works of darkness, ...	<b><u>BUT</u></b> <b><u>INSTEAD</u></b>	... <b><u>expose them</u></b> . ... Everything exposed by the light is made clear.
5:15-16	... (walk) ... not as unwise people	<b><u>BUT</u></b>	<b><u>as wise</u></b> — <b><u>making the most of the time</u></b> , because the days are evil.
5:17	...So don't be foolish,	<b><u>BUT</u></b>	<b><u>understand what the Lord's will is</u></b> .
5:18-21	And don't get drunk with wine, which leads to reckless actions,	<b><u>BUT</u></b>	<b><u>be filled by the Spirit</u></b> : speaking to one another in psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs, singing and <b><u>making music from your heart to the Lord</u></b> , <b><u>giving thanks always</u></b> for everything to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, submitting to one another in the fear of Christ.

*... walk by the Spirit and you will not carry out the desire of the flesh. (Gal. 5:16)*

In Romans chapters 7 - 8, Paul presents God's perfect solution (walking in the Spirit) to my human nature (walking in the flesh).

Some Christians find themselves habitually living in a Romans 7 experience (a desert experience) and some would point to the apostle Paul to prove that he too, had the same struggles that we have.

Every Christian should understand their human nature does not disappear and is hopeless (the Law in Romans 7 serves this purpose). That means I cannot please God and live for Him under my own strength.

Paul did pass through Romans 7. He did not stay there but "resided" in Romans 8. God has made the same provision for me. His nature, His Holy Spirit living in me, is more powerful than my human nature.

5. God never intended the Law to be a means by which I could make my sinful nature acceptable to Him, but rather He used the Law to demonstrate how "totally unacceptable" my sinful nature is.

Romans 7:7-13 ... **I would not have known sin if it were not for the law.** For example, I would not have known what it is to covet if the law had not said, Do not covet... So then, the law is holy, and the commandment is holy and just and good. Therefore, did what is good cause my death? Absolutely not! On the contrary, sin, **in order to be recognized as sin,** was producing death in me through what is good, so that through the commandment, **sin might become sinful beyond measure.**

6. Paul experienced what every Christian needs to learn, that my sinful nature did not disappear and is not improved since I became a Christian. No matter how hard I try, I cannot make it conform to God's character in my own strength.

Romans 7:14-16 For we know that the law is spiritual, but I am made out of flesh, **sold into sin's power.** For I do not understand what I am doing, because I do not practice what I want to do, but **I do what I hate.** And if I do what I do not want to do, I agree with the law that it is good.

7. Paul became aware that the sinful nature no longer represented his real desires, but what other option did he have?

Romans 7:17-24 **So now I am no longer the one doing it, but it is sin living in me.** For I know that **nothing good lives in me, that is, in my flesh.** For the desire to do what is good is with me, but there is **no ability to do it.** For I do not do the good that I want to do, but I practice the evil that I do not want to do. Now if I do what I do not want, I am no longer the one doing it, but **it is the sin that lives in me.** So I discover this principle: When I want to do what is good, evil is with me. For **in my inner self** I joyfully agree with God's law. But I see a different law **in the parts of my body,** waging war against the law of my mind and taking me prisoner to the law of sin in the parts of my body. What a wretched man I am! **Who will rescue me from this dying body?**

8. God's solution is to provide a new nature that is totally compatible with His character, creating a "new self" walking in the Spirit as compared to my "old self" walking in the flesh.

Romans 7:25 I thank God through Jesus Christ our Lord! So then, **with my mind** I myself am a slave to the law of God, but **with my flesh**, to the law of sin.

Romans 8:1-4 **Therefore**, no condemnation now exists for those in Christ Jesus, because **the Spirit's law of life in Christ Jesus has set you free from the law of sin and of death**. What the law could not do since it was limited by the flesh, God did. He condemned sin in the flesh by sending His own Son in flesh like ours under sin's domain, and as a sin offering, **in order that the law's requirement would be accomplished in us who do not walk according to the flesh but according to the Spirit**.

Romans 8:5-8 For those who live according to the flesh think about the things of the flesh, **but those who live according to the Spirit, about the things of the Spirit**. For the mind-set of the flesh is death (*absence of life*), but the mind-set of the Spirit is **life and peace**. For **the mind-set of the flesh is hostile to God** because it does not submit itself to God's law, for it is **unable to do so**. **Those who are in the flesh cannot please God**.

Romans 10:4 **For Christ is the end of the law for righteousness** to everyone who believes.

Galatians 2:19-20 For through the law I have died to the law, so that I might live for God. **I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me**.

Galatians 5:22-23 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faith, gentleness, self-control. **Against such things there is no law**.

### **Paul did not reside in Romans 7, nor should I.**

I am freed from the power of my human nature. I can do everything that God wants me to do. The only time I will walk in the flesh is when I choose to. If I walk in the Spirit, I will NOT walk in the flesh!

I don't have to walk in fear of my sinful human nature, but I need to respect and be aware of the attraction of sin in my life.

# Salvation, our Two Natures and Lordship

## A Discussion

1. Contrast the **substitutionary principle** of salvation with the common inclination toward merit-based salvation. I need to clearly understand that salvation is not earned, nor kept through my human effort so that I do not reason like the Galatian Christians. *You foolish Galatians! Who has hypnotized you, before whose eyes Jesus Christ was vividly portrayed as crucified? I only want to learn this from you: Did you receive the Spirit by the works of the law or by hearing with faith? Are you so foolish? **After beginning with the Spirit, are you now going to be made complete by the flesh?*** (Galatians. 3:1-3) (For a complete discussion, see Lesson 1-3.)
2. The “**event**” of salvation (my “new birth”) is just the “**first step**” in my spiritual walk with God, just as physical birth is the first step in the human experience of progressing from childhood to adult maturity. Many Christians emphasize the event of salvation (and obviously it isn’t optional), but then fail to emphasize the importance of the Christian’s life between the experience of salvation and the departure from this body.

I should not view my daily life as being a difficult and frustrating struggle with sin, to be endured until I am finally delivered through death (an unpleasant, but necessary experience) into heaven. Although I want to experience a consistently victorious life, it’s a misconception to reason that only “very spiritual” believers are able to achieve that goal. God has provided me everything I need to live the abundant life. 1 Peter 1:3
3. It’s critical to understand the importance of **God’s character** as it pertains to **His trustworthiness?** Do I fall to the enemy’s strategy of **undermining and distorting God’s character** in my mind by portraying Him as One who cannot always be counted on to do what is best for me as I follow Him?

Does the enemy utilize my human nature’s propensity toward independence from God to promote distrust in Him, even though the Bible continually reinforces God’s character as loving, perfect, faithful and **absolutely worthy** of my trust? How do I reconcile this tension?  
(See Lesson 1-5)
4. How did I as a **believer come to have within me two natures** which are in direct opposition to one another? I need to understand that my human nature is **not the least bit improved at conversion**, as compared to the common perception that the Holy Spirit’s presence somehow raises my human nature to a new level of goodness. I have the same potential for committing sins after being saved as before. My human nature is beyond repair. God’s only provision for a victorious life is through the **Divine Nature in the Person of the Holy Spirit!**
5. It is important to view the Holy Spirit as a **Person**, God Himself, in contrast to the idea that He is something less, such as an “inspiration” or an “influential force” for good in my life? He should be recognized as a constant Overseer and Companion, and a Person with whom there needs to be continual **communication** and **interaction**, as I would have with a spouse or a close friend.

He has a daily plan for my life and wants me to learn to **follow Him** and fit into **His** plans, contrary to the commonly held belief that He is always by my side, but is really only needed for those difficult times **when I determine through my human understanding** that I can’t cope alone. (my Divine 911)

6. **Christ's "ownership"** of me is **a truth** that does not in any way depend upon my acknowledgment or acceptance of it. I need to clearly understand **from the very beginning** that surrender does not imply I'm giving up something **to** God, because it is already His. **He has bought me** and, therefore, anything less than an unconditional yielding of myself to Him is to seize authority over that which is not mine. **He is rightfully my Lord**, and I need to acknowledge and accept it. He should not be presented as One who will "**become**" my Lord sometime in the future. A refusal to acknowledge God's stated truth will result in forfeiture of blessings both here on earth and at the Rewards Ceremony. The result is wandering in my "spiritual desert" -- never quite finding victory and enjoying the abundant life as God intended.

7. I can perceive the concept of Lordship as a **decision** (event), a submission of my will to His authority, followed by a process (abiding, sanctification, spiritual growth). This event is characterized by the decision of the second group of Israelites to cross the Jordan River into God's chosen place of blessing and fruitfulness (Canaan), where they learned to follow God in the process of conquering the land.

The marriage ceremony (Marriage "Covenant") is also an **event** of commitment ("relinquishment of independence") followed by the marriage **process** ("learning to live together in harmonious fellowship"). This perspective is in contrast to the prevalent misconception that Lordship is a **goal** that is attained to **as a result** of a "process" of surrender and obedience.

*"True surrender is not simply surrender of our external life but surrender of our will -- and once that is done, surrender is complete. The greatest crisis we ever face is the surrender of our will. Yet God never forces a person's will into surrender, and He never begs. He patiently waits until that person willingly yields to Him. And once that battle has been fought, it never needs to be fought again. Jesus says, "If you want to be My disciple, you must give up your right to yourself to Me." And after you surrender -- then what? Your entire life should be characterized by an eagerness to maintain unbroken fellowship and oneness with God."* (Taken from My Utmost for His Highest by Oswald Chambers – Sep. 13. (c) 1935 by Dodd Mead & Co., renewed (c) 1963 by the Oswald Chambers Publications Assn., Ltd., and is used by permission of Discovery House Publishers, Box 3566, Grand Rapids MI 49501. All rights reserved.)

8. These **two** aspects of surrender can present an obvious opportunity for confusion. There is an **initial** surrender of the **will** to His authority which is an event, followed by the process of surrendering those areas of my **understanding** and **behavior** that He wants to change and/or prune to mold me into a more useful and fruitful vessel. (A wild horse's will must first be broken, after which the training process can follow.) The "yoke" referred to in Matthew 11:28-30 speaks of "the relinquishment of my independence to Him" (event), followed by a process of learning to walk in harmonious fellowship with Him, "getting to know Him" ("sanctification").

9. Do I mistakenly equate Lordship to a surrender of **external behavior**? This misconception can result in me repeatedly committing to total surrender and obedience, only to be soon disappointed by the lack of anticipated purity and godliness. I can then easily conclude that such struggles with my human nature must be due to insincerity, lack of understanding, or lack of commitment on my part. Many Christians repeat this process throughout the years, but it doesn't have to be that way for me.

10. Which group of Israelites does my life mirror? The **first group** who refused to believe God and entrust themselves into His care because they did not consider Him trustworthy and as a result found themselves in a desert experience where God faithfully took care of all their temporal needs, but **they were not fruitful** from God's eternal perspective? Or, the **second group** of Israelites who trusted God and enjoyed the Promised Land, even though they still faced battles?

# Joshua 7 - Abiding, Confession of Sin and Restoration to Fellowship

SETTING: The second group of Israelites, under the leadership of Joshua, had just entered Canaan (the Promised Land), after having spent 40 years in the desert because of the unbelief of the first group of Israelites. They were faced with the challenge of learning to walk depending on the Lord daily as He gave them victory over their enemies, the inhabitants of Canaan. (The conquest of Canaan took about 7 years)

PROBLEM: There is a prevalent misconception that I can somehow be yielded to the Holy Spirit and the Human Nature *simultaneously* (as long as I'm "trying my best"). I need to understand that God interacts with me as a **whole person**, in the same way I would interact with my spouse or with a close friend. That is, He will not allow me to abide in fellowship with Him and have victory in one area of my life while I am **consciously allowing** disobedience and defeat in another area.

CAUTION: A troublesome area of defeat in my life will often be the **result** of an **unrelated** and less obvious unresolved conflict in another area.

IMPORTANT: In this illustration, corporate Israel represents me as a Christian.

1. God assured Israel of victory in the Promised Land. However, Israel needed to learn that His guarantee of victory was **conditional** on their "abiding" in fellowship (communion) with Him. In the same way, He assures me of victory in my Christian walk - **conditional** on my remaining ("abiding") in fellowship with Him.

1:3,5 "I have given you **every place where the sole of your foot treads**, just as I promised Moses. **No one** will be able to stand against you as long as you live. I will be with you, just as I was with Moses. **I will not leave you or forsake you.**"  
6:2 The LORD said to Joshua, "Look, **I have handed Jericho ... over to you.**"

2. At Jericho, the Lord gave clear instructions. They were accountable to obey what they understood.

6:17-19 (*The Lord said*) "But the city and everything in it are set apart to the LORD. ... **all** the silver and gold, and the articles of bronze and iron, are dedicated to the LORD and **must go into the LORD's treasury.**"  
6:21,24 They completely destroyed everything in the city ... but they put the silver and gold and the articles of bronze and iron **into the treasury** of the LORD's house.

They "assumed" that they had obeyed the Lord.

3. But there was disobedience that disrupted their fellowship with God, **removing them from God's provision for victory** and rendering them **defenseless**.  
(One small piece of dirt or a drop of poison, in a glass of water pollutes the whole.  
1 Cor. 5:6 says: "Don't you know that a little yeast permeates the whole batch of dough?"

What I deem "insignificant" may be very significant to the Lord.)



7:1 **The Israelites**, however, were unfaithful ... **Achan**, ... took some of what was set apart, and the LORD's anger burned against **the Israelites**.

Although only **one** man was involved, God held the **entire nation** (corporately) accountable. At first glance this may appear "unfair" to some. But this is how we relate to a spouse, and to others. If I were to steal something, would just my "hand" be sent to jail? **One** of God's purposes for this illustration was to teach Israel (and me) this principle. (read also Joshua 22:20)

4. They seemed to feel quite **confident** at this time, and there is **no indication** that they "consulted" the Lord before proceeding. Evidently they felt they were "on a roll." (read also Joshua 9:14)

7:2-3 Joshua sent men from Jericho to Ai, ... and told them, "Go up and scout the land." So the men went up and scouted Ai. After returning to Joshua they reported to him, "Don't send all the people, but send about 2,000 or 3,000 men to attack Ai. Since the people of Ai **are so few, don't wear out all our people there.**"

They appeared **unaware** that they were now **defenseless**, and functioning in their own strength.

5. When they confronted the enemy **in their own strength** they found themselves defeated.

7:4-5 So about 3,000 men went up there, but **they fled** from the men of Ai. The men of Ai struck down about 36 of them and chased them. ... As a result, **the people's hearts melted** and became like water.

It would be easy to conclude that God's promises (see point 1) had failed.

6. They were very discouraged and at a loss to understand why this had happened. They "**assumed**" they had obeyed the Lord. They were ready to give up.

7:6-9 Then Joshua tore his clothes and fell before the ark of the LORD with his face to the ground until evening, as did the elders of Israel; they all put dust on their heads. "Oh, Lord GOD," Joshua said, "**why** did You ever bring these people across the Jordan **to hand us over to the Amorites for our destruction**? If only we had been content to remain on the other side of the Jordan! What can I say, Lord, now that Israel has turned its back and run from its enemies? When the Canaanites and all who live in the land hear about this, they will surround us and wipe out our name from the earth. Then what will You do about Your great name?"

7. God now had their attention. He wanted to reveal an "unresolved issue" to them. My tendency is to **not associate** the "symptom" with the **root** problem. **Israel viewed Ai as the problem, but God viewed Ai as a symptom. Achan was the problem. They were defeated at Ai only because the source of their strength had been disrupted, leaving them defenseless.**

7:10-11 The LORD then said to Joshua, "Stand up! Why are you on the ground? **Israel** has sinned. **They** have violated My covenant that I appointed for them. **They** have taken some of what was set apart. They have stolen, deceived, ..."

Notice again, God uses "**they**" because He held the **entire** nation accountable for **one** man's sin.

8. God wanted Israel to understand that victory over their enemies originated from Him alone and was **conditional** upon their **continual** abiding fellowship with Him. While out of fellowship with Him they were defenseless. As am I when I “allow” disobedience to disrupt my fellowship with the Lord. John 15:4-5 states: ... *you can do **nothing** without Me.*

7:12a **This is why the Israelites cannot stand against their enemies....**

1% unresolved sin in my life can leave me 100% out of fellowship with the Lord. That doesn't mean I'm 100% sinful, just that I am now functioning **in union with** my sinful nature (“walking in the flesh”), until I am willing to be restored.

9. In order to be **restored** to “abiding fellowship” with God they needed to **repent** and **acknowledge** the sin for which God was holding them accountable. Otherwise, they could not count on God's strength, but rather would be standing against their enemies **in their own strength.**

7:12b-13 ... I will **no longer** be with you **unless** you remove from you what is set apart. “Go and consecrate the people. Tell them **to consecrate themselves** for tomorrow, for this is what the LORD, the God of Israel, says: There are things that are set apart among you, Israel. **You will not be able to stand** against your enemies **until** you remove what is set apart.”

**Note:** While refusal to enter His Spiritual Promised Land does result in a defeated and unfruitful life, simply being in His Spiritual Promised Land does not guarantee a victorious and fruitful life, because His victories and fruitfulness are **“conditional on abiding.”**

10. They needed to honestly examine themselves to be sure that nothing was left unresolved. The sin that disrupted their fellowship with the Lord was identified and laid out before the Lord. Biblical “confession” carries the idea of “repentance” (putting to death). (See also 1 John 1:5-10)

7:14-19 In the morning you must present yourselves tribe by tribe. ... The one who is caught with the things set apart must be **burned**, along with everything he has, ... Joshua got up early the next morning. He had Israel come forward tribe by tribe, ... and Achan ... of the tribe of Judah, was selected. So Joshua said to Achan, “My son, give glory to the LORD, the God of Israel, and **make a confession to Him**. I urge you, **tell** me what you have done. **Don't hide anything** from me.”

7:20,21,23 Achan replied to Joshua, “It is true. **I have sinned against the LORD**, the God of Israel. **This is what I did:** When I saw among the spoils a beautiful cloak from Babylon, 200 silver shekels, and a bar of gold weighing 50 shekels, I coveted them and took them. You can see for yourself. They are concealed in the ground inside my tent, with the money under the cloak.” They took the things from inside the tent, brought them to Joshua and all the Israelites, and **spread them out in the LORD's presence.**

7:24-26a Then Joshua and all Israel with him took Achan, ... the silver, the cloak, and the bar of gold, his sons and daughters, his ox, donkey, and sheep, his tent, and all that he had, and brought them up to the Valley of Achor. ... So **all Israel stoned them** to death. They **burned their bodies**,...

11. Their fellowship with the Lord was **immediately** and **completely** restored and they were once again “abiding” in fellowship with Him. Because they were abiding, they could once again experience and enjoy His blessing and victory.

7:26b-8:1 ... **the LORD turned from His burning anger**. ... The LORD said to Joshua, “**Do not be afraid or discouraged**. Take the whole military force with you and go attack Ai. Look, **I have handed over to you** the king of Ai, his people, city, and land.”

Notice that God reinstates the original promises and encouragement (from Joshua 1:3,5).

12. God gave them different instructions in regard to the next confrontation. What God deemed to be sin in Jericho was **not** sin at Ai. If Achan had waited for **God’s timing**, what he did would not have displeased God. (Even doing a “**good**” thing at the **wrong time** may be sin).

8:2 Treat Ai and its king as you did Jericho and its king; **you may plunder its spoil and livestock** for yourselves....

13. The Israelites were reminded to not forget the lesson they had learned in Joshua 7.

22:20 “Wasn’t Achan ... unfaithful regarding what was set apart for destruction, bringing wrath **on the entire community of Israel**? **He was not the only one** who perished because of his sin.”

#### PRINCIPLES TO LEARN:

- 1) If I find myself defeated and cannot seem to get victory in an area of my life, perhaps I am struggling with a “symptom”, rather than the “problem”. Ask God for discernment to distinguish the difference. (Refer to Lesson 1-9, page 46)
- 2) God will not allow me to experience His joy, peace, victory and blessings while I am unwilling to resolve an issue for which the Holy Spirit is presently holding me accountable. It is the Holy Spirit alone who determines when I am responsible for disrupting that fellowship (when I’m not “abiding”). Caution: What He deems to be significant may be “insignificant” to me, (for example, pride, unforgiveness, neglect, complaining, etc.).

- 3) God may hold me accountable for something “today” which He didn’t hold me accountable for “yesterday”. Even though the Lord is aware of these displeasing aspects of my character, the “good news” is He only holds me accountable for those issues (dust particles) that He wants me to deal with **today** as He matures me. This represents my Growth process and is the same way we deal with our children.



- 4) I will never get to the place in my spiritual life where I don’t have to pay attention to His leading.

“Sanctification”

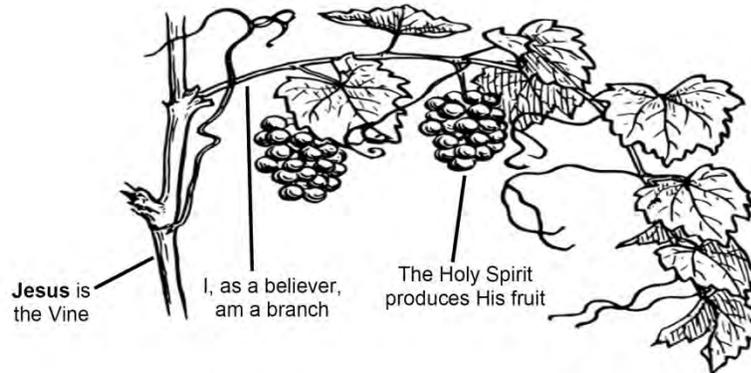
*I will drive them out little by little ahead of you until you have become numerous and take possession of the land.*

(Ex. 23:30)

# John 15 - The Vine and the Branches

## (Verse by Verse)

These are notes taken from a teaching by E.G. von Trutzschler (“pastor Von”) at a New Tribes Mission annual conference in Bolivia (*and I’ve added some notes - Art Barkley*)



:1. I am the true Vine, and My Father is the Vineyard Keeper.

The implication here is that there are "untrue" vines. Those who entrust their lives to Christ are of the "true" Vine. God the Father is the Gardener, Jesus is the Vine, we are the branches. The Vinedresser (or Gardener) speaks of God's sovereignty, ownership, care and protection. God has a hedge around us.

Job 1:10 Haven't You placed **a hedge** around him, his household, and **everything he owns**? ...

:2. Every branch in Me that does not produce fruit He removes and He prunes every branch that produces fruit so that it will produce more fruit.

“*in Me*” speaks of salvation (he is referring to **those who are Christians**). I’m not “in Christ” **because of** bearing fruit. **I don’t earn salvation** by my fruit; I produce fruit **because** I am abiding in Christ. Can I be saved by my own righteousness or faithfulness?

Ec. 7:20 There is certainly no righteous man on the earth who does good and never sins.

As a Christian I may or may not bear eternal fruit (as determined by God). “Cuts off / breaks off” refers to divine discipline. God reacts, perhaps removing me to another place (perhaps to heaven).

1 Cor. 5:5 turn that one over to Satan for the destruction of the flesh, so that his spirit may be saved in the Day of the Lord. (See also 2 Cor. 2:5-8)

1 Cor. 11:30 This is why many are sick and ill among you, and many have fallen asleep. (**died**)

1 Cor. 3:15 If anyone’s work is burned up, it **will be lost**, **but he will be saved**; yet it will be like an escape through fire.

“*bears / produces fruit*” Fruit is the **character of Christ** being produced in me by the work of God. What does a natural fruit do? It satisfies, brings pleasure.

Gal. 5:22-23 But the **fruit of the Spirit** is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faith, gentleness, self-control. Against such things there is no law.

Pruning speaks of removing parts that, from God's perspective, are a hindrance to what He wants to accomplish in and through my life. Their harmful character may or may not be obvious to me; for example, parasitic plants. Who but God can decide what has value? All pruning hurts for awhile. The bottom line is: Can I trust Him? Trials reveal my character.

Heb. 12:4-11 ... they (*parents*) disciplined us, ... but He does it **for our benefit**, so that we can share His holiness. No discipline seems enjoyable at the time, but **painful**. Later on, however, it yields the fruit of peace and righteousness to those who have been trained by it. Rom. 5:3-4 ... but we also rejoice **in our afflictions**, because we know that affliction produces endurance, endurance produces proven **character**, and proven character produces **hope**.

- :3. You are already clean because of the word I have spoken to you. You are clean because of what He has accomplished; "*clean*" is an appropriate reminder of salvation. The disciples were clean; Judas was unclean. Clean relates to "union," whereas washing relates to "communion." My feet get dirty as I walk daily in this world.

John 13:10-11 "One who has bathed," Jesus told him, "doesn't need to wash anything except his feet, but he is **completely clean**. **You are clean**, but not all of you." For He knew who would betray Him. This is why He said, "You are not all clean."

- :4. Remain (*abide*) in Me, and I in you. Just as a branch is unable to produce fruit by itself unless it remains (*abides*) on the vine, so neither can you unless you remain (*abides*) in Me.

"*Abide*" does not speak of salvation, but "**fellowship**"; it is not union, but "**communion**." Union depends on God, communion depends on me. (as in a marriage relationship) Abide/remain (used 64 times by the apostle John) means "to dwell, continue, tarry, endure," "to continue in communion/fellowship without unresolved conflicts."

**Scofield on "abiding"** – "*Having no sin unjudged and unconfessed, no interest into which He is not brought, no life He cannot share. The abiding one takes his burdens to Him, draws wisdom, life, and strength from Him. It is not unceasing consciousness of these things, and of Him, but that nothing is allowed in the life which separates from Him.*" (pp. 1136-37).

**Can continual communion be maintained?** Is God unreasonable? On page 164 of "*Hudson Taylor's Spiritual Secret*" we read, "**We should never be conscious of not abiding in Christ.**" (If I have a thorn in my foot, or a particle in my eye, do I ignore it, or pretend it doesn't exist?) Only unacknowledged sin can break fellowship. Confession immediately restores fellowship. Jesus calls me to a "rest" (see Matt. 11:28-30). Not a "striving to" rest, but rather a vigilance, sensitivity to anything that would disturb that relationship. If I am "honestly" doing what I believe to be pleasing to Him, I can trust Him to show me otherwise.

**Illustration:** An object held in my open hand does not strive, yet is not overcome by gravity. If the object represents me, then gravity would be like the sinful nature in my body, and the hand would be like the Holy Spirit.

Isaiah 30:20-21 The Lord will give you meager bread and water during oppression, but your Teacher will not hide Himself any longer. Your eyes will see your Teacher, and **whenever** you turn to the right or to the left, your ears will hear this command behind you: "This is the way. Walk in it."

Walking in the light speaks of **communion**. Am I aware of darkness? Darkness speaks of sin. This is dangerous! My eyes can adjust (to the darkness) if I'm not careful.

1 John 1:7 But if we walk **in the light** as He Himself is in the light, **we have fellowship** with one another, and the blood of Jesus His Son cleanses us from all sin.

God uses His Word to train me.

Heb. 5:13-14 Now everyone who lives on milk is inexperienced with the message about righteousness, because he is an infant. But solid food is for the mature—**for those whose senses have been trained** to distinguish between good and evil.

We're all at different levels in our Christian growth - child, adolescent, adult. He alone knows where I am, and deals with me accordingly. He doesn't expect me to act beyond my age.

Communion is **conditional**. His promise is conditional on **my** choices, like so many other promises He makes. The choice to abide/remain indicates that my natural tendency is one of "not abiding/remaining."

:5. I am the vine; you are the branches. The one who remains in Me and I in him produces much fruit, because you can do nothing without Me.

The **natural**, absolute result of being connected is that I **will** bear fruit! Fruit comes from "**just being healthy**." There is no reason to compare myself to others.

2 Cor. 10:12 ... But in measuring themselves by themselves and comparing themselves to themselves, they lack understanding.

We have different gifts, just as there are different types of natural fruit. People are looking for fruit that satisfies, they want "**good**" fruit. "**Activity**" is not necessarily "good fruit." "**Nothing**" has no eternal value, and no eternal reward. I can do plenty in the flesh.

1 Cor. 13:1-3 If I speak human or angelic languages but do not have love, I am a **sounding gong** or a **clanging cymbal**. If I have the gift of prophecy and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith so that I can move mountains but do not have love, I am **nothing**. And if I donate all my goods to feed the poor, and if I give my body in order to boast but do not have love, I gain **nothing**.

John 6:63 The Spirit is the One who gives life. The flesh doesn't help **at all**.

:6. If anyone does not remain (*abide*) in Me, he is thrown aside like a branch and he withers. They gather them, throw them into the fire, and they are burned.

Jesus wasn't attempting to "keep" Himself in union with the Father (see v. 10). This verse speaks of my testimony before the world, **not salvation** (see v. 2). God sees my faith (**invisible** to men), but men see my works (**visible** to men) – see v. 8.

John 13:35 (*Jesus said*) By this all people will know that you are My disciples, if you have **love for one another**."

James 2:14-26 ... For just as the body without the spirit is dead, so also faith without works is dead.

God was held in contempt by the world due to king David's sin (see 2 Sam. 12:14). A healthy branch is fixed, but flexible (manageable, pliable, teachable, moldable). A dead branch is brittle, hard, self-willed, unbendable, unmoldable, unteachable.

:7. If you remain in Me and My words remain in you, ask whatever you want and it will be done for you.

I should align myself with Him. I'll learn to think like Him. God is not a "name it and claim it" wishing well. He wants to change my desires - the things I would wish for.

Amos 3:3 Do two walk together **unless they have agreed** to do so? (NIV)  
Psalm 37:4 Take delight in the LORD, and He will give you your heart's desires.

:8. My Father is glorified by this: that you produce much fruit and prove to be My disciples.

Frustration and failure are unpleasant, but are used by God to draw me closer to Himself. I am a light in the darkness. There is no competition like in the secular world; God gets the glory. There are no politics in an organism. There is no room for selfish ambitions in my work.

Matt. 5:14-16 "You are the light of the world. ... let your light shine before men, so that they may **see** your good works and **give glory to your Father** in heaven.  
John 7:18 The one who speaks for himself seeks his own glory. But He who seeks the glory of the One who sent Him is true, and there is no unrighteousness in Him.  
Gal. 5:22-23 But **the fruit of the Spirit** is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faith, gentleness, self-control. Against such things there is no law.

:9. As the Father has loved Me, I have also loved you. Remain (*abide*) in My love. "*as*" is important. He loves me **in the same way** the Father loves Him. I see the Father's love and care for His Son. Jesus entrusted Himself completely into that care.

1 Peter 2:21-23 For you were called to this, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, **so that you should follow** in His steps. He did not commit sin, and no deceit was found in His mouth; when He was reviled, He did not revile in return; when He was suffering, He did not threaten but **entrusted Himself to the One** who judges justly.

:10. If you keep My commands you will remain (*abide*) in My love, just as I have kept My Father's commands and remain (*abide*) in His love.

I am called to entrust myself completely into His hands.

Rom. 12:1-2 Therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, I urge you to **present your bodies** as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God; this is your spiritual worship. Do not be conformed to this age, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may discern what is the good, pleasing, and perfect will of God.

How do I abide/remain? Obey! Obedience is "**voluntary**." Obey what? Obey the Holy Spirit.

Gal. 5:16-17 I say then, walk **by the Spirit** and you will not carry out the desire of the flesh. For the flesh desires what is against the Spirit, and the Spirit desires what is against the flesh; these are opposed to each other, so that you don't do what you want.

I am given but one command relating to others = *Love one another* (v.12)

Gal. 5:14 For the entire law is fulfilled in one statement: Love your neighbor as yourself.

There is danger in omission, that is not obeying/not doing what I believe to be right. Just as "darkness" is "the absence of light."

James 4:17 So it is a sin for the person who knows to do what is good and doesn't do it.

:11. I have spoken these things to you so that My joy may be in you and your joy may be complete.

An appropriate time to speak of "joy?" what does this mean?

Heb. 12:2 ...keeping our eyes on Jesus, the source and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that lay before Him endured a cross and despised the shame and has sat down at the right hand of God's throne.

I must abide/remain, and then I will bear fruit, and then experience God's joy. Not just joy, but rather "Jesus' joy" in full measure!

John 17:13 (*Jesus said*) Now I am coming to You, and I speak these things in the world so that they may have My joy completed in them.

:12. This is My command: Love one another as I have loved you.

Fruit is for others (fruit of the Spirit). Love is a choice; it is choosing to give another's welfare and interests the same importance as my own. "*as*" puts it within the realm of our possibility.

Matt. 22:39 ... Love your neighbor as yourself.

Matt. 23:11 The greatest among you will be your servant.

Phil. 2:3-4 Do nothing out of rivalry or conceit, but in humility consider others as more important than yourselves. Everyone should look out not only for his own interests, but also for the interests of others.

:13. No one has greater love than this, that someone would lay down his life for his friends.

It is an "attitude" of willingness.

Matt. 20:26 ... whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant.

John 10:15-18 "as the Father knows Me, and I know the Father. I lay down My life for the sheep. ... This is why the Father loves Me, because I am laying down My life so I may take it up again. No one takes it from Me, but I lay it down on My own. I have the right to lay it down, and I have the right to take it up again. I have received this command from My Father."

Phil. 2:3-8 ... Make your own attitude that of Christ Jesus,...

:14. You are My friends if you do what I command you.

A friend is one who yields his allegiance to another. Partners together with Christ. what does yielding allegiance to another mean?

1 Cor. 3:6-9 ... then neither the one who plants nor the one who waters is anything, but only God who gives the growth. Now the one planting and the one watering are one in purpose, and each will receive his own reward according to his own labor. For **we are God's coworkers**....

:15. I do not call you slaves anymore, because a slave doesn't know what his master is doing. I have called you friends, because I have made known to you everything I have heard from My Father.

A friend knows the Master's business. Needs longer explanation.

Eph. 5:17 So don't be foolish, but **understand what the Lord's will is**.

:16. You did not choose Me, but I chose you. I appointed you that you should go out and produce fruit and that your fruit should remain, so that whatever you ask the Father in My name, He will give you.

Chose/Election - Who knows why? No one is better than another. We can only be grateful. WHAT DOES THIS MEAN? VERY AMBIGUOUS AND CONFUSING

John 6:44 (*Jesus said*) "**No one** can come to Me unless the Father who sent Me draws him,..."

John 12:32 (*Jesus said*) "As for Me, if I am lifted up from the earth **I will draw all people** to Myself."

John 6:65 (*Jesus said*) "... **no one** can come to Me unless it is granted to him by the Father."

Rom. 3:11 ...there is **no one** who seeks God.

The fruit that the Holy Spirit produces through me as I abide has **eternal** value.

2 Cor. 4:17 For our momentary light affliction is producing for us an absolutely incomparable **eternal** weight of glory.

:17. This is what I command you: Love one another.

One command encompasses all. As I abide in fellowship with the Holy Spirit, He will draw others to Himself through the love for others that He will manifest through my life.

John 13:35 By this all people will know that you are My disciples, if you have **love for one another**."

REVIEW: Results of abiding/remaining in continual fellowship:

- v. 2. I will be pruned/disciplined/corrected to make me more fruitful.
- v. 5. 12, 17 The Holy Spirit will draw others to Himself as I allow His love to touch them.
- v. 7. I will be communicating/praying and seeing His answers.
- v. 8. God will be glorified through my life.
- v. 11. I will be experiencing His joy.
- v. 16. I will be bearing fruit that has eternal benefits.

# Jesus, God's Son, is our Model for Continual Abiding

1. The Son was the perfect "Branch" of God. (Old Testament prophecies.)

Isa. 4:2 On that day **the Branch of the LORD** will be beautiful and glorious,...

Isa. 11:1-5 Then a shoot will grow from the stump of Jesse, and **a branch** from his roots will bear fruit... (See also Rom. 15:12)

Jer. 23:5-6 "The days are coming"—this is the LORD's declaration—"when I will raise up **a Righteous Branch** of David. He will reign wisely as king and administer justice and righteousness in the land."

Jer. 33:15 In those days and at that time I will cause **a Righteous Branch** to sprout up for David, and He will administer justice and righteousness in the land.

Zech. 3:8 "Listen, Joshua ... I am about to bring My servant, **the Branch.**"

Zech. 6:12-13 ... This is what the LORD of Hosts says: Here is a man **whose name is Branch**; He will branch out from His place and build the LORD's temple....

2. As a branch the Son was not the source of what He said or did, He was a usable vessel, constantly available to the Father.

Deuteronomy 18:18 I (*God*) will raise up for them a prophet like you (*Moses*) from among their brothers. **I will put My words in his mouth**, and he will tell them **everything I command him**.

John 3:32 (*John the Baptist said*) He testifies to **what He has seen and heard**,...

5:19 ... "I assure you: The Son is **not able to do anything on His own**, but only what He sees the Father doing." ...

5:30 "**I can do nothing on My own**. I judge only as I hear, and My judgment is righteous, because I do not seek My own will, but the will of Him who sent Me."

7:16 Jesus answered them, "**My teaching isn't Mine** but is from the One who sent Me."

8:16 And if I do judge, My judgment is true, because **I am not alone**, but I and the Father who sent Me judge together.

8:26 "... **what I have heard from Him—these things I tell** the world."

8:28 ... Jesus said ... I do **nothing on My own**. But just as the Father taught Me, I say these things.

8:38 I speak **what I have seen in the presence of the Father**....

12:49-50 "For **I have not spoken on My own**, but the Father Himself who sent Me has given Me a command as to what I should say and what I should speak. I know that His command is eternal life. So the things that I speak, **I speak just as the Father has told Me**."

14:24 ... **The word that you hear is not Mine** but is from the Father who sent Me.

14:31 ... that the world may know that I love the Father. **Just as the Father commanded Me, so I do**....

15:15 ... I have made known to you **everything I have heard from My Father**.

17:8 (*Jesus to His Father*) ... because **the words that You gave Me**, I have given them....

Phil. 2:5-7 ... Christ Jesus, who, existing in the form of God, ... **emptied Himself** by assuming the form of **a slave**....

3. The Son is the visible manifestation of the invisible God.

John 1:14 The Word became flesh and took up residence among us. We observed **His glory**, the glory as the One and Only Son from the Father, **full of grace and truth**.  
10:37-38 “If I am not doing **My Father’s works**, don’t believe Me. But if I am doing them and you don’t believe Me, **believe the works**. This way you will know and understand that **the Father is in Me** and **I in the Father**.”  
12:44-45 Then Jesus cried out, “The one who believes in Me believes not in Me, **but in Him who sent Me**. And the one who sees Me sees **Him who sent Me**.”  
14:9 (*Jesus said to Philip*) **The one who has seen Me has seen the Father**....  
14:10-11 ... The words I speak to you I do not speak on My own. **The Father who lives in Me does His works**. Believe Me that I am in the Father and **the Father is in Me**.  
Otherwise, believe because of the works themselves.  
Isa. 9:6 For a child will be born for us, a son will be given to us, ... He will be named ... **Mighty God, Eternal Father**....  
2 Cor. 4:4 ... Christ, who is **the image of God**.  
Col. 1:15 **He is the image of the invisible God**....  
Heb. 1:3 The Son is **the radiance of God’s glory** and **the exact expression of His nature**....

4. The Son did not seek to please people to win their praise, but sought only to please His Father.

Matt. 26:36-44 Then Jesus came with them to a place called Gethsemane, ... Going a little farther, He fell facedown and prayed, “My Father! **If it is possible**, let this cup pass from Me. **Yet not as I will, but as You will**.” ... Again, a second time, He went away and prayed, “My Father, if this cannot pass unless I drink it, **Your will be done**.” ... He went away again and prayed a third time, **saying the same thing once more**.  
John 4:34 “My food is **to do the will of Him** who sent Me and to finish **His** work,” Jesus told them.”  
5:30 “I can do nothing on My own. I judge only as I hear, and My judgment is righteous, **because I do not seek My own will, but the will of Him who sent Me**.”  
5:41 “**I do not accept glory from men**.”  
6:38 For I have come down from heaven, not to do My will, but **the will of Him** who sent Me.  
7:18 The one who speaks for himself seeks his own glory. But **He who seeks the glory of the One who sent Him** is true, and there is no unrighteousness in Him.  
8:29 “The One who sent Me is with Me. He has not left Me alone, because **I always do what pleases Him**.”  
8:50 **I do not seek My glory**; the One who seeks it also judges.  
8:54 “**If I glorify Myself**,” Jesus answered, “**My glory is nothing**. My Father— ... He is the One who glorifies Me.”  
12:27-28 “Now My soul is troubled. What should I say—Father, save Me from this hour? But **that is why I came** to this hour. Father, glorify **Your** name!” ...

5. The Son totally entrusted Himself into His Father's care. He knew His Father was sovereign and totally trustworthy.

Matt. 26:39 ... He fell facedown and prayed, "My Father! If it is possible, let this cup pass from Me. Yet **not as I will, but as You will.**"

John 7:28 ... **I have not come on My own**, but the One who sent Me is true....

19:10-11 So Pilate said to Him, "You're not talking to me? Don't You know that I have the authority to release You and the authority to crucify You?" "You would have **no authority over Me at all**," Jesus answered him, "**if it hadn't been given you from above.**" ...

Phil. 2:8 **He humbled Himself by becoming obedient** to the point of death—even to death on a cross.

Heb. 5:8-9 Though He was God's Son, **He learned obedience through what He suffered**. After He was perfected, He became the source of eternal salvation for all who obey Him.

1 Pet. 2:21-23 ... when He was reviled, He did not revile in return; when He was suffering, He did not threaten but **entrusted Himself to the One** who judges justly.

6. God wants me to have that same "abiding" relationship with Him.

John 14:12 "I assure you: The one who believes in Me will also do the works that I do. And **he will do even greater works than these**, because I am going to the Father."

15:5 "I am the vine; you are the branches. **The one who remains in Me and I in him produces much fruit**, because you can do nothing without Me."

17:3 (*Jesus prayed to His Father*) **This is eternal life**: that they may **know You**, the only true God, and the One You have sent—**Jesus Christ**.

17:14 ... **they are not of the world**, as I am not of the world.

17:18 **As** You sent Me into the world, I also have sent them into the world.

17:23 **I am in them** and **You are in Me**. May they be made **completely one**, so the world may know You have sent Me and have loved them **as** You have loved Me.

17:26 I made Your name known to them and will make it known, so the **love** You have loved Me with **may be in them and I may be in them**.

20:21 Jesus said to them again, "... **As** the Father has sent Me, I also send you."

Matt. 10:40 "**The one who welcomes you welcomes Me**, and the one who welcomes Me welcomes Him who sent Me."

Rom. 8:29 For those He foreknew He also **predestined** to be conformed to **the image of His Son**, so that He would be the firstborn among many brothers.

2 Cor. 3:18 We **all**, with unveiled faces, are looking as in a mirror at the glory of the Lord and are being **transformed into the same image** from glory to glory;...

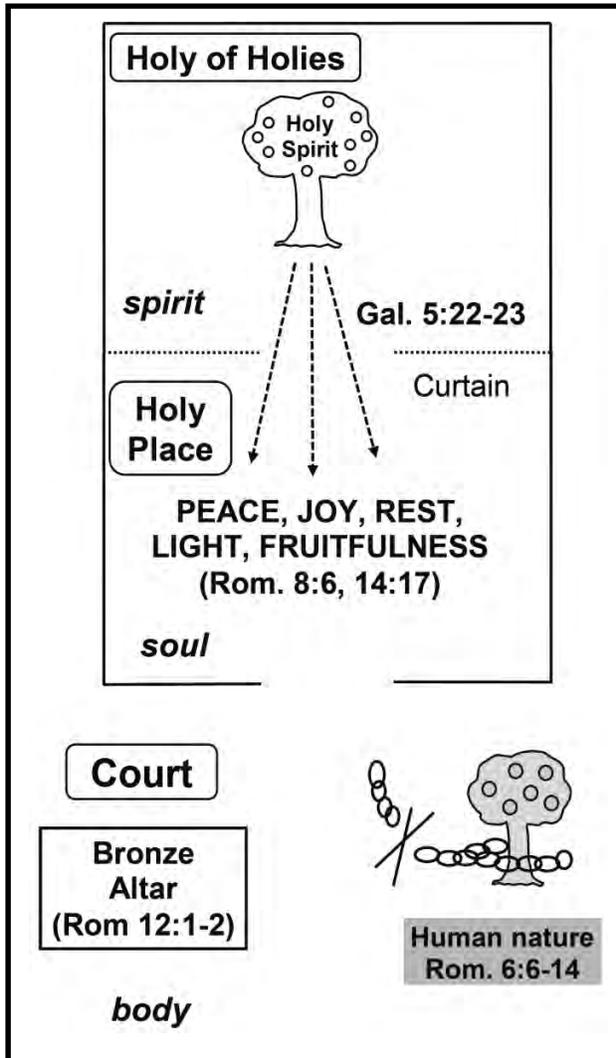
Phil. 2:5-7 **Make your own attitude** that of Christ Jesus, who, existing in the form of God, did not consider equality with God as something to be used for His own advantage. Instead He **emptied Himself** by assuming the form of **a slave**,...

1 Pet. 2:21-23 For you were called to this, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you **an example, so that you should follow in His steps**....

1 John 2:6 The one who says he remains in Him should walk just **as** He walked.

# An Abiding Analogy Using the Temple

“Walking in Fellowship with the Holy Spirit”  
 “Abiding in Christ”  
 “Walking in His Light”



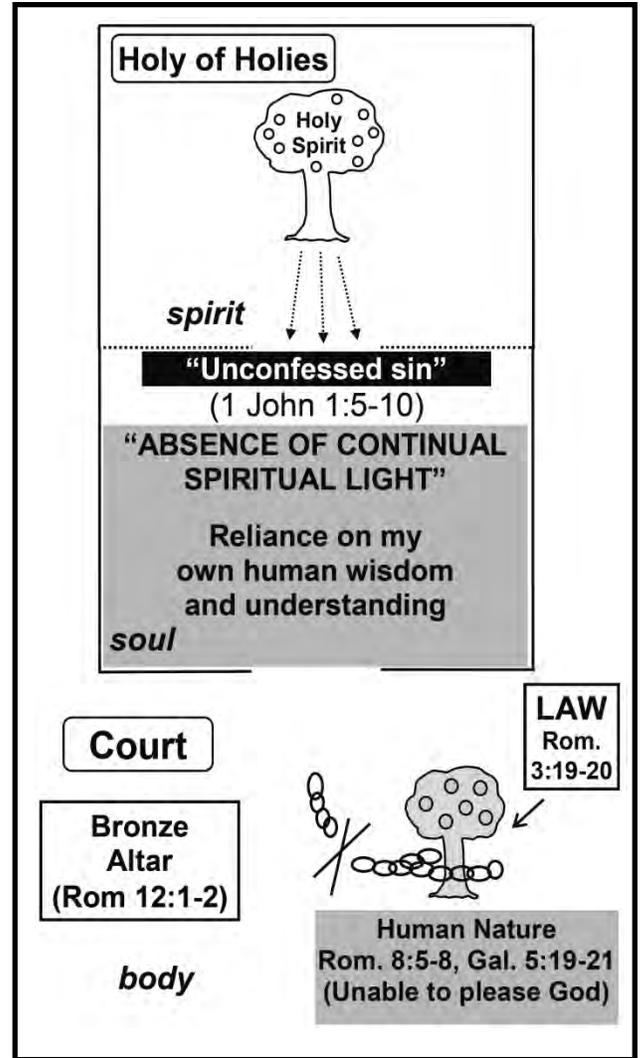
## THE HOLY SPIRIT IS PRODUCING HIS FRUIT

**Illustration** – Imagine a reflection in a calm lake. Sin acts like a pebble that is dropped into the water and distorts the reflection.

**Illustration** – Sin is like dirt in an otherwise glass of pure clean water.

Sin is **“anything that displeases God.”**

“Out of Fellowship with the Holy Spirit”  
 “Allowing the Human Nature to Reign”  
 “Walking in Spiritual Darkness”



## EXPECT ONLY WOOD, HAY AND STUBBLE

I need to stay alert for on-going symptoms of being out of fellowship, such as:

Stumbling, Impatience, Anxiety,  
 Lack of peace, Sense of defeat,  
 Dissatisfaction, Striving, Complaining,  
 Worry, Frustration, Anger, Irritability

## Verses Related to the Temple Illustration

1. Jesus was a temple of God on earth, and so is each true believer.

John 2:19-21 Jesus answered, "Destroy this sanctuary, and I will raise it up in three days."  
Therefore the Jews said, "This sanctuary took 46 years to build, and will You raise it up in three days?" But He was speaking about **the sanctuary of His body**.  
1 Cor. 3:16 Don't you yourselves know that **you are God's sanctuary** and that the Spirit of God lives in you?  
1 Cor. 6:19-20 Don't you know that **your body is a sanctuary** of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God? You are not your own, for you were bought at a price. Therefore glorify God in your body.  
2 Cor. 6:16 ... For **we are the sanctuary** of the living God, as God said: I will dwell **among** them and walk among them, and I will be their God, and they will be My people.

2. God dwells in every Christian as His temple. Now every believer, as a priest, can enter His presence and commune with Him. (See also Ex. 30:6-8)

Matt. 27:50-51 Jesus shouted again with a loud voice and gave up His spirit. Suddenly, **the curtain of the sanctuary was split in two from top to bottom**;...

Eph. 2:18-22 ... you are ... fellow citizens with the saints, and members of God's household, built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus Himself as the cornerstone. The whole building, being put together by Him, grows into **a holy sanctuary in the Lord**. You also are being built together **for God's dwelling in the Spirit**.

Heb. 9:1-7 ... For a tabernacle was set up, and in the first room, which is called **the holy place**, were the lampstand, the table, and the presentation loaves. Behind the second curtain, the tabernacle was called the **most holy place**. It contained the gold altar of incense and the ark of the covenant, covered with gold on all sides, in which there was a gold jar containing the manna, Aaron's staff that budded, and the tablets of the covenant. The cherubim of glory were above it overshadowing the mercy seat. It is not possible to speak about these things in detail right now. With these things set up this way, the priests enter the first room repeatedly, performing their ministry. But the high priest alone enters the second room, and he does that only once a year, and **never without blood**, which he offers for himself and for the sins of the people committed in ignorance.

Heb. 10:19-22 Therefore, brothers, since we have boldness **to enter the sanctuary** through the blood of Jesus, by a new and living way He has opened for us **through the curtain (that is, His flesh)**, and since we have a great high priest over the house of God, **let us draw near** with a true heart in full assurance of faith, our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience and our bodies washed in pure water.

Heb 13:10,15,16 **We have an altar** from which those who serve the tabernacle do not have a right to eat. Therefore, through Him **let us continually offer up to God a sacrifice of praise**, that is, the fruit of our lips that confess His name. Don't neglect to do what is good and to share, for God is pleased with **such sacrifices**.

1 Peter 2:5,9 ... you yourselves, as living stones, are being built into a spiritual house for a holy priesthood to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. But you are a chosen race, **a royal priesthood**, a holy nation, a people for His possession, so that you may proclaim the praises of the One who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light.

3. He should be producing fruit in / through me.

Rom. 8:6 For the mind-set of the flesh is death [**“absence of life”**], but the mind-set of the Spirit is **life** and **peace**.  
Rom. 14:17 for the kingdom of God is ... **righteousness, peace,** and **joy** in the Holy Spirit.  
Gal. 5:22-23 But **the fruit of the Spirit** is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faith, gentleness, self-control. Against such things there is no law.

4. His “light” should shine through me.

Matt. 5:14-16 **“You are the light of the world.** A city situated on a hill cannot be hidden. No one lights a lamp and puts it under a basket, but rather on a lampstand, and it gives light for all who are in the house. In the same way, **let** your light shine before men, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven.  
2 Cor. 4:6-11 For God who said, “Let light shine out of darkness,” has **shone in our hearts** to give the light of the knowledge of God’s glory in the face of Jesus Christ. Now we have **this treasure in clay jars**, so that this extraordinary power may be from God and not from us.... We always carry the death of Jesus in our body, so that **the life of Jesus** may also be revealed in our body. For we who live are always given over to death because of Jesus, so that Jesus’ life may also be **revealed in our mortal flesh**.  
Eph. 5:8-13 For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as **children of light** — for the **fruit of the light** results in all goodness, righteousness, and truth—discerning what is pleasing to the Lord.  
1 John 2:8-11 ... The one who says he is in the light but hates his brother is in the darkness until now. The one who loves his brother **remains in the light**, and there is no cause for stumbling in him. But the one who hates his brother is in the darkness, **walks in the darkness**, and doesn’t know where he’s going, because the darkness has blinded his eyes.

5. His “living water” should flow through me. (see also Ezek. 47:1-12)

Jer. 2:13 (*God, referring to Himself*) ... **Me, the fountain of living water,**...  
John 7:37-38 On the last and most important day of the festival, Jesus stood up and cried out, “If anyone is thirsty, he should come to Me and drink! The one who believes in Me, as the Scripture has said, **will have streams of living water flow from deep within him.**”  
James 3:8-12 ... but no man can tame the tongue. It is a restless evil, full of deadly poison. We praise our Lord and Father with it, and we curse men who are made in God’s likeness with it. Praising and cursing come out of the same mouth. My brothers, these things should not be this way. Does **a spring** pour out **sweet** and **bitter water** from the same opening? Can a fig tree produce olives, my brothers, or a grapevine produce figs? **Neither can a saltwater spring yield fresh water.**

6. A glimpse of the heavenly city.

Rev. 21:10, 22 He (*angel*) then carried me (*John*) away in the Spirit to a great and high mountain and showed me the holy city, Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God. I did not see a sanctuary in it, because the Lord God the Almighty and the Lamb **are its sanctuary.**

## Tribunal of Christ (Bema Seat) (*Rewards / Loss of Rewards Ceremony for Believers*)

The Tribunal of Christ has **nothing to do with salvation, nor with punishment** - that was all taken care of **at the cross**. Nor does it have to do with what **I** as a Christian can do **for** God. God does not need anything I can do. Rewards will be based on the **fruit that I have allowed the Holy Spirit to produce** through my life here on earth, as I by **faith** in His promises, have abided in fellowship with Him. I **cannot compare** heavenly rewards with earthly rewards, but I need to understand that they will somehow affect the **quality** of my life in eternity. A Christian should not conclude that the Rewards Ceremony is unimportant because there is no associated punishment. If God says it's important, it is!

1. Every Christian is going to appear at the Tribunal of Christ.

Rom. 14:10-12 But you, why do you criticize your brother? Or you, why do you look down on your brother? For we will **all** stand before the tribunal of God. For it is written: As I live, says the Lord, every knee will bow to Me, and every tongue will give praise to God. So then, **each** of us **will give an account of himself to God**.

2 Cor. 5:9-10 (*Paul wrote*) Therefore, whether we are at home or away, we make it our aim to be pleasing to Him. For we must **all** appear before the tribunal of Christ, so that **each** may be repaid for what he has done in the body, whether good or worthless.

2 Tim. 4:7-8 (*Paul wrote*) I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. There is reserved for me in the future the **crown of righteousness**, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will give me on that day, and not only to me, but **to all those who have loved His appearing**.

Rev. 22:12 (*Jesus said*) "Look! I am coming quickly, and **My reward** is with Me **to repay each person** according to what he has done."

2. What will be the nature of the Tribunal of Christ?

1 Cor. 3:8-15 (*Paul wrote*) Now the one planting and the one watering are one in purpose, and **each will receive his own reward according to his own labor**.... I have laid a foundation as a skilled master builder, and another builds on it. But **each one must be careful how he builds on it**. For no one can lay any other foundation than what has been laid down. That foundation is Jesus Christ. If anyone builds on that foundation with **gold, silver, costly stones, wood, hay, or straw**, each one's work will become obvious, for the day will disclose it, because it will be revealed by fire; the fire will test the quality of each one's work. If anyone's work that he has built survives, he will receive **a reward**. If anyone's work is burned up, it will **be lost**, [see note below] **but he will be saved**; yet it will be like an escape through fire.

1 Cor. 4:5 ... before the Lord comes, who will both bring to light what is hidden in darkness and reveal the intentions of the hearts. And then **praise will come to each one from God**.

(NOTE: "loss" refers to the forfeiture of God's intended rewards for the believer.)

3. When will the Tribunal of Christ take place?

Matt. 16:27 (*Jesus said*) “For **the Son of Man is going to come with His angels in the glory of His Father, and then** He will reward each according to what he has done.”  
Luke 14:13-14 (*Jesus said*) “On the contrary, when you host a banquet, invite those who are poor, maimed, lame, or blind. And you will be blessed, because they cannot repay you; for you will be repaid **at the resurrection of the righteous.**”  
1 Peter 5:1-4 (*Peter wrote*) ... I exhort the elders ... Shepherd God’s flock ... And **when the chief Shepherd appears**, you will receive the unfading crown of glory.  
Rev. 11:18 The nations were angry, but Your wrath has come. The **time has come** for the dead to be judged and **to give the reward** to Your servants the prophets, to the saints, and to those who fear Your name,...

4. There will be no punishment for a believer.

John 5:24 “I assure you: Anyone who hears My word and believes Him who sent Me has eternal life and **will not come under judgment** but has passed from death to life.”  
Rom. 4:8 How joyful is the man the Lord **will never charge** with sin!  
Rom. 8:1 Therefore, **no condemnation now exists** for those in Christ Jesus.  
Heb. 10:14 For by one offering He has **perfected forever** those who are sanctified.  
Heb. 10:17-18 He adds: **I will never again remember** their sins and their lawless acts....  
Rev. 21:4 He will wipe away every tear from their eyes. Death will no longer exist; **grief, crying, and pain will exist no longer**, because the previous things have passed away.

5. But each one needs to be aware of the potential for “loss” of rewards. Loss is not punishment. (See also Lesson 3-14, pages 202-214)

John 15:16 (*Jesus said*) “I chose you. I appointed you that you should go out and produce fruit and that your fruit should **remain**,...”  
1 Cor. 3:14-15 ... If anyone’s work is burned up, **it will be lost**, but he will be saved;...  
1 Cor. 9:24-27 Don’t you know that the runners in a stadium all race, but only one receives the prize? **Run in such a way to win** the prize. Now everyone who competes exercises self-control in everything. However, they do it to receive a crown that will fade away, but we a crown that will never fade away. Therefore I do not run like one who runs **aimlessly** or box like one beating the air. Instead, I discipline my body and bring it under strict control, so that after preaching to others, I myself will not be **disqualified**.  
Gal. 6:9 So we must not get tired of doing good, for we will reap at the proper time **if we don’t give up**.  
2 Tim. 2:5 Also, if anyone competes as an athlete, he is not crowned **unless he competes according to the rules**.  
2 John 1:8 **Watch** yourselves **so you don’t lose** what we have worked for, but that you may receive a **full** reward.  
Rev. 3:11-12 (*Jesus said*) “I am coming quickly. Hold on to what you have, **so that no one takes your crown**....”

6. For what will believers be rewarded? These are but a sampling of fruit that we should expect to see, as the Holy Spirit is allowed to work.

1 Sam. 26:23 May the LORD repay every man for his **righteousness** and his **loyalty**....

Prov. 19:17 **Kindness to the poor** is a loan to the LORD, and He will give a reward to the lender.

Matt. 5:11-12 “You are blessed **when they insult and persecute you** and falsely say every kind of evil against you **because of Me**. Be glad and rejoice, because your reward is great in heaven....”

Matt. 5:44-46 (*Jesus said*) “But I tell you, **love your enemies** and **pray for those** who persecute you, ... For if you love those who love you, what reward will you have? Don’t even the tax collectors do the same?”

Luke 6:35 “But **love your enemies, do what is good,** and **lend, expecting nothing in return.** Then your reward will be great, and you will be sons of the Most High. For He is gracious to the ungrateful and evil.”

Matt. 10:42 “And **whoever gives just a cup of cold water** to one of these little ones **because he is a disciple**—I assure you: He will never lose his reward!”

Matt. 19:27-30 Then Peter responded to Him, “Look, we have left everything and followed You. So what will there be for us?” Jesus said to them, ... “And **everyone who has left houses, brothers or sisters, father or mother, children, or fields because of My name** will receive 100 times more and will inherit eternal life. But many who are first will be last, and the last first.”

Rom. 8:17-18 ... heirs of God and coheirs with Christ—seeing that **we suffer with Him** so that we may also be glorified with Him. For I consider that the **sufferings** of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is going to be revealed to us.

Eph. 6:5-8 Slaves [**employees?**], **obey** your human masters with fear and trembling, in the **sincerity** of your heart, as to Christ. Don’t work only while being watched, in order to please men, but **as slaves of Christ**, do God’s will **from your heart**. Serve with a good attitude, **as to the Lord** and not to men, knowing that **whatever good** each one does, slave or free, he will receive this back from the Lord.

Col. 3:22-24 Slaves [**employees?**], **obey** your human masters in everything. Don’t work only while being watched, in order to please men, but work **wholeheartedly**, fearing the Lord. **Whatever** you do, do it **enthusiastically**, as something done **for the Lord** and not for men, knowing that you will receive the reward of an inheritance from the Lord. You **serve** the Lord Christ.

Phil. 4:1 (*Paul wrote*) So then, my **brothers**, you are dearly loved and longed for—**my** joy and **crown**. In this manner stand firm in the Lord, dear friends.

1 Thess. 2:19-20 For who is **our** hope or joy or **crown of boasting** in the presence of our Lord Jesus at His coming? Is it not **you**? For **you** are our glory and joy!

James 1:12 A man who **endures trials** is blessed, because when he passes the test he will receive the crown of life that God has promised to those who love Him.

Rev. 2:10 Don’t be afraid of what you are about to **suffer**. Look, the Devil is about to throw some of you into prison **to test you**, and you will have **affliction** for 10 days. Be **faithful** until death, and I will give you the crown of life.

*“But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven”* (Matthew 6:20)  
- is not a “suggestion.”

7. We should seek “eternal” rewards, not rewards of an “earthly” nature.

Matt. 6:1-6 “Be careful not to practice your righteousness **in front of people, to be seen by them.** Otherwise, you will have **no reward** from your Father in heaven. ... But when you give to the poor, don’t let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, so that your giving may be **in secret.** And your Father who sees in secret will reward you. Whenever you pray, you must not be like the hypocrites, because they love to pray standing in the synagogues and on the street corners **to be seen by people.** I assure you: **They’ve got their reward!** But when you pray, go into your private room, shut your door, and pray to your Father who is **in secret.** And your Father who sees in secret will reward you.”

Matt. 6:16-21 ... “Don’t collect for yourselves treasures **on earth,** where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal. But collect for yourselves treasures **in heaven,** where neither moth nor rust destroys, and where thieves don’t break in and steal. For **where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.**”

Luke 14:12-14 ... “When you give a lunch or a dinner, don’t invite your friends, your brothers, your relatives, or your rich neighbors, because they might invite you back, and **you would be repaid.** On the contrary, when you host a banquet, invite those who are poor, maimed, lame, or blind. And you will be blessed, because they cannot repay you; for **you will be repaid** at the resurrection of the righteous.”

John 5:44 How can you believe? While **accepting glory from one another,** you don’t seek the glory that comes **from the only God.**

John 12:42-43 Nevertheless, many did believe in Him even among the rulers, but because of the Pharisees they did not confess Him, so they would not be banned from the synagogue. For **they loved praise from men more than praise from God.**

2 Cor. 4:17-18 For our momentary light affliction is producing for us an **absolutely incomparable eternal** weight of glory. So we do not focus on what is seen, but on what is **unseen.** For what is seen is **temporary,** but what is unseen is eternal.

Phil. 3:7-16 ... I also **consider everything to be a loss** in view of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. Because of Him I have suffered the loss of all things and **consider them filth,** ... Forgetting what is behind and reaching forward to what is ahead, I pursue as my goal **the prize promised by God’s heavenly call** in Christ Jesus. Therefore, **all** who are mature **should think this way....**

Col. 3:1-3 So if you have been raised with the Messiah, seek what is **above,** where the Messiah is, seated at the right hand of God. **Set your minds on what is above, not on what is on the earth....**

1 Tim. 4:8 for the training of the body has a limited benefit, but **godliness** is beneficial in every way, since it holds promise for **the present life** and also for **the life to come.**

1 Tim. 6:17-19 Instruct those who are rich in the present age not to be arrogant or to set their hope on **the uncertainty of wealth,** but on God, who richly provides us with all things to enjoy. Instruct them to do what is good, to be rich in good works, to be generous, willing to share, storing up for themselves **a good reserve for the age to come,** so that they may take hold of **life that is real.**

1 Peter 1:17 And if you address as Father the One who judges impartially based on each one’s work, you are to conduct yourselves in fear during the time of **your temporary residence.**

*“for where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.” (Matthew 6:21)*

8. His rewards are eternal (forever.) (Note: Daniel references may refer just to Old Testament saints.)

Dan. 7:18 ... the holy ones of the Most High will receive the kingdom and possess it **forever** ...

Dan. 7:27 'The kingdom, dominion, and greatness of the kingdoms under all of heaven will be given to the people, the holy ones of the Most High. His kingdom will be an **everlasting** kingdom, and all rulers will serve and obey Him.'

1 Cor. 9:24-27 ... Now everyone who competes exercises self-control in everything. However, they do it to receive a crown that will fade away, but we a crown that **will never fade away**.

2 Cor. 4:17-18 For our momentary light affliction is producing for us an absolutely incomparable **eternal** weight of glory. So we do not focus on what is seen, but on what is unseen. For what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is **eternal**.

1 Pet. 1:3-7 Praise the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. According to His great mercy, He has given us a new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead and into an inheritance that is **imperishable**, uncorrupted, and **unfading**, kept in heaven for you. You are being protected by God's power through faith for a salvation that is ready to be revealed in the last time. You rejoice in this, though now for a short time you have had to struggle in various trials so that the genuineness of your faith —**more valuable than gold**, which perishes though refined by fire—may result in **praise, glory, and honor** at the revelation of Jesus Christ.

9. Although much religious activity appears spiritual, only that which is motivated by the Holy Spirit will be rewarded. (the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law. Gal. 5:22-23)

Ecclesiastes 3:14 I know that **all God does will last forever**; there is no adding to it or taking from it...

John 15:5 "I am the vine; you are the branches. The one who remains in Me and I in him produces much fruit, because **you can do nothing without Me**."

1 Cor. 13:1-3 If I speak human or angelic languages but do not have love, I am **a sounding gong or a clanging cymbal**. If I have the gift of prophecy and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith so that I can move mountains but do not have love, I am **nothing**. And if I donate all my goods to feed the poor, and if I give my body in order to boast but do not have love, **I gain nothing**.

Gal. 6:7-10 Don't be deceived: God is not mocked. For whatever a man sows he will also reap, because the one who sows **to his flesh** will reap corruption from the flesh, but the one who sows **to the Spirit** will reap eternal life...

1 John 4:16-17 ... God is love, and the one who **remains** in love remains in God, and God **remains** in him. In this, love is perfected with us so that we may have confidence in the day of judgment, for we are as He is in this world.

(NOTE: "**nothing**" refers to that which does **not** have eternal value as determined by God.)

10. Old Testament believers will also be rewarded.

**Hebrews 11**

:1-2 Now **faith** is the reality of what is hoped for, the proof of what is not seen. For our ancestors won God’s approval **by it**.

:8-11 By **faith** Abraham, when he was called, obeyed and went out to a place he was going to receive as an inheritance. He went out, not knowing where he was going. By **faith** he stayed as a **foreigner** in the land of promise, living in tents with Isaac and Jacob, coheirs of the same promise. For **he was looking forward to the city that has foundations**, whose architect and builder is God. By **faith** even Sarah herself, when she was unable to have children, received power to conceive offspring, even though she was past the age, since **she considered** that **the One** who had promised was **faithful**.

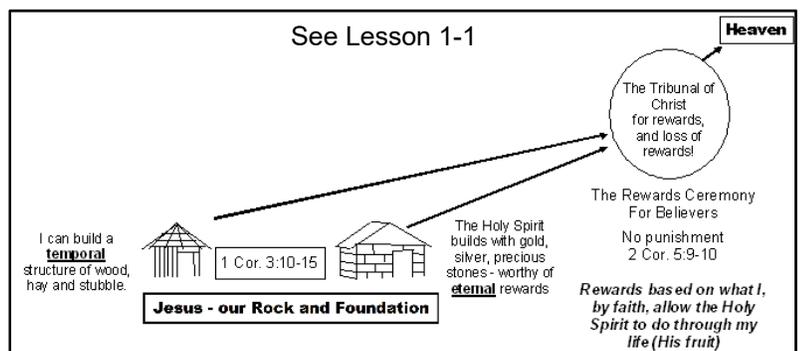
:13-16 These all died **in faith without having received** the promises, but they saw them from a distance, greeted them, and confessed that they were **foreigners** and **temporary residents** on the earth. Now those who say such things **make it clear that they are seeking a homeland**. If they were thinking about where they came from, they would have had an opportunity to return. But they now desire a better place—**a heavenly one**. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God, for **He has prepared a city** for them.

:24-27 By **faith** Moses, when he had grown up, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh’s daughter and chose to suffer with the people of God rather than to enjoy the short-lived pleasure of sin. For he considered the reproach because of the Messiah to be **greater wealth** than the treasures of Egypt, since his attention was on **the reward**. By **faith** he left Egypt behind, not being afraid of the king’s anger, for Moses persevered as one who **sees Him** who is invisible.

:32-40 ... Women received their dead—they were raised to life again. Some men were tortured, not accepting release, so that they might gain a **better** resurrection, and others experienced mockings and scourgings, as well as bonds and imprisonment. They were stoned, they were sawed in two, they died by the sword, they wandered about in sheepskins, in goatskins, destitute, afflicted, and mistreated. ... All these were approved through their **faith**, but **they did not receive** what was promised, since God had provided something better for us, **so that they would not be made perfect without us**.

*Now without faith it is impossible to please God, for the one who draws near to Him must believe that He exists and rewards those who seek Him.* Hebrews 11:6

- We each have three resources: **Time, Energy, and Possessions**.
- As I allow the Holy Spirit freedom to manage and use my resources, He is building for me eternal rewards, using gold, silver and precious stones.
- As I deny the Holy Spirit use of my resources, I am using those resources to build for myself a temporary investment of wood, hay and straw.



# A Theological Study on the Bema or the Tribunal of Christ

(*The Doctrine of Rewards from www.Bible.Org*)

(**bold and underline** added for emphasis by Art Barkley)

One of the prominent doctrines of the New Testament is the Doctrine of Rewards and the Judgment Seat of Christ. It is a doctrine often ignored or, when taught, it is misrepresented because of the term "judgment" that is used in translating the Greek text.

Commenting on this Samuel Hoyt writes: Within the church today there exists **considerable confusion and debate** regarding the exact nature of the examination at the judgment seat of Christ. The expression "the judgment seat of Christ" in the English Bible has tended to cause some to draw the wrong conclusion about the nature and purpose of this evaluation. A **common misconception** which arises from this English translation is that **God will mete out a just retribution for sins** in the believer's life, and **some measure of retributive punishment for sins will result** (Bibliotheca Sacra, *Article by Samuel Hoyt*).

As it will be shown below, though it is **tremendously serious with eternal ramifications**, the judgment seat of Christ is **not a place and time when the Lord will mete out punishment for sins** committed by the child of God. Rather, it is a place where rewards will be given or lost depending on how one has used his or her life for the Lord.

(Added Note: Maybe better stated, "Rewards will be based on the fruit that I have "allowed" the Holy Spirit to produce through my life, as I by faith in His promises, have abided in fellowship with Him." - Art Barkley)

In 1 Thessalonians 2:19-20, the Apostle Paul drew courage and was motivated by the fact of rewards at the return of the Lord for the church which he mentions in every chapter in this epistle and becomes the primary subject of 2 Thessalonians. The Lord's return and what this means not only to the world but to us individually is a very prominent subject of the New Testament.

It is significant that among the final words of Revelation, the last book of the Bible, we find these words of the Lord: "*Look! I am coming quickly, and My reward is with Me to repay each person according to what he has done.*" (Rev. 22:12)

While salvation is a gift, there are **rewards given for faithfulness** in the Christian life and **loss of rewards for unfaithfulness**. Rewards become **one of the great motives** of the Christian's life **or should**. But we need to understand the nature of these rewards to understand the nature of the motivation. Some people are troubled by the doctrine of rewards because **this seems to suggest "merit" instead of "grace,"** and because, it is pointed out, we should **only serve the Lord out of love and for God's glory**.

Of course we should serve the Lord out of love and for God's glory, and understanding the nature of rewards will help us do that. But **the fact still remains** that the Bible promises us rewards. God gives us salvation. It is a gift through faith, but He rewards us for good works. **God graciously supplies the means** by which we may serve Him. Indeed, **He works in us** both to will and to do as we volitionally appropriate His grace (Phil. 2:12-13), but **the decision** to serve, and **the diligence** employed in doing so, are **our responsibility** and our contribution and God sees this as rewardable. Compare the following passages:

1 Cor. 15:10 *But by God's grace I am what I am, and His grace toward me was not ineffective. However, **I worked more** than any of them, **yet not I, but God's grace that was with me.***

Col. 1:29 **I labor** for this, **striving with His strength that works powerfully in me.**

**Key Verses:** Rom. 14:10-11; 1 Cor. 3:11-15; 2 Cor. 5:9-10; 1 John 2:28; Rev. 3:11-12.

## The Meaning of The Judgment (*Bema*) Seat

Both Romans 14:10 and 2 Corinthians 5:10 speak of the "judgment seat." This is a translation of one Greek word, the word *bema*. While *bema* is used in the gospels and Acts of the raised platform where a Roman magistrate or ruler sat to make decisions and pass sentence (Matt. 27:19; John 19:13), its use in the epistles by Paul, because of his many allusions to the Greek athletic contests, is more in keeping with its original use among the Greeks.

This word was taken from Isthmian games where the contestants would compete for the prize under the careful scrutiny of judges who would make sure that every rule of the contest was obeyed (cf. 2 Tim. 2:5).

The victor of a given event who participated according the rules was led by the judge to the platform called the *bema*. There the laurel wreath was placed on his head as a symbol of victory (cf. 1 Cor. 9:24-25).

In all of these passages, "Paul was picturing the believer as a competitor in a spiritual contest. As the victorious Grecian athlete appeared before the *bema* to receive his perishable award, so the Christian will appear before Christ's *bema* to receive his imperishable award. The judge at the *bema* bestowed rewards to the victors. **He did not whip the losers**" (Samuel Hoyt, "*The Judgment Seat of Christ in Theological Perspective*," Part 1, Bibliotheca Sacra, p. 37, January-March, 1980, *Electronic Media*). We might add, neither did he sentence them to hard labor.

In other words, it is a reward seat and portrays a time of rewards or loss of rewards following examination, but it is **not a time of punishment** where believers are judged for their sins. Such would be inconsistent with the finished work of Christ on the Cross because He **totally** paid the penalty for our sins. Chafer and Walvoord have an excellent word on this view:

With reference to sin, Scripture teaches that the child of God under grace shall not come into judgment (John 3:18; 5:24; 6:37; Rom. 5:1; 8:1; 1 Cor. 11:32); in his standing before God, and on the ground that the penalty for all sin -- past, present, and future (Col. 2:13) -- has been borne by Christ as the perfect Substitute, the believer is not only placed **beyond condemnation**, but being in Christ is accepted **in the perfection of Christ** (1 Cor. 1:30; Eph. 1:6; Col. 2:10; Heb. 10:14) and loved of God as Christ is loved (John 17:23). (Lewis Sperry Chafer, *Major Bible Themes: 52 Vital Doctrines of the Scripture Simplified and Explained*, John F. Walvoord: Zondervan, 1974, p. 282.)

John 5:24 "I assure you: Anyone who hears My word and believes Him who sent Me has eternal life and **will not come under judgment** but has passed from death to life."

Rom. 8:1 *Therefore, **no condemnation** now exists for those in Christ Jesus.*

Again, Chafer writes concerning the *bema*, "It cannot be too strongly emphasized that the judgment is **unrelated to the problem of sin**, that **it is more for the bestowing of rewards than the rejection of failure.**" (Lewis Sperry Chafer, *Systematic Theology*, vol. 4 [Dallas Seminary Press, 1948], p. 406.)

## The Time of *The Bema*

This event will occur immediately following the rapture or resurrection of the church after it is caught up to be with the Lord in the air as described in 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18.

### **Arguments or Reasons in Support of This View:**

In Luke 14:12-14, reward is associated with the resurrection and the rapture is when the church is resurrected.

In Revelation 19:8, when the Lord returns with His bride at the end of the tribulation, she is seen already rewarded. Her reward is described as fine linen, the righteous acts of the saints--undoubtedly the result of rewards.

In 2 Timothy 4:8 and 1 Corinthians 4:5, rewards are associated with "that day" and with the Lord's coming. Again, for the church this means the event of 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18.

So the order of events will be:

1. the rapture which includes our glorification or resurrection bodies
2. exaltation into the heavens with the Lord
3. examination before the *bema*
4. compensation or rewards.

## The Place of *The Bema*

It will occur somewhere in the heavenlies in the presence of the Lord. This is evident from 1 Thessalonians 4:17; Revelation 4:2 and 19:8.

## The Participants at *The Bema*

**All the passages dealing with the *bema* or rewards are addressed to believers or pertain to believers of the church** (Rom. 14:10-12; 1 Cor. 3:12f; 2 Cor. 5:9f; 1 John 2:28; 1 Thess. 2:19-20; 1 Tim. 6:18-19; Tit. 2:12-14 [note the emphasis on good works]).

The resurrection program and thus the reward of Old Testament saints occurs after the tribulation, after church age saints are already seen in heaven and rewarded and returning with the Lord to judge the earth (cf. Rev. 19:8 with Dan. 12:1-2; Matt. 24).

All believers, regardless of their spiritual state, will be raptured and will stand before the *bema* to give an account of their lives and will either receive rewards or lose rewards. Some believe in a partial rapture theory which says that only those in fellowship with the Lord will be raptured as a form of punishment for their sin. As mentioned above, this is not only contrary to the finished work of Christ who **once and for all** paid the penalty for our sins, but it is contrary to the teaching of 1 Thessalonians 5:8-11 *For God did not appoint us to wrath, but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, who died for us, so that whether we are awake or asleep, we will live together with Him.*

The context suggests that Paul has in mind the return of Christ for the church--the rapture (1 Thess. 4:13-18). The rapture is the means of our deliverance from the wrath he discusses in chapter 5:1-3.

Further, the words "awake or asleep" of verse 10 refer to a spiritual or moral condition, not whether one is alive or dead when Christ returns as in 4:13-14. This is clear from both the context of 5:4-8 and by the fact he changed the words he used for sleep. He used the Greek *katheudo* in 5:10 rather than *koimao*, the word he used metaphorically in 4:13-14 of physical death. Though *katheudo* was used of physical sleep and even death, it was also commonly used of spiritual apathy or carnal indifference to spiritual matters, and this is clearly the context of chapter 5. The point, then, is this: Because of the perfect and finished nature of Christ's death (note the words "who died for us" of verse 10), whether we are spiritually alert or not, we will live together with Him through the rapture to face the examination of the *bema*.

### The Examiner or Judge at *The Bema*

This is none other than the Lord Jesus who is even now examining our lives and will bring to light the true nature of our walk and works when we stand before Him at the *Bema* (Rev. 1-2; 1 Cor. 4:5f; 2 Cor. 5:10; 1 John 2:28). In Romans 14:10 the apostle called this examining time the *Bema of God* while in 2 Corinthians 5:10 he called it the *Bema of Christ*. The Point: Jesus, who is God, is our Examiner and Rewarder.

### The Purpose and Basis of *The Bema*

The purpose and the basis is the most critical issue of all and brings us face to face with the practical aspects of the *Bema*. Some crucial questions are: Why are we brought before the *Bema*? Is it only for rewards or their loss? Will any punishment be meted out? Will there be great sorrow? What's the basis on which the *Bema* is conducted? Is it sin, good works, or just what?

The Problem: **Within the church, there exists a good deal of confusion and disagreement concerning the exact nature of the Bema. The use of the term "judgment seat" in most translations, ignorance of the historical and cultural background concerning the Bema, and foggy theology regarding the finished work of Christ have all contributed to several common misconceptions which, in one way or another, see God as giving out just retribution to believers for sin, or at least for our unconfessed sin.**

Three Views of the *Bema*:

- 1) For a summary of three major views, let me quote Samuel L. Hoyt from *Bibliotheca Sacra*. Some Bible teachers view the judgment seat as a place of intense sorrow, a place of terror, and a place where Christ displays all the believer's sins (or at least those unconfessed) before the entire resurrected and raptured church. Some go even further by stating that Christians must experience some sort of suffering for their sins at the time of this examination.
- 2) At the other end of the spectrum another group, which holds to the same eschatological chronology, views this event as an awards ceremony. Awards are handed out to every Christian. The result of this judgment will be that each Christian will be grateful for the reward which he receives, and he will have little or no shame.
- 3) Other Bible teachers espouse a mediating position. They maintain the seriousness of the examination and yet emphasize the commendation aspect of the judgment seat. They emphasize the importance and necessity of faithful living today but reject any thought of forensic punishment at the *bema*. Emphasis is placed on the fact that each Christian must give an account of his life before the omniscient and holy Christ. All that was done through the

energy of the flesh will be regarded as worthless for reward, while all that was done in the power of the Holy Spirit will be graciously rewarded. Those who hold this view believe that the Christian will stand glorified before Christ without his old sin nature. He will, likewise, be without guilt because he has been declared righteous. There will be no need for forensic punishment, for Christ has forever borne all of God's wrath toward the believer's sins (*Hoyt, pp. 32-33*)

**This last view (#3) I believe to be the one that is in accord with Scripture.** Reasons for this will be set forth and developed as we study the nature, purpose, and basis for the Bema. But for now, lest we draw some wrong conclusions, we need to be ever mindful that God's Word clearly teaches there are specific and very serious consequences, both temporal and eternal, for sin or disobedience. Though we will not be judged in the sense of punished for sin at the Bema since the Lord has borne that for us, we must never take sin lightly because there are many consequences.

### The Present Consequences of Sin or Disobedience

While the following is not exhaustive, it demonstrates that sin in the life of a believer is not a small issue.

- (1) Loss of fellowship with the Lord. Known sin in one's life causes a loss of intimate fellowship with the Lord with the consequent loss of His joy and peace (Ps. 32:3-4).
- (2) Divine Discipline From the Lord Here in Time. **We should not think of discipline as punishment.** Discipline from God is the gracious work of a Father to train and develop His children. Sometimes this comes in the form of various kinds of testing, trials, failure, and predicaments which He uses to correct us, to train us, and if we have been going our own stubborn way, to increase our misery. The goal, however, is always to bring us back to Him (Heb. 12:5-11). If the believer remains unrepentant, this can lead to the sin unto death as with Ananias and Sapphira (Acts 5), and some of the believers at Corinth who were failing to confess their sin and get right with the Lord (1 Cor. 11:28f; cf. also 1 John 5:16-17).
- (3) Loss of Power and Production. When we fail to deal with our sinful ways through honest confession, we grieve the Holy Spirit and quench His power in our lives. This means that rather than operating by faith in God's provision, we end up operating in the energy of the flesh. We turn to our personal bag of tricks by which we seek to handle life (Gal. 3:1-5; 5:5-1-5; Jer. 2:12-13). This results in the works of the flesh and their fruitless consequences (Gal. 5:19-21, 26). Without the abiding life, the life of faith and obedience to the Savior, we can do nothing (John 15:1-7).
- (4) Loss of Opportunities. When we are in charge of our lives rather than the Lord, we become insensitive to people and opportunities of ministry--we lack vision. **Carnal believers have no vision other than their own personal agendas and selfish goals** (cf. Jn. 4:34f).
- (5) Loss of Desire and Motivation for Service. **Carnal believers are occupied and controlled by their own self-centered desires** (Gal. 5:16f). Perhaps this is a good place to discuss the concept of selfishness and rewards, for some see an appeal to rewards as selfish and therefore carnal.

Zane Hodges has some good thoughts on this concept: Scripture does not teach us to be uninterested in our own happiness or well-being. The very desire to escape eternal damnation is a legitimate and urgent self-interest. The instinct to preserve our lives is the same. Nor are pleasure and enjoyment illegitimate experiences. When God put Adam and Eve in the garden, He furnished them with "*every tree pleasing in appearance and good for food,...*" (Gen. 2:9).

They could enjoy themselves freely provided they abstained from eating from the one forbidden tree. Similarly, Paul tells rich people that " God, who richly provides us with all things to *enjoy*." (1 Tim. 6:17: italics added).

**Selfishness ought not to be defined simply as the pursuit of our own self-interest. Instead, it should be defined as the pursuit of our self-interest in our own way, rather than in God's way.** Since "love" is a preeminent virtue in Christianity, true selfishness often involves a pursuit of self-interest that violates the law of love (*Hodges, Journal of the Grace Evang. Society, Autumn, 1991, p. 7*).

**Self-interest in God's way is legitimate. Self-centeredness or selfishness is preoccupation with self at the expense of others and God's will in one's life.** When Adam and Eve chose to eat of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, they acted in **self-centered independence which was idolatry and sin**. When they enjoyed each other and the fruit trees and blessings of the garden, they acted in their self-interest but they did so in dependence on and in obedience to the Lord.

- (6) Broken relationships and disharmony. Carnality causes broken relationships and pain to those around us - our families, friends, associates, and co-workers in the body of Christ (Gal. 5:15; Heb. 12:15b).
- (7) Loss of Physical Health and Vitality. Of course all sickness, weakness, or suffering is not a product of sin, but it can be and often is (1 Cor. 11:29-30; 1 John 5:16-17; Prov. 17:22; 14:30).
- (8) Loss of Rewards at the Bema. 1 Cor. 3:13-15: ... *each one's work will become obvious, for the day will disclose it, because it will be revealed by fire; the fire will test the quality of each one's work. If anyone's work that he has built survives, he will receive a reward. **If anyone's work is burned up, it will be lost**, but he will be saved; yet it will be like an escape through fire.*

### The Purpose of *The Bema*

It is **not punitive**. It is not to judge believers for sin of any kind, confessed or unconfessed. Scripture teaches that for the believer God's justice has already been **fully and forever satisfied at the Cross** in relation to the believer's sins. *If God were to punish the believer judicially for his sins for which Christ has already rendered payment, He would be requiring two payments for sin and would therefore be unjust.* Such a concept (punishment for sin) erroneously disparages the all-sufficiency of Christ's death on the cross" (Hoyt, pp. 33-34). Christ paid the penalty for the believer's pre- and post-conversion sins. The believer will **forfeit rewards which he could have received, but he will not be punished in the judicial sense of "paying" for his sins.**"

**Scripture teaches that all sins, both confessed and unconfessed, have been forgiven and taken care of by the work of Christ on the Cross so the Christian will never face those sins again at the judgment.**

**Key Scriptures:** The following verses demonstrate the basic principle of the **complete** and **finished** nature of Christ's Work:

Hebrews 10:14 *For by one offering He has **perfected forever** those who are sanctified.*

Romans 5:19 *For just as through one man's disobedience the many were made sinners, so also through the one man's obedience the many will be made **righteous**.*

Colossians 2:10 *and you have been **filled** by Him, who is the head over every ruler and authority.*

These verses state the **complete** results or conclusion:

Hebrews 8:12 *"For I will be merciful to their wrongdoing, and I will **never again** remember their sins."*

Hebrews 10:17-18 *"I will never again remember their sins and their lawless acts. Now where there is forgiveness of these, there is **no longer an offering** for sin."*

Isaiah 44:22 *"I have swept away your transgressions like a cloud, and your sins like a mist..."*

Psalms 103:12 *As far as the east is from the west, so far has He removed our transgressions from us.*

Micah 7:19 *He will again have compassion on us He will vanquish our iniquities. You will cast all our sins into the depths of the sea.*

Isaiah 38:17 *"Indeed, it was for my own welfare that I had such great bitterness; but Your love has delivered me from the Pit of destruction, for You have thrown all my sins behind Your back."*

These verses show **we cannot come into judgment**. Why? **Because Christ has borne our judgment** by being made a curse in our place:

Romans 5:1 *Therefore, since we have been declared **righteous** by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.*

Romans 8:1 *Therefore, **no condemnation** now exists for those in Christ Jesus,*

John 3:18 *"Anyone who believes in Him is **not** condemned, but anyone who does not believe is already condemned, because he has not believed in the name of the One and Only Son of God."*

John 5:24 *"I assure you: Anyone who hears My word and believes Him who sent Me has eternal life and **will not come under judgment** but has passed from death to life."*

**Question:** Then why do we have to confess sin in this life? And why does God judge believers for unconfessed sin as with Ananias and Sapphira in Acts 5 and some of the believers in Corinth in 1 Cor. 11:28f?

**Answer:** Because this is a completely different matter.

(1) Unconfessed sin relates to fellowship in this life, not one's relationship or standing with God. Unconfessed sin stands as a barrier to fellowship with the Lord and His control over one's life. As Amos 3:3 says, "can two walk together unless they be agreed?" Obviously the answer is no. Confession means we agree with God concerning our sin and want to get back under God's control. "Daily forgiveness of those who are within the family of God is distinguished from judicial and positional forgiveness which was applied forensically to all of a person's sins the moment he believed in the Lord Jesus Christ" (Hoyt, p. 38). We need to distinguish between fellowship forgiveness and legal or forensic forgiveness that justifies us and gives us a standing before God through Christ.

**Key Scriptures:** Heb. 12:5f and 1 Cor. 11:28-32.

These passages explain the nature of God's judgment of believers in this life. It is discipline designed to train and bring believers back to a walk with God. They teach us the basic cause of discipline is failure to examine and confess known sins because they hinder our fellowship with God. "*Condemned along with the world*" in 1 Cor. 11:32 most likely refers to the judgment of Rom. 1:24f, moral degeneration and the gradual breakdown in the moral fiber of men when they turn away from God. The same thing happens in the life of believers, but God brings discipline to stop the process.

- (2) God does not judge us for our sin in the sense of making us pay the penalty for that sin. Scripture teaches that Christ's death was all-sufficient, completely satisfying God's wrath toward sin in the believer. The question of sin in regard to God's justice has been forever satisfied in the mind of God by the all-sufficient sacrifice of His Son. The penalty for the believer's sins has been fully paid for by Christ, the believer's substitute. The Christian has been in court, condemned, sentenced, and executed in his substitute, Jesus Christ. God cannot exact payment for sins twice since payment has been **fully and forever paid**. The believer is seen by the Father as clothed in the righteousness of Christ. God can therefore find no cause for accusing the Christian judicially any more than He can find cause for accusing Jesus Christ. Therefore, at the judgment seat of Christ forensic punishment will not be meted out for the believer's sins (*Hoyt, p. 38*) Rather, God disciplines us as a father disciplines his sons to bring us back into fellowship that we might be conformed to His Son. It is a family matter.

### The Positive Aspects of *The Bema*

- 1) To evaluate the quality of every believer's work whether it is good or bad, i.e., acceptable and thus worthy of rewards, or unacceptable, to be rejected and unworthy of rewards. Actually an evaluation is going on every day by the Lord (cf. Rev. 2-3).
- 2) To destroy and remove unacceptable production portrayed in the symbols of wood, hay, and stubble. All sinful deeds, thoughts, and motives, as well as all good deeds done in the energy of the flesh will be consumed like wood, hay, and stubble before a fire because they are unworthy of reward. Why? This will be answered as we consider the basis on which rewards are given or lost.
- 3) To reward the believer for all the good he or she has done as portrayed by the symbols of gold, silver, and precious stones, that which is valuable and can stand the test of fire without being consumed.

### Scriptures:

1 Cor. 3:13-15 ... *each man's work will become evident; for the day will show it, because it is to be revealed with fire; and the fire itself will test the quality of each man's work. If any man's work which he has built upon it remains, he shall receive a reward. If any man's work is burned up, he shall suffer loss; but he himself shall be saved, yet so as through fire.*

**"Evident"** is *phaneros* which means "known, plain, visible, revealed as to its nature." **"The day"** refers to a day well known and refers to the day of the *bema* after the rapture of the church. **"Declare it"** is *deloo* which means "to make evident, clear." **"Be revealed"** is *apokalupto* and means "to unveil." **"Test"** is *dokimazo* and means "to test for the sake of approval." **"The quality"** is *hopoion*, a correlative and qualitative pronoun meaning "of what sort or kind."

1 Cor. 4:5 *Therefore don't judge anything prematurely, before the Lord comes, who will both bring to light what is hidden in darkness and reveal the intentions of the hearts. And then praise will come to each one from God.*

**"Bring to light"** is *photizo*, "to bring to light, make visible." **"Disclose"** is *phaneroo*, "to manifest, reveal." The issue should be extremely clear from these two verses: The Lord will evaluate the quality and nature of every person's work. Compare also:

2 Cor. 5:10 *For we must all appear before the tribunal of Christ, so that each may be repaid for what he has done in the body, whether good or worthless.*

Rev. 22:12 *"Look! I am coming quickly, and My reward is with Me to repay each person according to what he has done."*

## The Negative Aspects of *The Bema*

There are a number of passages that refer to the negative aspects of the Bema which need to be mentioned and explained. In these passages we read such things as "give account of himself," "suffer loss," "shrink away from Him in shame," and "recompense for his deeds . . . whether good or bad." Will believers experience shame, grief, remorse at the Bema? If so, how do we reconcile this with passages like Revelation 7:17, "*God will wipe away every tear from their eyes*", and Revelation 21:4, "*He will wipe away every tear from their eyes. Death will no longer exist; grief, crying, and pain will exist no longer, because the previous things have passed away.*", or with Isaiah 65:17, "*For I will create a new heaven and a new earth; the past events will not be remembered or come to mind.*"?

The negative effects involve the following:

The loss suffered in 1 Corinthians 3:15 refers to the loss of rewards, not salvation as the verse goes on to make clear. Please note that the clause "*he shall suffer loss*" would be better rendered "*it (the reward) shall be forfeited*."

The disqualification mentioned in 1 Corinthians 9:27 means **disqualified from rewards, not loss of salvation**. This is clear from the context and the analogy to the Greek athletic games.

The "recompense" (NASB) or the "receive back" (KJV) of 2 Corinthians 5:10 refers to the dispensing of rewards or their loss. The verb used is *komizo* and means "to carry off safe," "to carry off as booty." In the middle voice as here, it meant "to bear for oneself" (Abott-Smith, *A Manual Greek Lexicon of the New Testament*, p. 252), or "to receive back what is one's own" (Rienecker, p. 468). Compare Matthew 25:27 and Ephesians 6:8.

That dispensing of rewards is in view is also evident from the Greek words in 2 Corinthians 5:10 translated "good" (*agathos*--valuable like good fruit) and "bad" (*phaulos*--**unacceptable like rotten or spoiled fruit**) (**flawed, imperfect** – Art). **The idea is not good in the sense of righteousness versus bad in the sense of evil or sinfulness.** For those ideas Paul would have most likely used *kalos*, "good," and *kakos*, "evil." For good works, those valuable like good fruit, we will receive back rewards, but for bad works, those rotten and **worthless**, we will receive no rewards or the loss of rewards.

Illustration: This is no more a punishment than when a student turns in a worthless assignment and receives an F or a D. His poor work results in a just grade or recompense. This is what his work deserves. There used to be a sign in the registrar's office at Dallas Seminary which read, "Salvation is by grace. . . Graduation is by works."

1 John 2:28 This verse undoubtedly refers to the Bema and shows there will be both boldness as a result of abiding, and shame before the Lord as a result of failing to abide.

**"And now little children."** John is writing to believers. This is his term of endearment for his readers as born again people.

**"Abide in Him."** "Abide" is a synonym for fellowship which is the subject of the book (1:3-7). It means to remain in Him from the standpoint of drawing on His life as **the source** of ours and then to obey Him out of that relationship of dependence. This is the basis of rewards or the cause of their loss, **the abiding, Christ dependent life**.

**"So that"** points us to the purpose, the return of the Savior and what it will mean.

**"When He appears."** Two things. (1) The "when" points to the immanency of the return of the Lord. It is literally "if He appears." The conditional clause does not question the reality of Christ's coming, only the time of it and thereby points to its immanency. (2) "Appears" refers to the rapture which leads quickly into the Bema.

**"We may have confidence."** "Confidence" is *parresia* and means "courage, boldness to speak."

Point: Though none of us are perfect or ever will be, still, faithfulness to abide and obey the Lord will give confidence of rewards.

**"And not shrink away from Him in shame at His coming (presence)."** Please note several things here.

- (1) The verb is what we call in Greek an aorist subjunctive, and with the basic meaning of this verb, the grammar points to a future act, but not a continuous state. This in no way suggests a permanent condition.
- (2) The voice of the verb is passive. The subject receives the action, that is, he is made to feel shame. But how?
- (3) There are two views:
  - a. The non-abiding believer is made to feel shame by the Lord, i.e., the Lord puts him to shame. This would be somewhat punitive and does not fit the concept of the Bema nor the promises of the Lord that we will not come into judgment.
  - b. The non-abiding believer is made to feel shame by the revelatory nature of the event caused by his own awareness and realization of what his own failure and sin has caused him in terms of the loss of rewards and loss of glory to the Lord. But this will only be momentary or short lived at best in view of passages like Revelation 7:17; 21:4 and Isaiah 65:17.

*Hoyt* has a good summary of what this passage is talking about and involves: The Bible suggests that there will be shame at the judgment seat of Christ to a greater or lesser degree, depending on the measure of unfaithfulness of each individual believer. Therefore it should be each believer's impelling desire to be well-pleasing to the Lord in all things. Although Christians apparently will reflect on this earthly life with some regret, they will also realize what is ahead for them in the heavenly life. This latter realization will be the source of boundless joy.

*English* strikes a proper balance on this subject: Joy will indeed be the predominant emotion of life with the Lord; but I suspect that, when our works are made manifest at the tribunal, some grief will be mixed with the joy, and we shall know shame as we suffer loss. But we shall rejoice also as we realize that the rewards given will be another example of the grace of our Lord; for at best we are unprofitable servants" (E. Schuyler English, "The Church at the Tribunal," in *Prophetic Truth Unfolding Today* [Fleming H. Revell, 1968], p. 29)

The elements of remorse, regret, and shame cannot be avoided in an examination of the judgment seat of Christ. But this sorrow must be somewhat relative because even for the finest of Christians there will be some things worthy of unceasing remorse in the light of God's unapproachable holiness. This would mean that the finest of Christians could be sorrowful throughout eternity. However, this is not the picture that the New Testament gives of heaven. The overwhelming emotion is joyfulness and gratefulness. Although there is undeniably some measure of remorse or regret, this is not the overriding emotion to be experienced throughout the eternal state.

The emotional condition of the redeemed is that of complete and unending happiness. Emotion proceeds from the realization of facts in personal experience. Hope will at last become reality for all those who are delivered from the bondage of corruption into the glorious liberty of the children of God (Rom. 8:18-25). Elimination of the curse, pain and death will also remove sorrow, tears and crying. (Rev. 21:4)

The judgment seat of Christ might be compared to a commencement ceremony. At graduation there is some measure of disappointment and remorse that one did not do better and work harder. However, at such an event the overwhelming emotion is joy, not remorse. The graduates do not leave the auditorium weeping because they did not earn better grades. Rather, they are thankful that they have been graduated, and they are grateful for what they did achieve. **To overdo the sorrow aspect of the judgment seat of Christ is to make heaven hell. To underdo the sorrow aspect is to make faithfulness inconsequential.** (*Samuel Hoyt, "The Judgment Seat of Christ in Theological Perspective," Part 2, p. 131, Bibliotheca Sacra, Electronic Media*).

## The Nature of the Rewards

What are they and how are they described in Scripture? They are described in terms of generalities. What we know about rewards is given in terms that are more general than specific. These are:

- The Promise of Crowns This seems to be used as a symbol of victory, authority and responsibility.
- The Promise of Heavenly Treasure (Matt. 6:20; 1 Pet. 1:4). Stresses their eternal value and security.
- The Promise of Accolades or Commendations This is seen in those passages where a reward is administered in the form of something like "well done thou good and faithful servant . . ." (cf. Matt. 25:21; Lk. 19:17; 1 Cor. 4:5b).
- The Promises to Overcomers These could refer to special blessing of rewards to those believers who overcome special trials and tests rather than a general promise to all believers. (See Rev. 2:7; 2:11, 17, 26; etc).
- The Promise of Special Responsibilities and Authority of the Lord's Possessions (cf. Matt. 19:28; 24:45-47; 25:21, 23; Lk. 19:17-19; 22:29-30; Rev. 2:26).

## Some Analogies to Consider

**A Thanksgiving Dinner** At a Thanksgiving dinner, each person eats a different amount, but each is satisfied. After our glorification, there will be no sinful nature to produce envy, or jealousy, or resentment, or feelings of dissatisfaction. We will each be enthralled with God and our glorified state.

**A Bat Boy at the World Series** Any young man who loves baseball would probably be thrilled to be a bat boy in the world series, but he would not be jealous or resentful because he was not one of the stars of the game. He would just be delighted to be there and do what he was doing.

**A Graduate at Commencement** All the graduates are there and excited about graduating, yet at the time of rewards, some sorrow might be experienced, but it is quickly overcome by the joy of the event.

Our Spiritual Gifts Our rewards may be likened to our spiritual gifts. Our rewards seem to be primarily a matter of responsibility and maybe opportunities, but they will not be like badges or medals we wear as in the military. Remember that all of our crowns will be cast at the feet of Christ, for only He is worthy (Rev. 4:10-11). Also, Matthew 25:21, 23 and Luke 19:17-19 show us our rewards consist of authority over either many things or many cities. They may include galaxies of the universe. All believers will live in the millennium and in eternity with the Lord. Some will reign with Him, but, because of loss of rewards, evidently some will not.

In Scripture, the church is viewed as the heavenly kingdom and a universal priesthood. This may indicate something of our authority. We may rule over galaxies, celestial bodies, the heavens, and definitely over angels, and the world (cf. 1 Cor. 6:2-3; 4:8)

Israel is the earthly kingdom and will undoubtedly have authority over portions and sections of the millennial kingdom and the eternal kingdom as emphasized in Matt. 25:21; Lk. 19:17-19; and Dan. 7:18, 22, 27.

## The Crowns of The New Testament

### The Words Used For Crowns

**Stephanos.** This was the victors crown, the wreath given to the victorious athlete before the judge at the Bema. It is the word used of the crowns promised to believers for faithfulness in the Christian life.

**Diadem.** This was the royal crown, the crown of a king. It is used of the seven diadems of the Beast in Revelation 12:3 and 13:1. But, to stress that Christ is King of kings, this word is also used of the many diadems the Lord will wear at His return (Rev. 19:12 ).

The Principle The Lord Jesus is the Victor, and our victory is really His victory which is appropriated by faith. Crowns are given as rewards for **faithfulness** to appropriate God's grace and Christ's victory in the Christian life. They remind us of our responsibility **to abide** in the vine.

## The Crowns and Their Significance

The Crown of Thorns (Matt. 27:29; Mk. 15:17; Jn. 19:2, 5) speaks of Christ's work on the cross and stands for His victory over sin, Satan, and death.

The Incorruptible Crown (1 Cor. 9:25). Two things: (a) This describes all the crowns. It contrasts our crowns with the temporal and temporary treasure of this life. (b) It is also a special crown given for faithfulness in running the race and exercising self-control in order to serve the Lord and finish the race.

The Crown of Exultation or Rejoicing (1 Thess. 2:19; Phil. 4:1). This crown is a reward given for witnessing, follow-up, and ministry to others. In one sense, the Thessalonians will be Paul's crown, and the effect at the Bema and throughout eternity will be rejoicing or exultation over their presence in heaven. But what did Paul mean by this? In view of his use of "crown" (*stephanos*, the victor's wreath) in other places, and the fact believers will cast their crowns before the Lord (Rev. 4:10), Paul may also have in mind a personal crown or reward that he will receive because of their presence at the return of the Lord. Though, in this passage the apostle does not say he would receive a crown, this is suggested, if not here certainly in other passages. Though some of them were not living as they should, looking ahead and seeing them in glory brought joy and would bring great rejoicing.

The Crown of Life (Jam. 1:12; Rev. 2:10). This crown is given for enduring testings (trials) and temptation. The crown is not eternal life which is a gift through faith in Christ alone, (Jn. 4:10; Rom. 3:24; 5:15-17; 6:23; Eph. 2:8), but a reward for enduring trials and overcoming temptation.

The Crown of Righteousness (2 Tim. 4:8). This crown is a reward given for faithfulness to use our gifts and opportunities in the service of the Lord and for loving His appearing. Note that these two things go together. To love His appearing is to live in the light of it.

The Crown of Glory (1 Pet. 5:4). This crown is a reward promised to Elders for faithfulness in the discharge of their responsibilities in shepherding the people.

The Casting of Crowns (Rev. 4:10-11). Because Christ alone is worthy and because we can only be fruitful when we abide in Him allowing His life to fill ours, we will all cast our crowns before Him in recognition that all we have done is by His grace.

The Many Crowns or Diadems (Rev. 19:12). The crowns of royalty which stand for Jesus Christ as King of kings and Lord of lords who alone has the right to rule and judge the world.

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By J. Hampton Keathley III <http://bible.org/article/doctrine-rewards-judgment-seat-bema-christ>

J. Hampton Keathley III, Th.M. was a 1966 graduate of Dallas Theological Seminary and a former pastor of 28 years. In August of 2001 he was diagnosed with lung cancer and on August 29<sup>th</sup>, 2002 he went home to be with the Lord.

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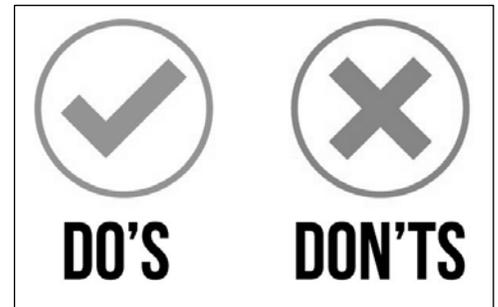
## Abiding and the Tribunal of Christ – A Discussion

1. Discuss the moment by moment experience of "**abiding**" in fellowship with the Holy Spirit as my **birthright**, in contrast to a fellowship that is presumably attained to through obedience. If I want to experience the continual flow of the Holy Spirit's life, I must come to understand that God is concerned about sin **because sin disrupts fellowship**, and **disrupted fellowship obstructs His blessings and my usefulness**.

Is it my tendency to focus on obedience to a perceived **list of "dos and don'ts,"** as if the obedience were the end-goal?

Oswald Chambers rightly states, "Freshness does not come from obedience, but from the Holy Spirit; obedience keeps us in the light as God is in the light."

In other words, my "doing" should be the **natural by-product** of my "being." The principle of abiding focuses on my **relationship** with the Holy Spirit, **out of which His fruit is naturally produced.** (Galatians 5:22-3)



2. Many Christians find themselves habitually living in a Romans 7 experience, and some would point at the apostle Paul to prove that he, too, had the same "struggles."

We believe every Christian must come to recognize their human nature as hopeless. (The Law in Romans 7 serves this purpose). Paul did **pass through** Romans 7, as will every Christian, but he **resided in Romans 8**. Hasn't God made the same provision for me?

His nature, His Holy Spirit living in me, is more powerful than my human nature.

3. Discuss how God wants me to **seek "His" eternal rewards**, in contrast to the often-held belief that to seek rewards is somehow **unspiritual**, and at the very least a wrong motive. If I have as my goal to be satisfied with worldly desires, i.e. material things, praise, pleasures, etc., then is it wrong to have the same desire for eternal rewards?

**Matthew 6:20** *But collect for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys, and where thieves don't break in and steal.*

**Matthew 19:21** *"If you want to be perfect," Jesus said to him, "go, sell your belongings and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come, follow Me."*

But **I am commanded to seek His eternal rewards**, which are not of a worldly nature, i.e. they cannot be measured by my physical senses and understanding. I cannot comprehend them beforehand, anymore than a person blind from birth could comprehend "color."

**Matthew 6:33** *But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things will be provided for you.*

His nature is to be the **Blessor** and **Rewarder** who always desires to give me the very best to those who will believe Him and trust in His character. He has chosen to bless me into eternity with rewards **because of His goodness and grace**, not because of my goodness or merit.

**Hebrews 11:6** *Now without faith it is impossible to please God, for the one who draws near to Him must believe that He exists and rewards those who seek Him.*

Therefore, I need to focus my attention on **eternal values** (regarding myself as a stranger and alien here on earth), in contrast to the common understanding that it is perfectly fine with God if His children pursue the comforts, pleasures and material benefits during this short physical existence. The pursuit of these things is a **hindrance** that can cause me to **not mature**.

**Luke 8:14** *As for the seed that fell among thorns, these are the ones who, when they have heard, go on their way and are choked with worries, riches, and pleasures of life, and produce no mature fruit.*

**Colossians 3:1-3** *So if you have been raised with the Messiah, seek what is above, where the Messiah is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on what is above, not on what is on the earth. For you have died, and your life is hidden with the Messiah in God.*

4. Discuss how **the quality of my life in eternity will somehow be affected** by my willingness (by faith) to let the Holy Spirit make me into a useful instrument through which He can produce **His** fruit and accomplish **His** purposes here on earth.

The idea that I can “do things **for God**” reinforces the misconception that God is in heaven with a checklist, keeping track of things “**I**” do **for** Him.

I should quickly acknowledge that **God has need of nothing I have to offer**.

Then what does God expect of me?

**John 6:63** *The Spirit is the One who gives life. The flesh doesn't help at all.*

Does that mean I can do nothing? Unfortunately I can do lots of things.

**1 Corinthians 13:1-3** *If I speak human or angelic languages but do not have love, I am a sounding gong or a clanging cymbal.*

*If I have the gift of prophecy and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith so that I can move mountains but do not have love, I am nothing.*

*And if I donate all my goods to feed the poor, and if I give my body in order to boast but do not have love, I gain nothing.*

The question is, **does what I do have eternal value** (His life)? If what I do is motivated by the Holy Spirit it does have His life, but if it originates from me (through my human understanding) it only has **temporal** value for my time on earth.

5. How can I allow the Holy Spirit to use the resources He has given me? **I have varying degrees of three resources:**

1. **Time**
2. **Energy**
3. **Possessions**

**God has given me control over my choices to allow** the Holy Spirit to use these resources for His purposes, **or I can choose to deny** Him use of resources. **As I allow** the Holy Spirit use of these resources (building materials – see 1 Corinthians 3:10-15), **He will build for me an eternal structure** of gold, silver and precious stones.

**As I deny** Him use of these resources, I am building for myself **a temporary structure** of wood, hay and stubble.

**IS IT NOT IN MY BEST INTEREST TO UNDERSTAND THIS EARLY IN MY CHRISTIAN WALK, RATHER THAN YEARS LATER?**

**CONSIDER:**

What was the last command that Jesus gave to His disciples before He left this earth?

**Matthew 18:18-20**

*Then Jesus came near and said to them, “All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. Go, therefore, and **make disciples** of all nations, **baptizing** them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, **teaching** them to observe everything I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”*

*Every disciple is a convert,  
But not every convert is a disciple of Jesus Christ*

Was this a SUGGESTION from Jesus or a COMMAND?

If you have gone through this DTI curriculum under the guidance of the Holy Spirit and your spiritual mentor, then you are equipped to come alongside a newer-in-the-faith believer and help them grow in their Christian journey.

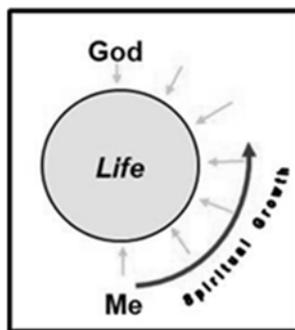
*Prayerfully consider who the Lord would have you spiritually mentor / disciple.*

To assist you in mentoring:

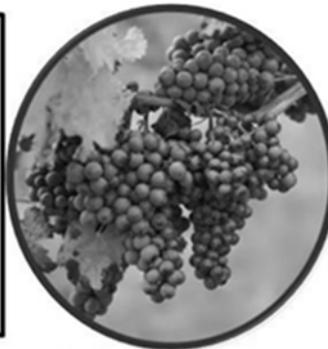
- Review the guidelines found in Phase 2 – Mentor Training
- See our discussion “Redefining Discipleship” on the why and goals of discipleship, available on our website (or scan this code with your smart phone)



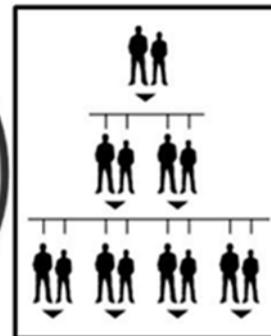
**THE GOAL of SPIRITUAL MENTORING:**



Spiritual Maturity  
*Colossians 1:28*



Spiritual Fruitfulness  
*John 15:8*



Spiritual Reproduction  
*2 Timothy 2:2*

## **A Brief History of - "A Tool for Personal Discipleship"**

Art Barkley and his wife Toni served as tribal missionaries in Bolivia for about 20 years with New Tribes Mission. That's where much of the groundwork for this discipleship material was set.

Art shares:

*"Over the years one of the things that bothered me was watching many believers who had obviously accepted the Lord, were excited about their new Christian life, but who within a few months would be found involved with the things that they were involved with as unbelievers."*

*"During times in the U.S., we would observe a similar pattern. Believers who had enthusiasm and excitement at the beginning of their new life with the Lord, way too often, after a few months, when outside of a Christian setting, could hardly be recognized as followers of Christ."*

*"I often felt there was something missing in the equation, but for years I couldn't figure out what it was."*

*"Another thing that bothered me was the common perception on the part of many believers that the Christian life is too difficult to understand and live out. I have thought many times; if God designed salvation to be so simple that anybody could easily receive it, would He then design the Christian life to be so difficult to understand and live out?"*

Then in 1990, God orchestrated circumstances in such a way that Art and Toni could not permanently return to Bolivia. He provided for Art to serve as an Associate Pastor at Reno Christian Fellowship for 7½ years. It was during this period that God led Art to start developing 'A Tool for Personal Discipleship', a work still in progress.

The purpose of this discipleship material is to provide believers who have a passion for the Lord, with a *Tool* to use under the direction of the Holy Spirit, to help other believers to grow and experience the joy of *the Normal Christian Life*. We have heard many believers lament, "I would like to be used by the Lord to help other believers to grow spiritually, but I don't know what to teach." This *Tool* is designed to help address that need.

In subsequent years, Art has been involved to varying degrees in the personal discipleship of hundreds of men. He and Toni have seen God change lives and count it a privilege to have a small part in God's plan to grow and use believers through Personal Discipleship.

Art Barkley is President of *Discipler Training International*, and his wife Toni is involved in spiritual counseling and discipling women.