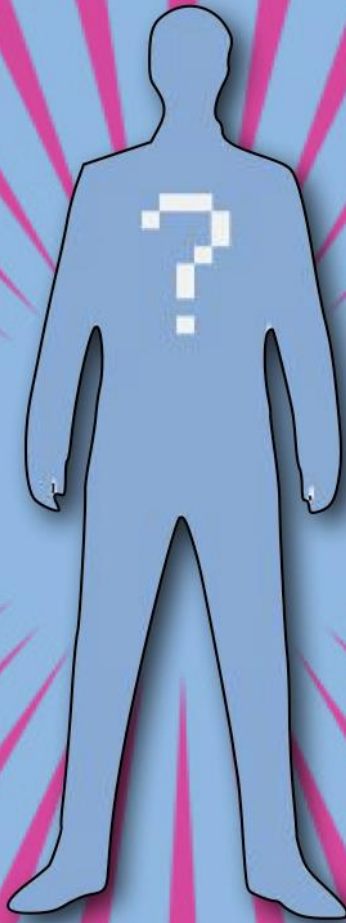


Our Identity: Spirit, Soul, and Body



By Charles D. Watson

**You are much more than a statistic or a name.
You were created in the image of God**

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Copyright

Our Identity: Spirit, Soul, and Body

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Acknowledgments

I would like to thank all who have stood by me all of these years. I am grateful for your faith, hope, and love.

“Dear friends, let us continue to love one another, for love comes from God. Anyone who loves is born of God and knows God” (1 John 4:7, NLT).

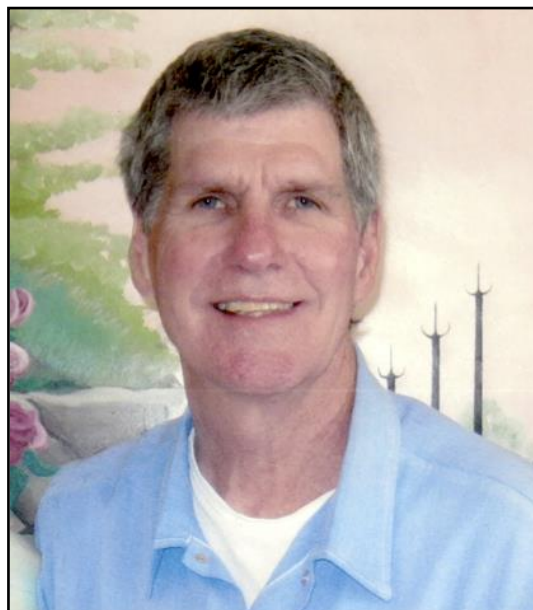
I have received help editing this project from Terry, to whom I am forever thankful. You have been so gentle in offering criticism and suggestions. Your help has brought these efforts to completion.

It would not have been possible to bring this vision to pass without help from Cheryl and Janis, outside of prison. Thank you for your hours spent in front of the computer. You have made the difference in overcoming my limitations.

And thanks to you who have monetarily stood behind the ministry allowing this book to be brought to fruition, especially brother Lyle, who has suggested and made this e-book possible. Your desire to see souls come into the kingdom is evident. May Christ reward you richly.

Dedication

To my best friend, the late Norman Ezell, who stuck with me closer than a brother. He was a man of God, knowing his identity in Christ, but also was a father in the faith. As a dedicated musician, he began his career in the 60's by writing The Five American's hit song, “Western Union.” He finished his race singing thirty-five years for Jesus Christ. As a result, many were drawn to faith. I miss you Norman.



Charles does not profit financially from this book.

About the Author

Charles was born in 1945, in Dallas, Texas. He grew up in Copeville, 35 miles north of Dallas. He left Texas for California in 1967, believing that out west promised satisfaction through drugs, sex and rock 'n roll.

In California, he enrolled in college and secured a job, but soon dropped out in exchange for the fast life. He met Charlie Manson and ended up becoming a member of the “Manson Family.” He was part of this group for a year. Manson offered a utopia, but in reality he had a destructive worldview, which Charles ended up believing in and acting upon. His participation in the 1969 Manson murders is a part of history that he deeply regrets.

For participation in these crimes, he received the death penalty, but this was overturned in 1972. Charles remained imprisoned with a life sentence. Three years later, Christ came into his heart and called him into the ministry. He began ministry training and co-authored the book, *Will You Die For Me?* in 1978. This book has touched thousands of prisoners spiritually. He founded the original Abounding Love Ministries in 1980 and became an ordained minister in 1981. He has spent all these years ministering to prisoners and to others around the world.

His website, www.aboundinglove.org, was created in 1997, and has millions of hits worldwide. In recent years, he wrote the book, *Charles Watson Speaks Out!* to answer the many questions he is still asked in interviews and through letters. His notorious past is a tragedy from any point of view, but for almost four decades, his life has testified to the awesome grace of God.

Charles is a man of peace and character, who shines brightly in a dark place. His identity has shifted from that of a murderer to a child of God. He no longer allows his crime to identify who he is. He sees himself as God sees him — a new creation in Christ.

He is not only a man of faith, but of compassion. He walks the prison yard while sharing what it means to be a Christian. He fellowships with other Christians and helps them to see God as their heavenly Father who loves them unconditionally.

He shares a Godly wisdom that has come through past failures and years of spiritual, mental and emotional growth. In 2009, he completed his B.S. Degree in Business Management.

He rejects “legalistic Christianity,” where people are led to believe they can earn their salvation through their own good works, because right standing with God is possible only through faith in the finished work of Jesus Christ. He lives every day reaching out to unbelievers with the grace of God and prays with believers to understand their awesome inheritance obtained through their union with Christ’s death, burial and resurrection.

Introduction

We are fools for Christ's sake, but you are wise in Christ!...The Apostle Paul

Our identity is often described by what we do, when we were born, where we live or even by a number. If asked, "Who are you?", one might say, "a carpenter," describing their job. Someone else might tell us their name and address, where they live, but such information does not identify who they really are. Being male or female is taken for granted, but in today's society, even genders can be confusing at first glance.

We identify most with the things we can see and react to. We are shallow when it comes to the internals of life, those things that come from our heart, our inner man. Who we are in our hearts determines who we will be on the outside. Our words and actions are responses of the internal processes of the heart. There is definitely a need to know who we are in order for our lives to be complete and in order. We need to know who we really are inside because of God's promises and the stability that can bring.

The heart is difficult to understand, because of our limited ability. We cannot truly know the heart of another, only God knows. The closest we come to knowing a person's heart is by experiencing their words and actions. If a person is showing hatred and all manner of evil, we know they must have a similar heart. On the other hand, if you are experiencing love from a person, they must have love in their heart.

When we think of the heart, let us consider the watermelon. The heart of the watermelon is the center part, usually the best part with fewer seeds. The seeds determine the kind, color and even taste of the melon. Watermelon seeds reproduce the plant and so it is with all seeds, producing life after their own kind. This process of life is a law of God and a promise forever from our Creator.

We get closer to understanding who we really are when we consider the seed. For instance, we are sons and daughters of our mothers and fathers. The seed actually comes from the father. It is the sperm of the father that generates the blood. This is the physiological process of life, but has deep spiritual truths when it comes to us being created in God's image. The life of God is in our blood.

God created us as a living soul, made up of mind, will and emotions, the spirit giving us life. We are a spiritual person, who thinks, chooses and experiences feelings on a daily basis. These and other factors make up our individual personalities and determine our actions, which make an image through our physical bodies. It is our face that reflects the countenance of our heart.

In this book, we will consider many deep truths: How we were created in the image of God, but lost that image in a downward spiral of sin and death. How Christ came into the world through an incorruptible seed, so He could be the perfect sacrifice for the sins of all humanity. How we were born with a corruptible nature or seed of sin, but how we can be born-again of God's incorruptible seed by the Holy Spirit. How we become conquerors in our Christian walk, overcoming the tribulations and pains of life.

Doesn't this sound foolish? In my previous book, *Christianity For Fools*, we saw how the world considers Christianity and those who believe in it foolish. This book describes the identity of those fools. The philosophers of this world declare in a logical way who we are through intellect, culture and experience, but this book will give you a glance at who God says you really are. I pray that the eyes of your understanding may be enlightened to who you are because of God's grace. That He will give you the desire to know more of His love, so you can know who He has made you to be.

A wonderful journey is set before you. I believe through the reading of this book, you will come to see yourself as someone more than just a name or profession, but a wonderful possession of our Heavenly Father. I believe you will see yourself complete with a new inheritance. I see your life changing, as a result, into a blessing for everyone who experiences who you really are — a child of God.

Part 1, Our Identity

The Garden Identity

“The LORD God planted a garden eastward in Eden, and there He put the man who He had formed.” The Prophet Moses

Sometimes it's hard to understand how God is love when everything around us is in such confusion. We tend to blame God, not realizing His complete nature is love. He is the author of every good and perfect gift. In the beginning, the Lord God Almighty created the heavens and the earth as a paradise. His love filled the world as the Spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters. Can you imagine living in a world where divine love reigned supreme without any separation between heaven and earth?

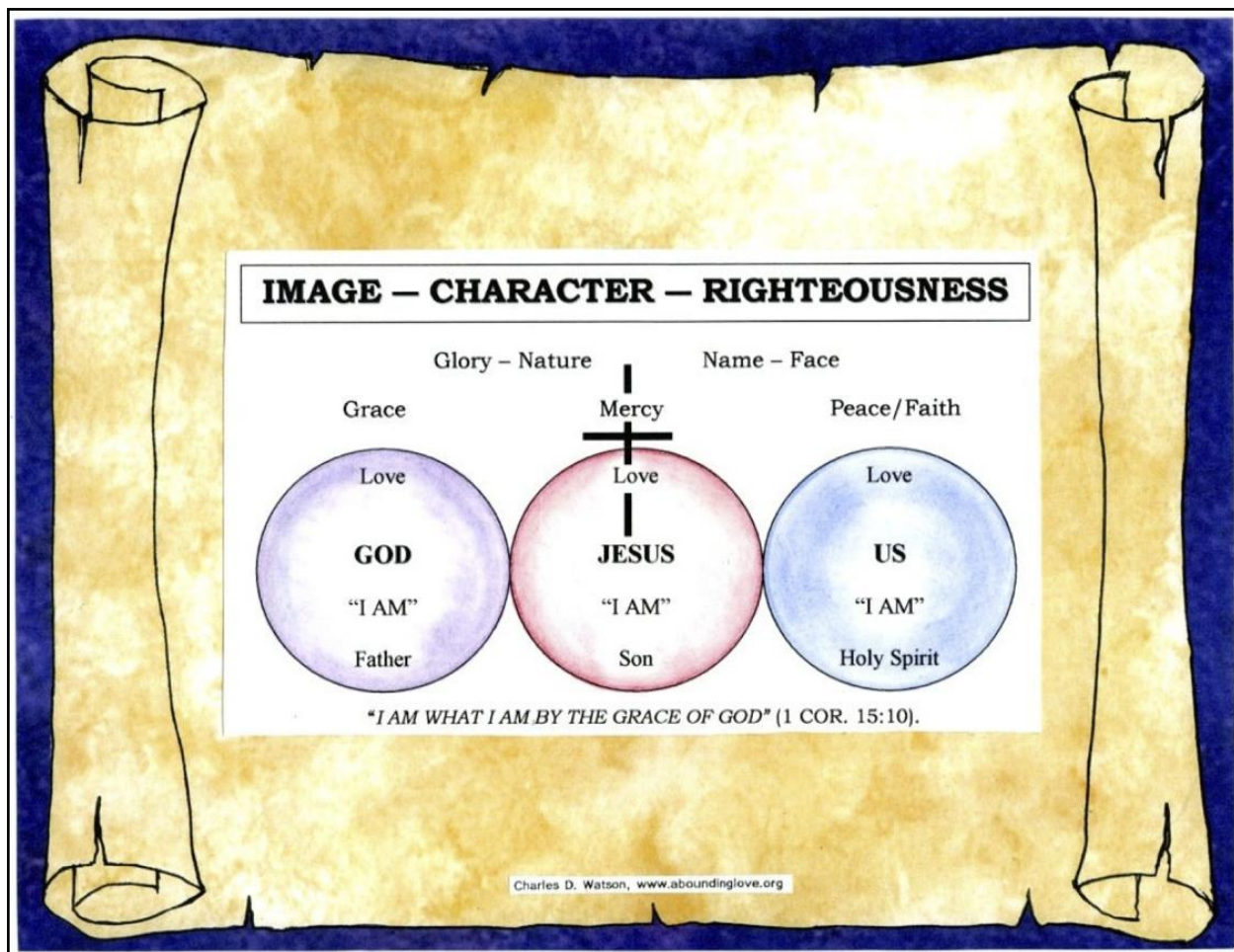
In order to understand our identity, we must first understand creation. *“By faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God [love], so that the things which are seen were not made of things which are visible”* (Hebrews 11:3, emphasis added). We were created by an invisible God, so His love could become visible to all humanity. Love is the power and motivation behind all that God does. It is faith in the knowledge of God's love that gives a secure and healthy identity to the entire world.

It is God's love that produces life. In six days, His love created light, the sky, sea, dry land and plants. He created the sun, moon, stars, birds, fish, animals and human beings by His spoken word. He saw every thing He [love] had made as very good. *“...God blessed the seventh day and declared it holy, because it was the day when he rested from his work of creation”* (Genesis 2:3, NLT). The creative power of divine love rested after bringing forth perfect soundness to all that was made. The seventh day is one of resting in God's love, holiness and blessings. It is the day God dwells with His creation in peace and tranquillity. It is today.

The Image of God

“So God created man in His own image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them” (Genesis 1:27). His purpose was to bring forth His love into the world through a relationship and fellowship with mankind. His divine flow of love brought forth life and health to His creation. *“In Him [love] was life, and the life was the light of men”* (John 1:4, emphasis added).

Man was created in the image of love on the sixth day. As human beings, we were fashioned in the likeness of God able to love. In other words, we were patterned to resemble and reflect God's majesty on earth; His love, life, light and character, *“...just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before Him in love”* (Ephesians 1:4). Adam perfectly reflected the glory of God upon his face, displaying God's likeness and righteousness.



Our identity is distinguished from the rest of God's creatures, who were created on the fourth and fifth day of creation. Our pets sometimes show more affection than some humans, but they do not resemble God's character. Unlike the animal kingdom, we have moral, ethical and intellectual reasoning, free will and personality. God infused man with His breath of life, creating a human spirit in relationship with Him. Hence, He gave us authority to rule as regents of the entire earth. *“Then God blessed them, and God said to them, 'Be fruitful and multiply; fill the earth and subdue it; have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over every living thing that moves on the earth'”* (Genesis 1:28).

God created man with a wonderful future of great dignity and worth. God saw His plan and purpose for us from beginning to end. He made it possible for us to succeed no matter what comes our way. The psalmist David answered two very important questions when it comes to our identity: *“What is man that You are mindful of him, and the son of man that You visit him? For You have made him a little lower than the angels [God], and You have crowned him with glory and honor. You have made him to have dominion over the works of Your hands; You have put all things under his feet”* (Psalm 8:4-6, emphasis added). The Hebrew word, which is translated as “angel” in these verses, is “Elohim.” This word is plural, but is used in a singular manner and usually translated in Scripture as “God.” God created us to have dominion over the earth. We were created a little lower than God, as His children, in order to rule, reign and subdue all things

under our feet, including the power of sin and all the powers of Satan. There was no bondage of sin in the Garden of Eden until the inhabitants were tempted with a sense of lack. All things were in bondage to Adam, as freedom reigned, and he subdued all things.

Adam was created to be king of God's world. The kingdom of God, where God's love reigns, had come to earth manifesting righteousness, peace and joy in the Holy Spirit. Adam was given the responsibility to care for the earth. He knew he could trust in the hand of his loving Creator to flow forth life. As human beings, God gave us the responsibility to reign as masters on the earth in righteousness. This responsibility can only be carried out because of our heritage, that we are created in the image of God's love. His love never fails to be effective. We're not to doubt the sufficiency of His love for us to be successful in life. The Lord comforted Jeremiah's doubting heart, saying, *"I knew you before I formed you in your mother's womb. Before you were born I set you apart and appointed you as my spokesman to the world"* (1:5, NLT). Shouldn't we trust God's love for us too?

In today's world, sin, unbelief and fear has weakened our ability to walk effectively in love. We make excuses to justify irresponsibility. We live without acknowledging God's grace and our God given authority to subdue the earth. Thus the Apostle Paul proclaimed: *"For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even His eternal power and Godhead, so that they are without excuse"* (Romans 1:20).

Still, in order to satisfy our sense of lack, we turn to the lust of the eye, the lust of the flesh and the pride of life. We hide in our fornication, adultery and idolatry — the desire for material things. Spiritual death rules a large part of our society. We have failed to subdue every temptation, even though the power of God's love is at our disposal. We have failed to remain connected to His life giving flow. Do you desire to return and walk in the image of God's creative love and plan for you?

The Garden of God

The garden of God [love] was His sanctuary [holy place] on earth. *"For He looked down from the height of His sanctuary; from heaven the LORD viewed the earth"* (Psalm 102:19). He desired a personal relationship with His creation. *"The LORD God planted a garden...there he put man ... and out of the ground the LORD God made every tree grow that is pleasant to the sight and good for food. The tree of life was also in the midst of the garden, and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil"* (Genesis 2:8, 9). The first law being to not eat of the tree of knowledge of good and evil (verse 17). He gave man the ability to choose, know, serve and love Him, thereby fulfilling his spiritual potential in every way. The land was filled with opportunities directed by the hand of Almighty God.

Let us join in David's love song, worshipping, *"For You formed my inward parts; You covered me in my mother's womb. I will praise You, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made. Marvelous are your works. And that my soul knows very well"* (Psalm 139:13, 14). The prophet Isaiah compared the comfort of Zion to the Garden of Eden, saying, *"...Joy and gladness will be found in it, Thanksgiving and the voice of melody"* (Isaiah 51:3c). Just as the love of God

produced life in the garden, the joy of the Lord was their strength. Their hearts were in harmony with the heart of God.

Before the foundation of the world, God desired to bring His life from heaven to earth. He desired to tabernacle or dwell in peace with mankind. Throughout history, He set up His dwelling place not only in the garden, but in the wilderness tabernacle. He became flesh and dwelt in His Son, Jesus Christ. Now, He dwells in Christians as new creations. On the day of the Lord, the believers will all go to dwell with Him forever.

The Most Holy, thy Habitation							
The Alpha		Psalm 91; Jude 20-25				The Omega	
TRUE HEAVENLY TABERNACLE	FIRST ADAM TABERNACLE	OLD COVENANT TABERNACLE	LAST ADAM TABERNACLE	NEW COVENANT TABERNACLE	OUR EARTHLY TABERNACLE	OUR ETERNAL TABERNACLE	TRUE HEAVENLY TABERNACLE
Exodus 15:17 Psalms 15:1 27:5 61:3,4 102:18-21 113:3-6 Acts 7:48-50 Heb. 8:2 <u>God Chose Us Before the Foundation of the World</u> Eph. 1:3-5 <u>From the Foundation of the World</u> Matt. 13:35 25:34 Luke 11:49-51 John 17:24 Heb. 4:3 1 Pet. 1:20-21 Rev. 13:8; 17:8 Jere. 1:5	Gen. ch. 1,2 <u>Adam & Eve Lost Witness</u> Gen. 3:1-21 <u>Lost Access to Tree of Life</u> Gen. 3:22-24 <u>Sin & Death Passed Upon All Mankind</u> Rom. 3:23 5:12-17 <u>Lost God's Glory</u>	Ex. ch. 25-40 Ex. 29:45,46 Leviticus (all) Psa. 77:13 <u>Tabernacle Moved to Temple</u> 2 Chr. ch. 5,6,7 <u>Judah Lost Temple</u> 2 Chr. 36:11-21 Lam. 2:4-10 <u>Lost God's Glory</u> <u>Temple Rebuilt</u> Ezra ch. 1 - 6 Nehemiah (all) Zech. 4:1-14 <u>Glory Promised</u> Hag. 2:6-9 1 Pet. 1:10-11	John 1:14 1 Tim. 3:16 Phil. 2:6-11 John 1:29 1 Cor. 15:45 <u>Feast of Tabernacles</u> John 7:2,37-39 Lev. 23:33-43 <u>Jesus Cleansed The Temple</u> Matt. 21:12-16 <u>Jesus Created All Things</u> John 1:3 Eph. 3:9 Col. 1:16,17 <u>Christ Came To Make Us A New Creation</u> 2 Cor. 5:17	Heb. 1:1-4 Heb. ch.7,8,9,10 Heb. 13:10-16 Matt. 26:28 <u>God Made Jesus To Be Sin For Us</u> 2 Cor. 5:21 <u>That the Body of sin might be destroyed</u> Rom. ch. 6,7,8 Rom. 12:1,2 Col. 2:10-15 3:1-4 <u>Glory Returned</u> Col. 1:27 2 Cor. 3:18	1 Cor. 3:16,17 6:19,20 2 Cor. 6:16 5:1-6 2 Pet. 1:13,14 Heb. 3:5,6 <u>Body of Christ in the Heavenly Places</u> Eph. 1:13-2:7 2:20-22 1 Peter 2:5 2 Tim. 2:20,21 <u>Our Priesthood in Christ</u> Heb. 4:14-16 1 Pet. 2:9 Rev. 1:5,6 5:10, 20:6 <u>Christ's High Priestly Prayer</u> John 17:1-26	1 Cor. 15:44 2 Cor. 5:1-4 1 Thess. 4:16-17 <u>We Shall Be Like Christ</u> 1 Cor. 15:49-54 1 John 3:2 Phil 3:21 <u>Promise To Overcomers</u> Rev. 2:7,11,17 2:26-29 3:5,12,21 21:7	Rev. ch. 4, 5 6:9; 7:9-15 8:3-5; 9:13 11:15-19 13:6-8; 14:3 15:5-8; 16:7 19:1-10 21:3, 22 <u>Feast of Tabernacles</u> Zec. 14:8-11 16-21 Eze. 47:1-12 Joel 3:18 Hosea 14:4-8 <u>New Heaven New Earth Access To Tree of Life</u> Rev. ch. 21,22 Heb. 11:10, 13-16 12:18-29 13:14
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Unity	Witness	God	Creation	Grace	Man	Completeness	New Beginning

Adam's job was to tend and keep the garden. He was to care for God's creation. His diet was vegetarian. The Lord said: "See, I have given you every herb that yields seed which is on the face of the earth, and every tree whose fruit yields seed; to you it shall be for food" (Genesis 1:29). The life was in the seed, which germinated for food and more seed. As far as he knew, he would live forever, because there was no sickness or death, only life. Adam, as lord over that kingdom, named each one of the animals. His names of them accurately described every animal. God felt it was not good for man to be alone, so He gave Adam a helpmate to partner with him not only in cultivating the vegetation, but to help tend and care for the animals in green meadows. The garden overflowed with peaceful streams of waters, whose waters did not fail. It was a glorious day.

The garden was a place where God was the center of all life, caring and loving His creation. In the garden, it was all about love. The light of the world shined upon Adam and Eve. They walked in the light as He was in the light having fellowship with one another. They walked in agreement with God, and what they spoke came to pass. There was no spiritual darkness at all. They were totally dependent upon God's spiritual light for knowledge, wisdom and righteousness. They were one mind with God and the light of God was upon their faces. All of their needs were provided from heaven. They chose to serve God with a passion and without fear. They worshiped God in Spirit and truth. They listened to His voice and obeyed His will. They were complete, having everything that pertained to life and godliness. Therefore, there were no arguments or confusion in their relationship. The lion laid down with the lamb as peace and righteousness reigned throughout all creation.

Adam and Eve lived the abundant life. The atmosphere was filled with joy and gladness. God's word reigned supreme as truth and prosperity prevailed. The air was filled with the expression of God's love and life. Later, the prophet Isaiah had a glimpse of the abundant life for his people, saying, *"For you shall go out with joy, And be led out with peace; The mountains and the hills shall break forth into singing before you, and all the trees of the field shall clap their hands"* (55:12).

The Power of God

At times, in the book of Psalms, it seems that David had a glimpse of walking in the garden with God, overcoming all obstacles by His power and grace. Listen carefully to the words of the 23rd Psalm, *"The Lord is my shepherd; I have everything I need. He lets me rest in green pastures; He leads me beside peaceful streams. He renews my strength. He guides me along right paths, bringing honor to His name. Even when I walk through the dark valley of death, I will not be afraid, for you are close beside me. Your rod and staff protect and comfort me. You prepare a feast for me in the presence of my enemies. You welcome me as a guest, anointing my head with oil. My cup overflows with blessings. Surely your goodness and unfailing love will pursue me all the days of my life, and I will live in the house of the LORD forever"* (NLT). God's goodness and unfailing love pursued Adam and Eve all the days of their lives. They walked and talked with God in partnership. They were connected to the throne room of heaven, living in His awesome presence. There was no distance between them and God.

The power of God [love] kept Adam and Eve from the valley of death as He prepared a feast in the present of their enemies. We are told that Satan walked in the midst of the garden: *"You were in Eden, the garden of God, every precious stone was your covering"* (Ezekiel 28:13a). He was present to steal, kill and destroy, but Adam and Eve were anointed by God, overflowing with His blessings.

It was the purpose of Satan to stop God's creative power of love, life and light. His purpose was to bring spiritual darkness into the world through the law [principle] of sin and death. His chief weapon was His pride, driving mankind into rebellion against their Creator. God said to him, *"How you are fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! How you are cut down to the ground, You who weakened the nations! For you have said in your heart: I will ascend into*

heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God... I will be like the Most High" (Isaiah 14:12, 13a, 14b). Pride was ever present to Adam and Eve, but they chose to humble themselves to God's greater purpose, continually before the presence of God. Humility caused a loving relationship to divinely flow between God and each other.

All of a sudden, we discover there are two voices in the garden, just like in our lives today. We choose to walk in humility before Almighty God, or listen to a demonic worldly voice. We are tempted to listen to the voice of lack and deception instead of the voice of God's supply of love and life, becoming double minded. We are to choose daily to let God be the influence of our life, as His children, doing God's will. *"Therefore submit to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you. Draw near to God and He will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners; and purify your hearts, you double minded"* (James 4:7, 8). As long as they stayed in the presence of God, the devil could not touch them.

We are given the power of God's love and grace to overcome unbelief and every temptation of the devil. *"No temptation has overtaken you except such as is common to man; but God is faithful who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will also make the way to escape, that you may be able to bear it"* (1 Corinthians 10:13). The power of love brings forth the life of God, so that we do not trust in our sufficiency, but put on the armor of light, which comes through God's grace.

Who Were We?

We would have all been children of God through the genealogy of Adam and Eve. God created us in a state of innocence in His image, before the fall. He intended for us to have a loving relationship with Him. As children of God, we are to be dependent upon our Abba, Father (Romans 8:15). "Abba" is an informal Hebrew word for Father, similar to "Daddy."

In our previous state of sinless perfection, we could glorify God perfectly, reflecting His righteousness on earth. Since there was no sin, we had perfect fellowship and communion with our Father. His word was law, and our trust was solely in His voice. We were willing to live *"...by every word that proceeds from the mouth of the LORD"* (Deuteronomy 8:3; Matthew 4:4).

The calling of God was upon our life to exercise dominion. We were meant to be in control of God's creation with Him. We were laborers working hard with our hands to provide for our spouse. As a man, we were to cleave to our wife and be faithful to take care of our offspring. As a woman, she was to help her husband in every way to carry out his calling.

As faithful children, our response was to depend upon God in every way. We were obedient children, whose moral knowledge only came from our Father. We were not to make decisions independent of Him, by trusting in our own knowledge of good and evil obtained from eating the forbidden fruit.

It is time for us to determine who we really are. If we are not presently connected to God, we have lost that loving feeling. But, we are more than just an emotional being, doing what feels good. We are spiritual beings, having the breath of God in us. We have dreams and visions of how to be useful in the kingdom of God. *"For it is the God who commanded light to shine out of*

darkness, who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ” (2 Corinthians 4:6).

We are either connected to God spiritually by the Holy Spirit or not. Are you experiencing His righteousness, peace and joy in your heart? Do you talk to Him daily, hearing His voice? Are you experiencing His love for you and longing for Him? If you are not, my prayer is that you will evaluate your walk with God as you meditate on what follows.

Identity Theft

“My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge ...” The Prophet Hosea

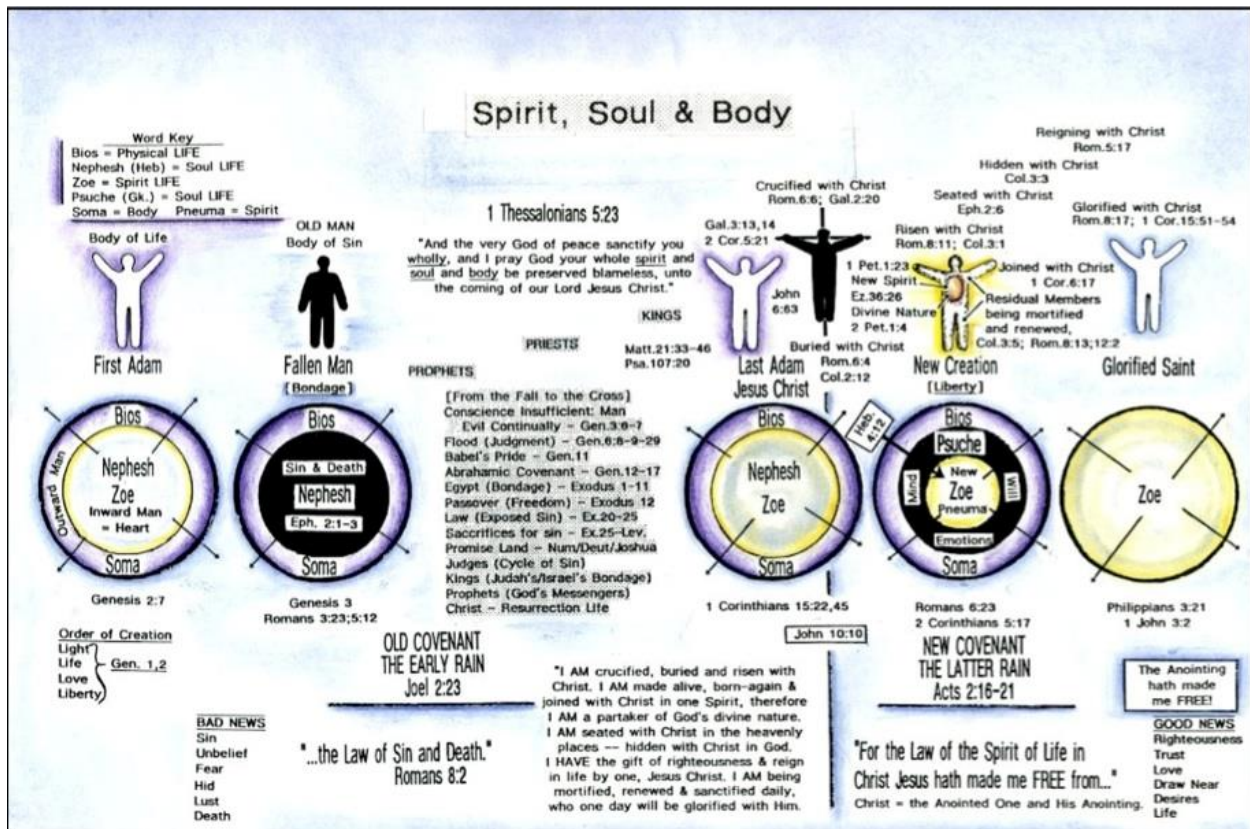
It is extremely important to understand man's identity before the fall, in order for us to realize God's will for our lives. Understanding how God views us becomes the basis for how we view ourselves and will help to determine our quality of life. When we think God's way of thinking, we will rise to God's way of living.

In the Garden of Eden, God provided the tree of life for spiritual nourishment and the other trees for physical food (Genesis 2:8, 9). Adam and Eve experienced no lack, totally connected and dependent upon God's ability. They experienced peace with God's kingdom and with God, who they relied on for knowledge and wisdom. They loved God with all their heart, mind, soul and strength. The joy of the Lord was their strength. Life in the garden was a heavenly life, literally heaven on earth. Heaven and earth were united in one righteous Spirit, connected in peace with each other. It was a time of perfection, soundness and well being, in which man was complete as God intended. The psalmist sung to God, *“For with You is the fountain of life”* (Psalm 36:9).

The tree of life provided a continual life giving flow to residents of the garden. The Apostle John was shown the tree of life in heaven: *“In the middle of its street, and on either side of the river, was the tree of life, which bore twelve fruits, each tree yielding its fruit every month”* (Revelation 22:2). The tree of life on earth and the one in heaven were perfectly entwined as one, and God intended for man to live forever, receiving life from that tree.

A Living Soul

The creation of man was explained by Moses, writing: *“And the LORD God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living being [soul]”* (Genesis 2:7, emphasis added). Man's physical body was made from dust, and his body was infused with life by the Spirit, as a gift from God. Man became a living soul made up of mind, will and emotions.



Adam was shaped by the Master Potter into a perfect two-part being: the outward man [body] and the inward man [heart], that part we cannot see. As the fruit and seed bearing trees provided life to the body, the tree of life was intended to provide spiritual nourishment to the heart. The inward man or the heart, consisting of man's mind, soul and spirit, is where we think, make decisions and feel emotions.

The breath of life planted a seed in Adam. They were born of God, the stewards of all creation. They were instructed to stay focused on the tree of life, always trusting God's sufficiency instead of their own. The tree of life was a type of Christ, where they received God's anointing. His will for them was to walk in His grace. As long as they made themselves at home clinging to the tree of life, they would experience an abundant life through His divine strength — His grace. They were to eat His fruit and the seeds would bring forth spiritual life. As a result, they could cultivate and overflow with God's creative power, always being fruitful and multiplying.

There was an adversary just waiting for Adam and Eve to get out of the will of God: "...the serpent was more cunning than any beast of the field which the Lord God had made" (Genesis 3:1). The serpent was planning to bring the first couple down. He was playing a tune that was hard to resist, always scheming. His purpose was to put an end to Adam and Eve's loving relationship with God. Their Father had given them a free will to sin, because He had not created robots. He hoped they would choose to serve Him freely in righteousness forever. In His foreknowledge, He knew man's fate and the lessons he must learn, but He had a plan with a wonderful future for His children.

Adam and Eve relied totally upon God's ability [grace]. As long as they focused on the tree of life, they had strength, but they became weak by focusing on the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. They knew they would have to trust in God's word to help resist the deceit of the wicked one. The Psalmist David testified: *"Oh, the joys of those who do not follow the advise of the wicked, or stand around with sinners, or join in with scoffers. But they delight in doing everything the LORD wants; day and night they think about his law. They are like trees planted along the riverbank, bearing fruit each season without fail. Their leaves never wither, and in all they do, they prosper"* (1:1-3, NLT). God's first command was to not eat the forbidden fruit of the tree of knowledge of good and evil. Adam and Eve kept God's word in mind day and night. As a result, they saw their lives prosper in every way and avoided temptation. The tree of life represents God's life giving word for their life.

We either draw on God's ability in the Spirit for our lives, or we choose to walk in the ability of the flesh. We have the choice to listen to the voice of God, applying His word for our lives or to the voice of the enemy. Temptations arise daily in our culture that challenge our affections. If we choose to walk with faith in God's word, we overflow with His ability [grace] and can resist temptation. Whose voice will you agree with in time of temptation?

A Dying Soul

The breath of God infused man with His very image and character. He did not put something in their being that would destroy them. He knew what it would take for His destiny to take place in their lives. He knew they would have a struggle denying the flesh and walking in the Spirit. He knew the presence of the serpent in the garden would bring thoughts contrary to Him. God knew that only a relationship with Him could enable us to overcome our adversary.

The Lord gave permission to eat of every tree, *"...but of the tree of knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die"* (Genesis 2:17). This tree symbolized all moral knowledge, which they were to depend solely on God for, its fruit was forbidden. The tree of knowledge of good and evil represents the Law of God, which would later be codified by God through Moses. Prior to eating this fruit, Adam and Eve were naked, but only afterward were they conscious of their sin, *"...for by the law is the knowledge of sin"* (Romans 3:20b). Adam and Eve were to stay on the path of life, that straight path of God's wisdom and righteousness. The crooked path would lead to unrighteousness, destruction and spiritual death for the law leads to death.

The adversary finally got Eve's attention, in order to plant his destructive seed. He questioned God's instructions to not eat of the forbidden fruit. He lied saying, *"You will not surely die. For God knows that in the day you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil"* (Genesis 3:4, 5). It was Satan that wanted to be like God (Isaiah 14:14). By creating a question, he created a need and a sense of lack. Eve had full access to the knowledge that God wanted them to have, but Satan convinced her to add to her knowledge by turning her eyes towards her independent sufficiency.

The serpent boldly denied the truth, calling God a liar. Jesus identified Satan as the father of lies (John 8:44). Everything Adam and Eve believed was being challenged. Their identity was

about to change. An identity theft was about to happen, and they were about to plunge, along with all mankind, into a state of sin and corruption taking on a new identity. Moses wrote: “*So when the women saw [senses] that the tree was good for food [thoughts], that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree desirable [lust] to make one wise, she took [choice] of its fruit and ate [actions]. She also gave to her husband with her, and he ate [disobedience]*” (Genesis 3:6, emphasis added). Eve took what was not rightfully hers. In like manner, men and women are taking what is not rightfully theirs through adultery and every conceivable lust in today's culture.

Satan stole man's identity through deception. His corruptible seed entered into the heart of mankind through his spoken word. Eve became prideful, believing in herself, by placing faith in Satan's lying word. As a result, fear, confusion, emotional disorder and death begin to reign upon the earth. Instead of the tree of life, the tree of the knowledge of good and evil produced death. The enemy had sown tares among the wheat. In Matthew, Jesus shared how “*The kingdom of heaven is like a man who sowed good seed in his field; but while men slept, his enemy came and sowed tares among the wheat and went his way*” (13:24, 25). In explaining the parable, Jesus said: “*He who sows the good seed is the Son of Man. The field is the world, the good seeds are the sons of the kingdom, but the tares are the sons of the wicked ones. The enemy who sowed them is the devil*” (13:37-39a).

The Power of Sin

The power of sin started with a thought contrary to God, which became a license or excuse to do wrong, which they acted upon: “*Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves coverings*” (Genesis 3:7). The rest is history “*...through one man sin entered the world, and death through sin, and thus death spread to all men, because all sinned*” (Romans 5:12). They lost their freedom and went into bondage. Sin and death multiplied as man became more and more conscience of sin.

The Lord came looking for them in the cool of the day, but they were afraid [fear] of being rejected so they hid from His face. The Lord had set limits because He loved them. They began to make excuses for their sin, blaming each other (Genesis 3:8-12). He still loved them and desired a relationship, but their sin had to be judged. Before the fall, their possibilities were limitless, but now they were to suffer the consequences of their sin. It wasn't a sin to be tempted, even Jesus was tempted, but when acted upon it becomes outright rebellion. James explained that “*Temptation comes from the lure of our own evil desires. These evil desires lead to evil actions, and evil actions lead to death*” (1:14, 15, NLT). Everyday, we are tempted to accept the thoughts of the evil one. These must be cast down.

Moses explains the consequences of sin, writing: “*Then the LORD God asked the woman, 'How could you do such a thing?' 'The serpent tricked me,' she replied. 'That's why I ate.' So the LORD God said to the serpent, 'Because you have done this, you will be punished. You are singled out from all the domestic and wild animals of the whole earth to be cursed. You will grovel in the dust as long as you live, crawling along on your belly. From now on, you and the woman will be enemies, and your offspring and her offspring will be enemies. He will crush your*

head, and you will strike his heel” (Genesis 3:13-15, NLT). Jesus would be the one to crush the head of the serpent at the cross of Calvary, where the Lord's heel would be struck, as He would take the judgment for all our sins upon Himself.

Because of the curse, man was taken from the tree of life (Genesis 3:17-19). Man became powerless over sin. He became full of pain and idolatry, dependent on people and things rather than on God. Satan became the God of this world, as the entire human race took on a corrupt nature (2 Corinthians 4:4). Mankind's sense of lack began to grow. A world that was perfectly balanced now became out of balance: wars, famines, pestilence's, earthquakes, tornadoes and hurricanes began to multiply. Jesus would have to come to break the curse: *“But Christ rescued us from the curse...When he hung on the cross, he took upon himself the curse for our wrong doings”* (Galatians 3:13, NLT).

Justice demanded that blood be shed as payment for sin. *“As in Adam all die, even so in Christ all shall be made alive”* (1 Corinthians 15:22). But until then, *“...the LORD God made clothing from animal skins for Adam and his wife”* (Genesis 3:21, NLT). The shedding of the animal's blood covered their sin. But still, *“...He drove out the man, and He placed cherubim at the east of the garden of Eden, and a flaming sword which turned every way, to guard the way to the tree of life”* (Genesis 3:24). The only way to get to the tree of life would be for Jesus to take the judgment for man's sin.

In the parable of the wheat and tares, Jesus told of those who decide not to accept Christ's payment for sin, but rather choose to take their own judgment for sin: *“Just as the weeds are separated out and burned, so it will be at the end of the world. I, the Son of man, will send my angels, and they will remove from my Kingdom everything that causes sin and all who do evil, and they will throw them into the furnace and burn them. There will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. Then the godly will shine like the sun in their Father's Kingdom. Anyone who is willing to hear should listen and understand!”* (Matthew 13:40-43, NLT).

All because Adam ate the fruit of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, the law [the powerful principle], of sin and death, spread into the world (Romans 8:2). Cain killed Abel, because of envy and anger over a sacrifice (Genesis, chapter 4). The Lord destroyed all but eight souls in the flood, because the imaginations of man's heart were evil continually (Genesis 6:5). He tore down the tower of Babel, because the people were in idolatry trying to build a doorway to god by their own works (Genesis, chapter 11). This works mentality kept the human race separated from God.

Again, the Lord came to His creation desiring a loving relationship, so He made a covenant with Abraham where righteousness [right standing with God] would be based on our faith: *“And he [Abraham] believed in the LORD, and He accounted it to him for righteousness”* (Genesis 15:6, emphasis added). Later, the Law was given to bring the knowledge of sin, but also, it provided a shadow for the remedy of sin — the blood sacrifice. As a result, man labored under a sin consciousness during the old covenant even though his sin was covered by the blood (Hebrews 10:1-4). His significance was based on his performance through sacrificial offerings,

until Jesus fulfilled the righteous requirement of the law through the finished work on the cross (Hebrews 9:14).

However, the message of the old covenant prophets brought a sin consciousness to the hearers, but the message under new covenant brings to the world a consciousness of righteousness through faith in the blood of Jesus Christ: *“For they being ignorant of God’s righteousness, and seeking to establish their own righteousness, have not submitted to the righteousness of God. For Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to everyone who believes”* (Romans 10:3, 4). God wants us to have a Jesus consciousness. He made it possible for us to be called the children of the Heavenly Father again: *“For you did not receive the spirit of bondage again to fear, but you received the Spirit of adoption by whom we cry out, ‘Abba, Father’”* (Romans 8:15). The whole creation groans for the manifestation of the sons of God (Romans 8:19). Won’t you trust God’s grace and become a son or daughter of God?

“The eyes of the Lord search the whole earth in order to strengthen those whose hearts are fully committed to him...” (2 Chronicles 16:9, NLT)

Who Were We?

We were sinners, conceived in sin (Psalm 51:5), because of the fall. We were in a state of fear, guilt, shame and condemnation before receiving Christ. The Apostle Paul wrote: *“There is none righteous, no, not one—for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God”* (Romans 3:10, 23).

Again, Paul proclaimed we were dead: *“For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord”* (Romans 6:23). And again: *“Once you were dead, doomed forever because of your many sins. You used to live just like the rest of the world, full of sin, obeying Satan, the mighty prince of the power of the air. He is the spirit at work in the hearts of those who refuse to obey God. All of us used to live that way, following the passions and desires of our evil nature. We were born with an evil nature, and we were under God’s anger like everyone else”* (Ephesians 2:1-3, NLT).

Apart from Christ, we’re slaves bound by the slave market of sin. Jesus said, *“Most assuredly, I say to you, whoever commits sin is a slave of sin”* (John 8:34). But, Jesus came to set us free from this kind of slavery: *“Therefore if the Son makes you free, you shall be free indeed”* (John 8:36), to be obedient to Him and to be righteous: *“The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs — heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with Him, that we may also be glorified together. For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us”* (Romans 6:16-18).

We were ungodly. Paul exhorted: *“Live no longer as the ungodly do for they are hopelessly confused. Their closed minds are full of darkness; they are far away from the life of God because they have shut their minds and hardened their hearts against him. They don’t care anymore about right and wrong, and they have given themselves over to immoral ways. Their lives are filled with all kinds of impurity and greed”* (Ephesians 4:17-19, NLT).

We were tares under God's judgment: *“But the cowardly, unbelieving, abominable, murderers, sexually immoral, sorcerers, idolaters, and all liars shall have their part in the lake which burns with fire and brimstone, which is the second death”* (Revelation 21:7).

As the saying goes: “Sin will take you further than you want to go, and keep you longer than you want to stay.” But there is hope! Paul quoting the Prophet Isaiah said: *“Awake, you who sleep, arise from the dead, and Christ shall give you light”* (Ephesians 5:14). Again, Paul exhorted us: *“Awake to righteousness, and do not sin; for some do not have the knowledge of God. I speak this to your shame”* (1 Corinthians 15:34). Again and again, God is calling you to come out of darkness into His marvelous light.

Let's Get Physical

“And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your seed and her Seed; He shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise His heel.” The Prophet

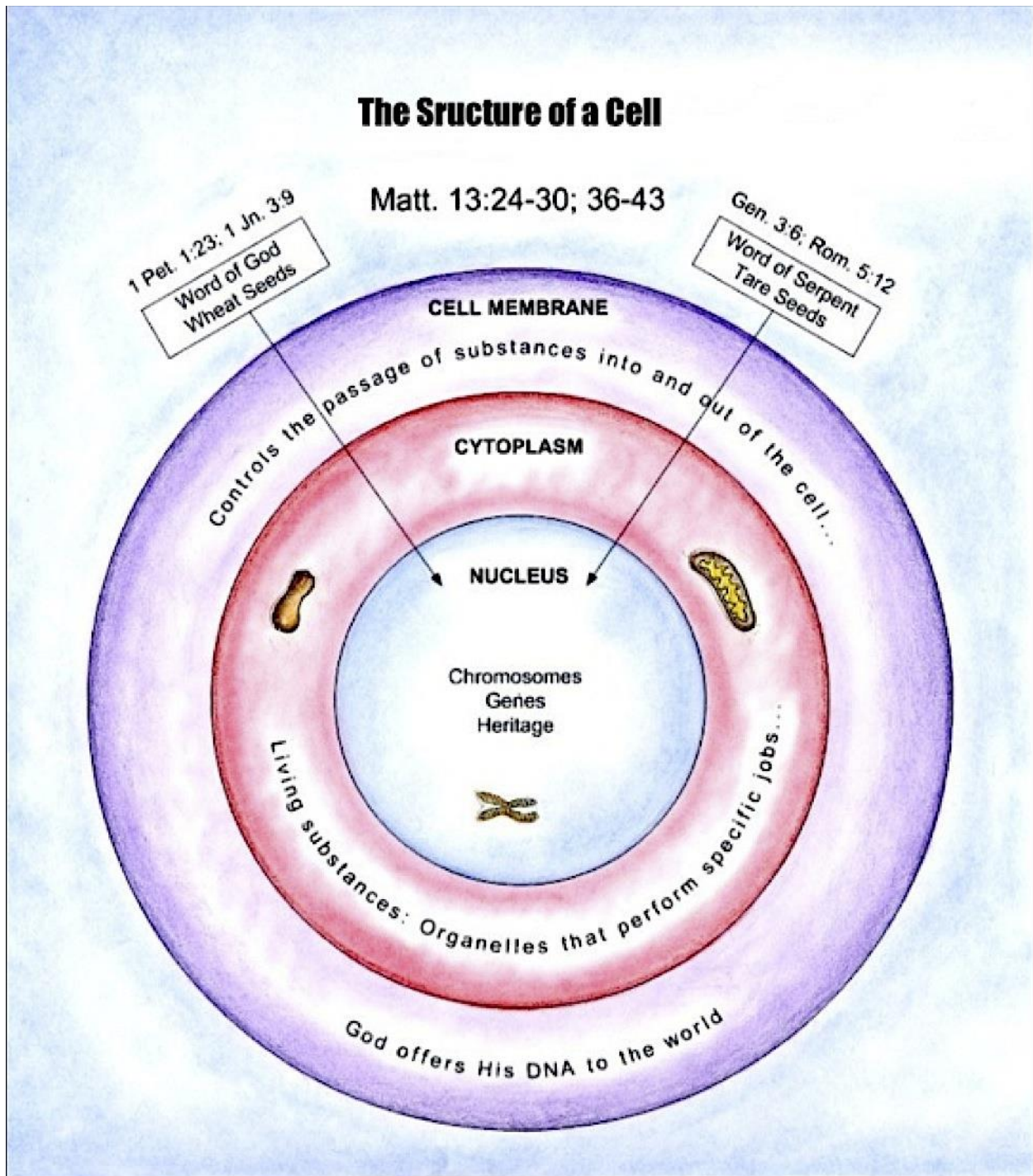
Moses

The world was in chaos with mankind alienated from God. Satan was loose in the earth. His seed was planted in the thoughts of man to carry out his unfruitful works of darkness. The curse affected man's identity with God; spiritually, mentally, emotionally, physically and socially. Mass confusion and helplessness ruled man's heart. The thoughts of Satan were free to bring emotional disorder into the lives of everyone. Man fell victim to the works of the flesh: envy, murder, greed, idolatry and sexual immorality, because of their own fearful, unbelieving heart. Man had lost his crown. Instead of ruling the earth in glory and honor, he ruled from fear and lack. He lost his sense of identity and the ability to reign in righteousness. The garden life of love, peace and joy was nowhere to be found. A sense of wholeness was now missing!

Early civilization suffered from being enslaved to physical cravings, which drove lives deeper into sin. Their conscience could no longer hear the voice of God because of the fall. They were ruled by defiled imaginations of their own heart. Society spiraled downward as *“...the LORD observed the extent of the people's wickedness, and he saw that all their thoughts were consistently and totally evil”* (Genesis 6:5, NLT). God determined to destroy the earth with the flood, and mankind's only hope was to start over with a new identity. God preserved Noah's family, totaling eight people, and a remnant of all living things to repopulate the earth. God established a new covenant with Noah and all mankind (Genesis 9:13-17). After the flood, Noah's sons and daughters became heirs of righteousness, but soon mankind again sought a righteousness separate from God. They said: *“Come let us build ourselves a city, and a tower whose top is in the heavens; let us make a name for ourselves, lest we be scattered abroad over the face of the whole earth”* (Genesis 11:4). The Lord scattered them, not allowing their construction of an independent lifestyle. Do you have a sense of need that cannot be filled by independent means?

The Call

In the garden, man's body was created to be God's spiritual and physical temple. Our fingerprints and DNA are individually unique. We are made up of spirit, soul and body. Our cells are divided into three parts too: nucleus, cytoplasm and cell membrane. Our temple is made up of seventy trillion cells, which are the basic units of structure and function of all living things.



The cell is the basic unit of structure and function of all living things. The cell membrane is the outer covering of the cell that controls the passage of substances into and out of the cell. It separates the cell from its environment. The cytoplasm is the living substance inside the cell. It is all the material inside the cell membrane,

except for the nucleus. The cell cytoplasm contains structures called organelles that perform specific jobs. The nucleus is the part of the cell that controls most the cell activities of the cell. A thin membrane surrounds the nucleus. The nucleic acids and the proteins in the nucleus make up structures called chromosomes. The DNA chromosomes contain hereditary information. This information is passed between parents and offspring. It determines the traits of an organism. Genes control the traits passed from generation to generation. The passing of traits from parents to offspring is known as heredity.

The Psalmist said we are “...*fearfully and wonderfully made*” (139:14). As His temple, we praise Him, saying, “*How precious also are Your thoughts of me, O God! How great is the sum of them! ...Search me, O God, and know my heart...And see if there is any wicked way in me*” (139:17, 23, 24). In our physical bodies, cells remove waste from the body and deliver life giving nutrients, causing a natural healing process. Spiritually, God has called us to be holy, where faith in Jesus removes sin, guilt and condemnation, and brings righteousness, peace and joy, causing a spiritual healing process.

Immediately after the fall, God promised to restore His seed in the earth in order to overcome the seed of the serpent, “*And I will put enmity between you and the woman, And between your seed and her Seed; He shall bruise your head, And you shall bruise His heel*” (Genesis 3:15). The seed of the woman would restore man's identity. This idea: “*seed of the woman,*” is only used in this verse and is believed to indicate a virgin birth. It is the promise of a Messiah who would save mankind. Centuries later, after the flood, the Lord looked for someone whose identity He could change. He revealed Himself to Abraham, who He knew had a faithful heart to receive (Romans 4:16). The Lord said: “*Get out of your country, from your family and from your father's house, to a land that I will show you. I will make you a great nation; I will bless you and make your name great; and you shall be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, and I will curse him who curses you; and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed*” (Genesis 12:1, 2). This word from God was a seed planted into Abraham's heart. It would not return void, but would accomplish what God had promised: “*So shall My word be that goes forth from My mouth; It shall not return to Me void, But it shall accomplish what I please, And it shall prosper in the thing for which I sent it*” (Isaiah 55:11). Abraham's family would become a great nation. His name would become great. Those nations who have blessed Israel have been blessed, but those who have cursed Israel have been cursed. The seed of Abraham is meant to be a blessing of righteousness to the world!

Restoration would come by Abraham leaving his past and walking by faith. The Lord was taking him from all that was familiar. “*He went without knowing where he was going. And even when he reached the land God promised him, he lived there by faith — for he was like a foreigner*” (Hebrews 11:8b, 9a, NLT). God was now holding out his hand to form a new

relationship with Abraham. He was extending his grace and desiring peace. He had never given up on mankind, but had continued to love His creation. He longed for the intimacy He once had with Adam and Eve, walking in the garden, supplying their every need. He longed to carry out His divine plan for His children, but He knew it would take more than changing locations. Abraham's heart would have to change! Perhaps you need to leave the familiar, in search for a new identity through a changed heart?

Abraham was God's man to bring righteousness and holiness back into the world. In Genesis 15, Abraham had a vision from God where He said: *"Look now toward heaven, and count the stars if you are able to number them ... So shall your descendants [seed] be. And he believed in the LORD, and He accounted it to him for righteousness"* (vs. 5, 6, emphasis added). It is faith in God that saves the sinner from sin (John 12:11). Abraham was not saved by his good deeds, but by faith. He was not saved because of righteous living, but by believing in God he was declared righteous. Listen, *"...people are counted as righteous, not because of their works, but because of their faith in God who forgives sinners"* (Romans 4:5, NLT). Abraham did ask the Lord, *"...how shall I know that I will inherit It?"* (Genesis 15:8). The Lord then entered into a blood covenant with Abraham as a sign of His promise of righteousness (Romans 4:11, 12).

The promise of God was about to change Abraham's identity. His reality would change not only physically, but spiritually. The promise of an invisible God would become visible through His seed. But Abraham would have to view himself as God saw him, focusing on and trusting in the promise of God, regardless of circumstances. He was being called to leave behind the bondage of idolatry and the ritualism of his forefathers. He would have to walk solely by faith in God, believing in his heart and not by his own physical limitations. *"Abraham did this because he was confidently looking forward to a city with eternal foundations, a city designed and built of God"* (Hebrews 11:10, NLT). He was looking for the Holy City of God.

Like a Christian's life, Abraham's was a journey that led to life at its best. Abraham's success depended upon his identity in God, who he was by faith and what he had by promise, in order for him to realize what he could do through his God given potential. To face the obstacles ahead, he needed to know who he was in relationship to God. So the Lord introduced Himself personally to Abraham, saying, *"I am God Almighty [El Shaddai, the all Sufficient One], serve me faithfully and live a blameless life. I will make a covenant with you by which I will guarantee to make you into a mighty nation"* (Genesis 17:1, 2, emphasis added, NLT). Abraham needed not only to believe in who he was, but to believe in who God was: The One who could fulfill His promise. This faith was passed on to the seed, the Israelites, the offspring of Abraham: Isaac and Jacob [Israel], who had this faith and *"...were looking for a better place, a heavenly homeland. That is why God is not ashamed to be called their God, for he has prepared a heavenly city for them"* (Hebrews 11:16, NLT). El Shaddai [God Almighty] was there for them to produce a holy nation. Do you realize that the same God is there for you too?

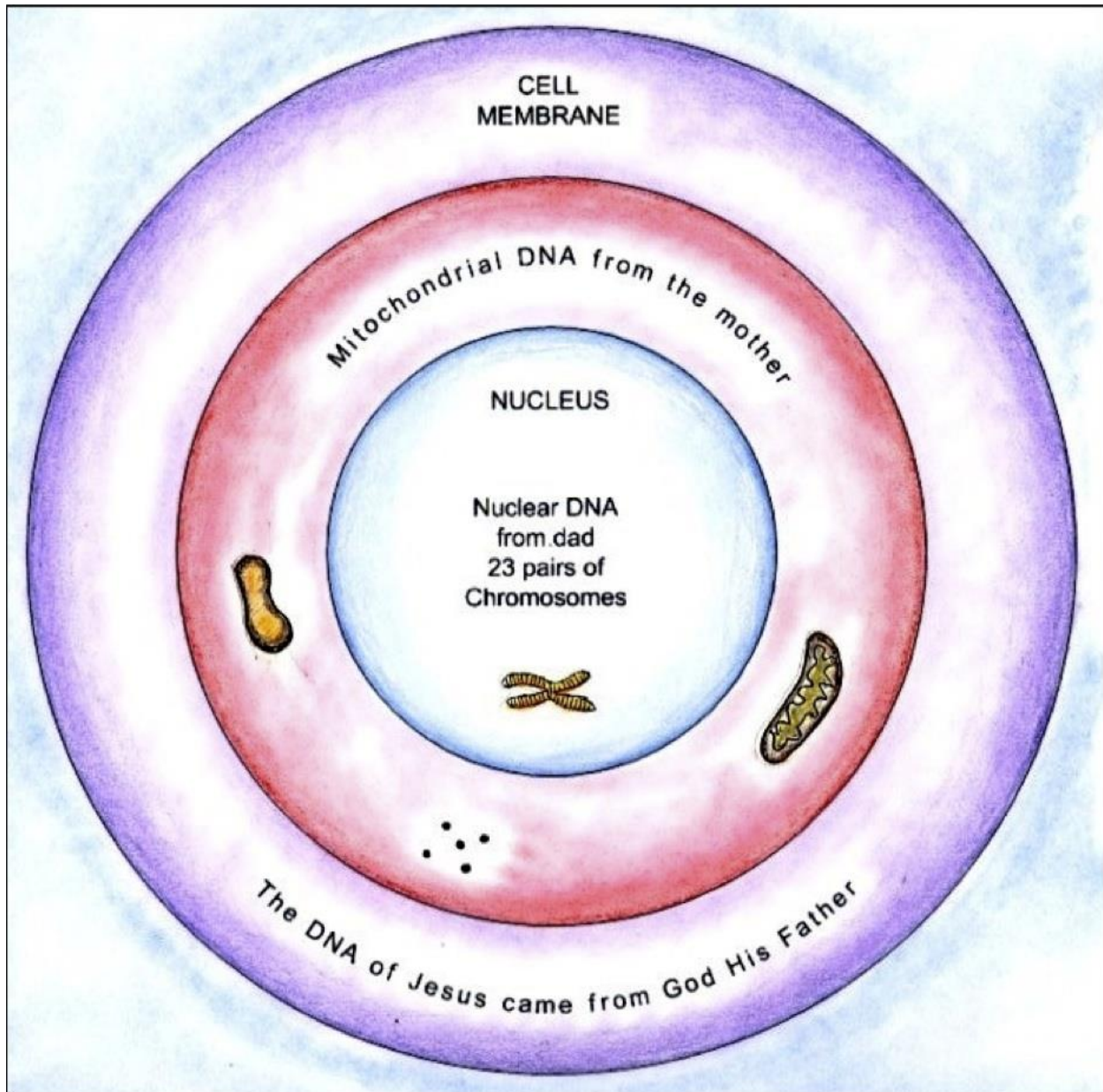
The Purpose

God's purpose was to change the identity of Abraham, and in so doing, He would change the identity of his seed. God gave him a new name that confirmed the covenant promise. God

wanted Abraham to fully realize His plan and future whereby all the nations of the world would be blessed. He changed Abram's name, meaning “exalted father,” to Abraham, meaning “exalted father of many.” Abraham and his family took on a new identity as His chosen people, set apart for a relationship with God. El Shaddai said: “...*I will establish my covenant between Me and you and your descendants [seed] after you in their generations, for an everlasting covenant, to be God to you and your descendants [seed] after you*” (Genesis 17:7, emphasis added). God's plan was to bring man to righteousness through the promised seed. “*Now to Abraham and his Seed were the promises made. He does not say, 'and to seeds,' as of many, but as of one, 'And to your Seed,' who is Christ*” (Galatians 3:16).

The seed of the woman, Jesus, would come as promised and crush the serpent's head. Luke records: “*God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a village in Galilee, to a virgin named Mary...and said 'Greetings, favored woman! The Lord is with you!...God has decided to bless you! You will become pregnant and have a son, and you are to name him Jesus [Yeshua; meaning: our Lord Who Saves]...The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you ... he will be called the Son of God'*” (1:26-35, emphasis added, NLT). Mary responded in faith, saying, “*Nothing is impossible with God*” (1:37, NLT). She was the daughter of Heli of the genealogy of Abraham (3:23-38). She was the physical seed of both Adam and Abraham, and gave birth to the promised Messiah, directly from heaven.

We cannot know the biological process that brought about the conception of Jesus. We do know that the chromosomes supplied by the father are those that produce certain characteristics of a person's identity. For example, the seed of a father determine the sex of the baby. It also is responsible for the production of blood in the new life. Blood types of a child are determined by its father.



The Sources of DNA

Most DNA is nuclear in the center of the cells. DNA from dad gives their sons a Y chromosome, only found in man. Of the 23 pairs of chromosomes, Y is the most stable, having no genes from mom. Other chromosomes swap DNA regularly, but the Y is passed entirely intact from father to son like a sealed time capsule. Because of this, it's a window in male heredity — when you look at a man's Y chromosome, you're also looking at the Y chromosome of his father, his father's

father and so on through thousands of generations. The DNA in the cells's mitochondria is exclusively from the mother — the female ancestral equivalent of the Y chromosome. Every person, male or female, inherit mitochondrial DNA from his or her mother through cellular organelles called mitochondrial, which produces energy for cell functioning. It's a packet of DNA that, like the Y chromosome, remains essentially intact.

Jesus was the son of man through Mary. He was a descendant of Adam and a direct descendant of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. He was also a direct descendant of David. He was completely human. Jesus was also the Son of God. The righteous Seed of God would restore the identity Adam had lost in the garden. The blood of God, the Father, would provide the seed of righteousness that no other blood could provide. The blood of Jesus would pay the price to restore mankind back into right standing with God for eternity. The Apostle John recorded: *“But as many as receive Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name: Who were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God”* (John 1:12,13).

Mary believed in God's greater purpose for her life. She replied to God saying, *“Behold the maidservant of the Lord! Let it be to me according to your word”* (Luke 1:38). In contrast, Abraham and his wife laughed when promised the seed in their old age, but Mary immediately received God's Word. John recorded: *“And the Word became flesh and dwelt [tabernacled] among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace [ability] and truth”* (John 1:14, emphasis added). Have you received the promised Seed by faith, so you will be *“...able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power of God that works in us”* (Ephesians 3:20)?

There are no limits on what God can do. We can expect God to do what He has promised to do. Paul reminds us, *“If we are unfaithful, he remains faithful, for he cannot deny himself”* (2 Timothy 2:13 NLT), and *“...it is impossible for God to lie”* (Hebrews 6:18 NLT). We may question God at times, just as Abraham did, but we can trust that all things are possible with God. El Shaddai asked Abraham: *“Is anything too hard for the Lord?”* (Genesis 18:14, NLT). We can trust God to bring us through the challenges that lay before us in life.

The Challenge

The challenge is always to either walk in the ability of the flesh, relying in the external things, or to simply walk by faith in God's grace, relying on the internal Spirit of God's ability. Abraham and Sarah were continually being challenged in their conscience to believe in the voice of God or in their own fleshy voice. They waited ten years for the promised seed, and they thought that was too long. They became impatient, so Sarah told Abraham: *“Go and sleep with my servant. Perhaps I can have children through her”* (Genesis 16:2). As a result, her servant

Hagar gave birth to Ishmael, who became the father of a fleshy nation, that has been a thorn in Israel's side to this day.

The flesh will always challenge us. Sarah's thoughts produced a worldly seed that brought forth the works of the flesh. She failed to believe the promise that made it possible for her to bring forth the promised seed. Sarah was promised a child, but El Shaddai would have to change her identity too. Her name was changed from Sarai to Sarah. "Sarai" comes from the Hebrew verb, "sarah", meaning "to persist," "to exert oneself," or "to persevere." It could also be translated "to contend." As "Sarai" changes from one who was a contender for the place of prominence in the family, to the one who receives God's promise — her name is changed to Sarah; meaning "princess" [from the Hebrew word "*sarar*" meaning "to rule"]. God said to Abraham: "...I will I bless her and give you a son from her! Yes, I will bless her richly, and she will become the mother of many nations. Kings will become among her descendants!" (Genesis 17:16, NLT). Sarah gave birth to Isaac, who by faith blessed his son Jacob, the father of the twelve tribes. Jesus is the descendant [righteous seed] of the tribe of Judah, who is one of the twelve sons of Jacob [Israel] (Genesis 49:8-12). Jesus is the Lion of the tribe of Judah (Revelation 5:5).

The Lord challenged Abraham to take his only son Isaac to the vicinity of Mt. Moriah to be sacrificed on a mountain there, as a test of faith: "*Abraham assumed that if Isaac died. God was able to bring him back to life again*" (Hebrews 11:19a, NLT). He was showing Abraham that it was more than an external sacrifice, that provision comes by faith in Him. Abraham had his knife raised in the air when the Lord stopped him. The Lord then provided a ram to take Isaac's place for the sacrifice (Genesis, chapter 22). The Lord became their Provider, "Jehovah-Jireh." In like manner, Jesus became our Provider by taking our place as the sacrifice for sin. Provision comes forth as we plant a seed of faith, not by our good works. A seed of faith is planted when we come to know God's love and who we are as a result of faith in Him. Our destiny comes forth as we realize our identity of righteousness by faith in the cross of Christ.

Scriptures record that in the early church years some of the Jews were challenging the Gentile converts. These Jews taught that faith in Jesus Christ was not enough for salvation, but that one needed to add to it fleshly works. They taught it was necessary to follow the Law of Moses and to be circumcised. Their cry seemed to be "Let's get physical!" In Acts 15, an argument arose when Peter asked: "...*why do you test God by putting a yoke on the neck of the disciples which neither our fathers nor we were able to bear?*" (15:10). In Paul's letter to the Philippians, he warned: "*Watch out for those dogs, those wicked men and their evil deeds, those mutilators who say you must be circumcised to be saved*" (3:2, NLT). Paul went on to say: "*I no longer count on my own goodness or my ability to obey God's law, but I trust Christ to save me, for God's way of making us right with himself depends on faith*" (3:9, NLT). This works mentality is still prevalent in the church today.

Circumcision is not required in churches today, but still the cry is "Let's get physical!" The message of faith righteousness is missing and instead salvation through works is preached. There are denominations that insist on being baptized or taking the Lord's Supper in a certain way to gain God's approval. These ordinances can be good when put in the right perspective, but they do

not produce salvation. People are made to feel incomplete unless they trust in certain good works. *“Salvation is not a reward for the good things we have done, so none of us can boast about it”* (Ephesians 2:9, NLT). It should be noted that baptism and celebrating the Lord's Supper is an outward expression of an inward belief and do testify of our faith in Christ. These times of celebration can result in a marvelous anointing because of the physical aspects of fellowship with God, which can help create a greater reality.

Religion is man's attempt to please God outside of Christ. It places a person in slavery to different laws or rules of conduct to gain salvation. We see Muslims, Hindus, Buddhists and some Catholics on pilgrimages practicing asceticism to gain God's acceptance. Some religions practice self denial by beating themselves with whips until their backs are raw. Others crawl on their knees for miles to gain God's acceptance through physical penance for their sins. We see extreme Pentecostals handling snakes and drinking poison. These external actions do not make a man accepted by God. Feelings of guilt and condemnation can only be truly dealt with through the righteousness of God that comes only through Christ. He is the way, the truth and the life (John 14:6). The Holy Spirit does not dwell in those who have forsaken the tree of life. Religious works may cause the conscience to feel good, but do nothing to add to our righteousness. What do you believe qualifies you to go to heaven?

As Christians, our belief in the finished work of the cross of Jesus Christ brings forth Christ's righteousness. We are free from the slavery of religion. Christianity works from the inside out, where the seed of righteousness is free to manifest the fruit of the Holy Spirit. God chose us to manifest His Son, *“For God knew his people in advance, and he chose them to become like his Son, so that his Son would be the firstborn, with many brothers and sisters”* (Romans 8:29, NLT). It is God's call and purpose for each of us to become like His Son. We have the Seed of God, a treasure in our temples to change us from the inside out by grace through faith. We are promised to do greater works as the body of Christ, but these works will only be done as He is manifest in our mortal bodies, *“...always carrying about in the body the dying of the Lord Jesus, that the life of Jesus also may be manifested in our body. For we who live are always delivered to death for Jesus' sake, that the life of Jesus also may be manifested in our mortal flesh”* (2 Corinthians 4:10, 11). Won't you place your faith in God's promised Seed, to bring forth blessings to your life and to the lives of others?

Who Are We?

The Lord dwells in a temple made without hands. The heavens are full of His glory. He came to earth to dwell with his children: Adam, Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Moses, Joshua, David and Jesus. He dwells now in us who believe. We are the temples of God. *“Don't you realize that all of you together are the temple of God and that the Spirit of God lives in you? ...For God's temple is holy, and you Christians are that temple”* (1 Corinthians 3:16, 17, NLT).

The Seed of Abraham, Jesus Christ, came to destroy the works of the devil (1 John 3:8). He did this through His blood on the cross. We are bought with a price: *“...You do not belong to yourself, for God bought you with a high price. So you must honor God with our body”* (1 Corinthians 6:19, 20, NLT).

God's view of things tells us that we are individuals with a new identity and a new name. We are to see things as He sees things from His heavenly perspective. Jesus says, “...I will give him a white stone, and on the stone a new name written which no one knows except him who receives it” (Revelation 2:17c). Won't you receive Him today?

The Lord has called us out of a familiar land, to His promised land. We are called to be holy: “...who [God] has saved us and called us with a holy calling, not according to our works, but according to His own purpose and grace which was given to us in Christ Jesus before time began” (2 Timothy 1:9, emphasis added).

As Christians, God came to us and offered the gift of His righteousness. We have received Christ, but those who practice religion are still trying to reach God by their own good works. Their ticket to heaven has been paid for, but they still insist on trying to pay the price themselves. We are Christians “...not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His Mercy He saved us, through the washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Spirit” (Titus 3:5). It is an act of humility to admit you cannot gain through your works, what God has given through His own works (Ephesians 2:10).

Like Abraham, God may be calling you to leave a familiar religious place and go to the land of His promise. He may be telling you to leave the bondage of idolatry and ritualism, which you are comfortable with, and to move to an abundant life of faith. God has provided the way, you need to have faith in that way [Jesus Christ].

“Thomas said to Him, “Lord, we do not know where You are going, and how can we know the way?” Jesus said to him, “I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me”
(John 14:5, 6).

The Lord has called us to a purposeful life. His purpose is for us “...to be conformed to the image of His Son” (Romans 8:29). The Apostle Paul shared that there is another underlying purpose of our new life in Christ. He wrote: “God's purpose was to show his wisdom in all its rich variety to all the [demonic] rulers and authorities in the heavenly realm...this is his plan from all eternity, and it has now been carried out through Christ Jesus our Lord” (Ephesians 3:11, 12, emphasis added, NLT). The Lord did it all to bring Satan to his knees. He is now under our feet (Romans 16:20; cf. Luke 10:19; Ephesians 1:22).

Indeed, we are the Seed of Abraham, blessed with the righteous Seed of God: “...And if you are Christ's, then you are Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise” (Galatians 3:29). We are members of the supernatural family of God.

It's Just Natural

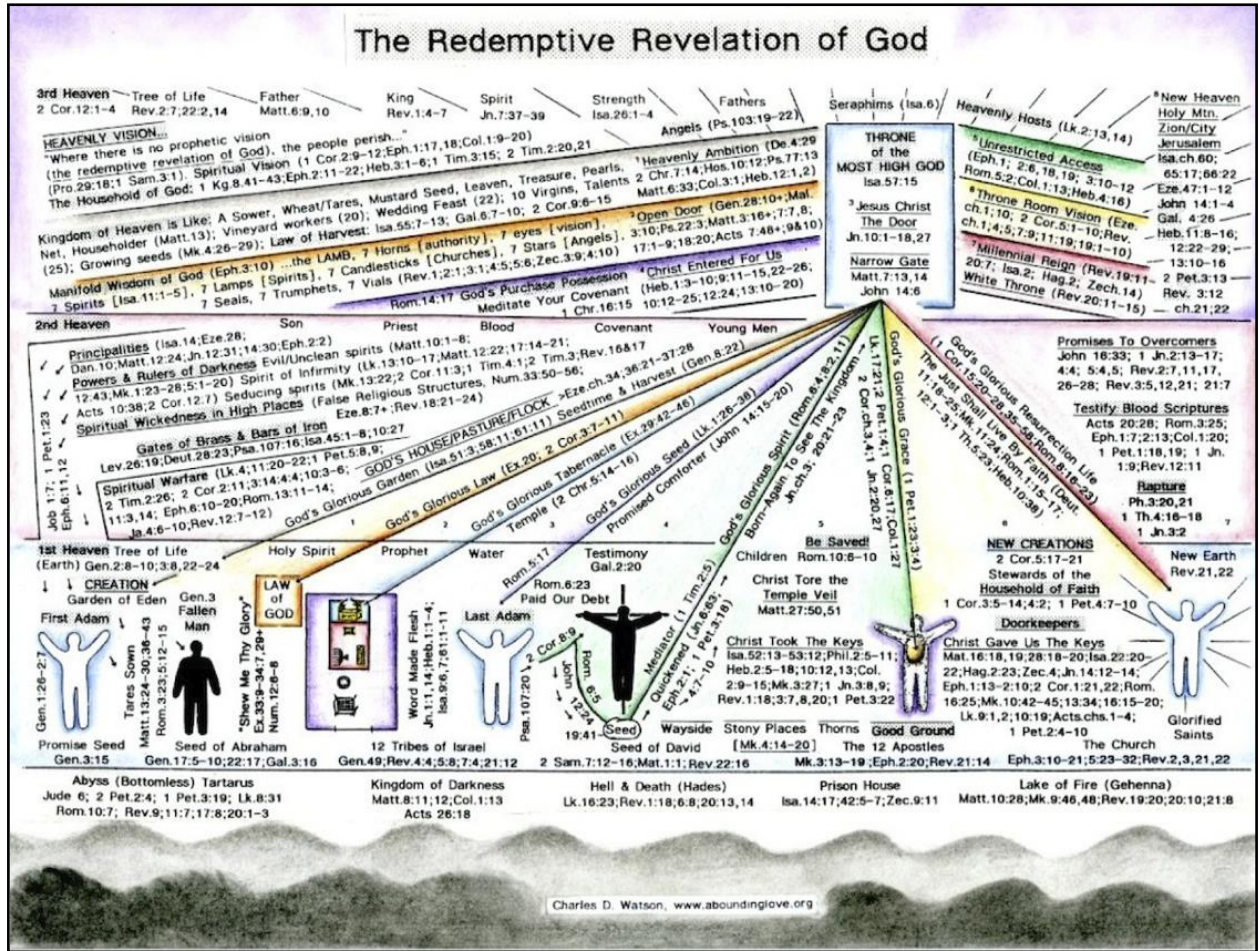
“But the natural man does not receive the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; nor can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned.”

The Apostle Paul

The children of Israel had two paths before them just like Adam and Eve did. The path of promise, expectation and provision or a path of confusion, despair and lack. One is the way of faith, love and life, and the other is the way of unbelief, fear and death. One is the supernatural way and the other is the way of the natural. The primary path being the higher road of life that takes us into the heavenly realm. Two paths are before us. What path are you on today?

The Lord has an awesome plan for our lives, unobtainable by walking in the natural realm. By having our identity in union with the death, burial and resurrection of Christ, we have the ability to move into the supernatural realm. The Apostle Paul explained this fact to the Colossians, *“For in Christ the fullness of God lives in a human body, and you are complete through your union with Christ. He is the Lord over every ruler and authority in the universe”* (2:9, 10, NLT).

The unbeliever or natural man fails to receive the heritage that is available in Christ through faith. As believers, we see ourselves cleansed of sin, free of the sense of inferiority, guilt, and condemnation, and made righteous by the blood of Jesus. We see our old natural man dead with Christ. We are risen and seated with Him above all the power of the demonic realm as new creations. We realize our complete heritage in Christ, causing us to no longer be under the bondage of sin.



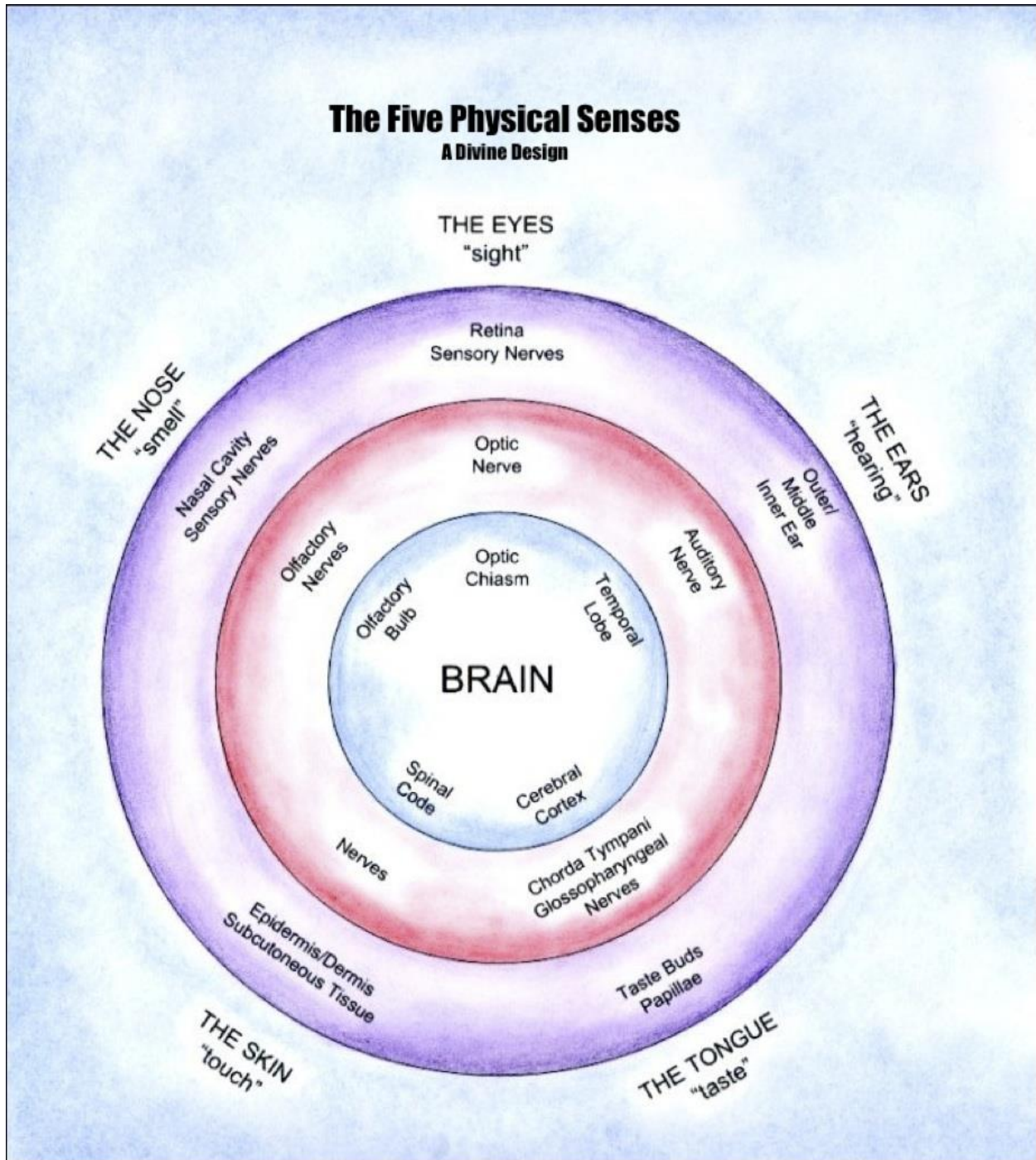
The Bondage of Natural Man

In the New Testament, the Israelites are portrayed as walking in the natural way, even though their father Abraham was a mighty man of faith, "...who, contrary to hope, in hope believed, so that he became the father of many nations, according to what was spoken, 'So shall your descendants [e] be'" (Romans 4:18, emphasis added). The Lord made His promise of righteousness available to His children, but a continuous cycle of sin eventually brought them into bondage. In Acts, chapter 7, the martyr Stephen gave the history of the Israelites from Abraham, calling the patriarchs sinners (v. 9). He ended his testimony to the Jews saying, "You stiff-necked and uncircumcised in heart and ears! You always resist the Holy Spirit; as your fathers did, so do you" (v. 51). They were Abraham's seed, who felt they had no need for Jesus: "They answered Him, "We are Abraham's descendants, and have never been in bondage to anyone. How can you say, 'You will be made free'?" (John 8:33). Their hearts were hardened because their fleshly nature had not been circumcised by the Spirit, "...but he is a Jew who is one inwardly; and circumcision is that of the heart, in the Spirit, not in the letter; whose praise is not from men but from God" (Romans 2:29). They found their security in Abraham, not in Jesus who could regenerate their heart by the work of the Holy Spirit. They were trying to please God apart from the finished work of Christ. They believed in their own self-righteousness.

An inherent nature of sin rules the heart of the natural man. His sin and unbelief leaves him vulnerable to evil thoughts, emotional disorder and uncontrollable actions. The Apostle Paul said they “...suppress the truth in unrighteousness...are without excuse...became futile in their thoughts, and their foolish hearts were darkened...changed the glory of the incorruptible God into an image made like corruptible man ... exchanged the truth of God for a lie...served the creature rather than the Creator...exchanged the natural use for what is against nature...leaving the natural use of the woman, burned in their lust for one another, men with men committing what is shameful...” (Romans 1:18-27). He went on to indicate that people who do “not like to retain God in their knowledge” become “haters of God” and are “unmerciful” towards others (Romans 1:28, 30, 31).

These sinful thoughts and actions of man's fleshly heart has infected all generations since the fall. The debased mind has produced “...sexual immorality, wickedness, covetousness, maliciousness...envy, murder, strife, deceit, evil-mindedness backbiters, haters of God, violent, proud, boasters, inventors of evil things, disobedient to parents, undiscerning, untrustworthy, unloving, unforgiving, unmerciful...those who practice such things are deserving of death, [they] not only do the same but also approve of those who practice them” (Romans 1:28-32, emphasis added). These actions are free to rule the heart of natural man because he falls short of God's glory, refusing to live God's way: “They have all turned aside; They have together become unprofitable; There is none who does good, no, not one...for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God” (Romans 3:12, 23). Jesus explained to His disciples, “For out of the heart proceed evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, fornication, thefts, false witness, blasphemies” (Matthew 15:19). Do you need to return to the glory and honor of God where He intended you to live?

The natural man is open prey to the world, the flesh and the devil. He does not have the Spirit of God to empower his life: “Now thanks be to God who always leads us in triumph in Christ, and through us diffuses the fragrance of His knowledge in every place” (2 Corinthians 2:14). He is driven by his senses [sight, hearing, touch, taste and smell] or sense of need, which causes him to be controlled by what looks good, sounds good, feels good, tastes good and smells good, instead of by faith in God.



The brain and spinal cord get messages from the sense organs. Neurons are nerve cells that carry messages throughout the body. Special cells in the sense organs detect energy. The energy can be light [sight], heat [touch], sound [hearing], chemical [taste and smell], or even pressure [touch]. The sense organs and nervous system work together to help the body respond to the natural world. When

the cells sense energy, they send an impulse through neurons. Certain kinds of impulses require quick responses. These impulses travel to the spinal cord. The spinal cord sends another impulse back to the neurons in the body part that needs to respond. At the same time, a slower impulse travels to the brain.

But even the natural man, by nature, may do the things contained in the law, “...for when Gentiles, who do not have the law, by nature do the things in the law, these, although not having the law, are a law to themselves” (Romans 2:14). However, he does not have the love of God: “If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is of the world--the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eye, and the pride of life — is not of the Father but is of the world” (1 John 2:15b, 16). The natural man walks in the flesh trying to please God by good works or by keeping the law to find acceptance, only to become filled with guilt, shame and condemnation. Paul knew: “The strength of sin is the law” (1 Corinthians 15:56). The more we try to be saved by our good deeds, the more sin rules our lives. Our dependence on “doing good” hinders God's Spirit of grace from working in our lives. Paul said: “I do not set aside [frustrate] the grace of God; for if righteousness comes through the law, then Christ died in vain” (Galatians 2:21, emphasis added).

A sense of spiritual identity in God is missing in the natural man. He reflects the natural world around him. He does not have a life based on a covenant relationship with God. He has a promise of righteousness from God, but he does not believe and experience it. His identity is molded by the world system. He does not identify with Christ. He believes a lie. At best, religion has bound him to legalism and ritualism causing a false hope. He has a spiritual problem, believing in man's wisdom instead of God's. He is a slave to worldly passion and its wisdom. The authority that His Creator intends him to walk in is missing in his life. He has accepted defeat, emptiness, loneliness and fear as a way of life. He is dependent on himself and others instead of God. He makes accusations against God, blaming Him and walking in uncertainty. He experiences lack in all areas of his life because of his own rebellious heart. His eyes are blinded to the provisions that God has supplied for him. His life seems to be falling apart with a strong sense of discouragement. He is consumed with sin and morally depraved: “For the sinful nature is always hostile to God, it never did obey God's law, and it never will. That is why those who are still under the control of their sinful nature can never please God” (Romans 8:7, 8). Sadly, the natural man often achieves success according to a worldly standard, that blinds him to the truth of his spiritual depravity.

The god of the natural man from the Garden of Eden, to the Tower of Babylon, to this present age has been idolatry. Idolatry is the worship of something created as opposed to the worship of the Creator. The world, the flesh and Satan place temptations before us. Satan became the father of idolatry from the moment God threw him out of heaven. He now holds the natural man in captivity because of his ignorance of God's covenant promise. Mankind allows demonic forces to control their lives. Satan cannot be everywhere, so his demons work to possess and influence. It is hard for us to identify with the gods of the Egyptians, Babylonians, Media-

Persians, Greeks and Romans, but the same spirit is behind present day idols. The goddess of sexual lust, which was so prevalent in early civilization, has overrun the Internet and television. Commercial advertising creates thoughts and needs that produce a covetous heart at every turn. It is so easy to become enslaved to the natural realm. We must be constantly on guard that we let nothing come between us and God. Idolatry is a deceitful sin. The justification of the natural man for his sin is found in popular sayings, such as: "It's a natural thing" or "If it feels good, do it!" or "God has to approve or else he would not have made alcohol [or marijuana or sexual desires, or any other object of lust]." Perhaps the desire for possessions, houses, cars, reputation or fame has a hold on you? Do you wish to be set free from the hold this world has on you?

Deliverance Through The Covenant

In Exodus, the children of Israel were in bondage to the Pharaoh of Egypt. The Egyptians believed Pharaoh to be a god. He was the way to relate to the other gods of the universe. The children of Israel were enslaved to the god of the natural world, and the Lord called Moses to deliver them. God sent ten plagues, each representing the destruction of one of Egypt's many gods, to convince Pharaoh to let them go. Pharaoh's heart was hardened, so the tenth plague was to destroy all the firstborn in the land, "*...and all the firstborn in the land of Egypt shall die, from the firstborn of Pharaoh who sits on his throne, even to the firstborn of the female servant who is behind the handmill, and all the firstborn of the animals*" (Exodus 11:5). In Exodus, chapter 12, God presented a plan to save all the firstborn of Israel. Each household was to take a lamb, without blemish (vs. 1-11), and strike the blood on the top and sides of the door (vs. 7, 22). They did not realize it, but this was the sign of the cross of Christ. By doing this act of faith, the destroyer would pass over their houses (v. 23). As a result, Egypt's firstborn were destroyed (vs. 29, 30) and God's children were kept safe. Pharaoh let the children of Israel go (vs. 31-36). In like manner, as we place the blood of Christ over our lives by faith, the destroyer has no place in our lives, because Jesus came to deliver us from this present evil world, "*...who gave Himself for our sins, that He might deliver us from this present evil age, according to the will of our God and Father*" (Galatians 1:4).

The Lord always comes down to the level of His people for the purpose of changing their identity. He does this by making a promise, a covenant relationship. Covenants are always everlasting and memorialized by a visible sign. In the Old Testament, He promised the birth of the Messiah to Adam, then He covered Adam and Eve with the first sacrificial offering (Genesis 3:15, 21). To Noah, He promised to withhold future judgment so salvation could occur. The sign was a rainbow (Genesis 9:11, 13). To Abraham, He promised to bless his seed (Genesis 12:1, 2; 15:18), giving the sign of circumcision, a seal of righteousness (Genesis 17:1-14; Romans 4:8-13). To Moses, He established the sacrificial offerings to cover the sin of His people, the sign was the Sabbath (Exodus, chapters 19-31). Finally, to David and his descendants, He promised to establish them as heirs to the throne of Israel (2 Samuel 7:12-15). A thousand years later, Jesus, the Messiah, the King of Israel, would be born in Bethlehem, a descendant of the line of David (Luke 1:29-33). The Lord Himself would come to identify with His people, in order to regenerate them with His identity of righteousness. He would make a new covenant based on His

death, burial and resurrection. He sits upon David's throne forever (Amos 9:11-15; cf. Acts 15:13-18).

The new covenant would accomplish with God's people what the old covenant never could. The promise of righteousness was spoken through the Prophet Jeremiah: *“Behold, the days are coming, says the LORD, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah — not according to the covenant that I made with their fathers in the day that I took them by the hand to lead them out of the land of Egypt, my covenant which they broke, though I was a husband to them, says the LORD, but this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the LORD: I will put My law in their minds, and write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be My people. No more shall every man teach his neighbor, and every man his brother, saying, ‘Know the LORD,’ for they all shall know Me, from the least of them to the greatest of them, says the LORD, for I will forgive their iniquity, and their sin I will remember no more”* (31:31-34). God's law, written on our hearts, brings forth a new relationship, a new knowledge of Him and a new forgiveness, where He would not only cover sin, but remember it no more.

All of God's covenants with His people were ratified by a blood sacrifice. The writer of Hebrews said: *“...without the shedding of blood there is no remission”* (9:22b). The animals sacrifices of old could not remove sin or cleanse the conscience (10:2, 22). *“Just think how much more the blood of Christ will purify our consciences from sinful deeds so we can worship the living God. For by the power of the eternal Spirit, Christ offered Himself to God as a perfect sacrifice for our sins”* (9:14, NLT). Jesus is *“...the Mediator of the new covenant”* (9:15; 12:24). This covenant is a *“...better covenant...established on better promises”* (8:6). The old covenant became *“obsolete”* (8:13) by the *“...new covenant in [Jesus] blood”* (Luke 22:20, emphasis added; cf. 1 Corinthians 11:25). Jesus Christ was *“...the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world”* (Revelation 13:8). The Apostle Peter said: *“...you were not redeemed with corruptible things, like silver and gold, from your aimless conduct received by tradition from your fathers, but with the precious blood of Christ, as a lamb without blemish and without spot”* (1 Peter 1:18, 19).

The Apostle Paul calls these the *“covenants of promise”* (Ephesians 2:12). God's willingness to use His power on our behalf though the finished work of the cross is one covenant of grace. We are made righteous [right with God] by faith in God's grace, absent our natural effort to keep the law: *“For the promise that he would be the heir of the world was not to Abraham or to his seed through the law, but through the righteousness of faith... (as it is written, ‘I have made you a father of many nations’) in the presence of Him whom he believed — God, who gives life to the dead and calls those things which do not exist as though they did”* (Romans 4:13, 17). The blood sacrifice of Christ ratified the new covenant of righteousness, sealed by the Holy Spirit: *“In Him you also trusted, after you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation; in whom also, having believed, you were sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise”* (Ephesians 1:13). He came to change our identity by giving us eternal life through communion with Him. The writer of Hebrews said: *“...for this reason He is the Mediator of the new covenant, by means of death, for*

the redemption of the transgressions under the first covenant, that those who are called may receive the promise of eternal inheritance” (9:15).

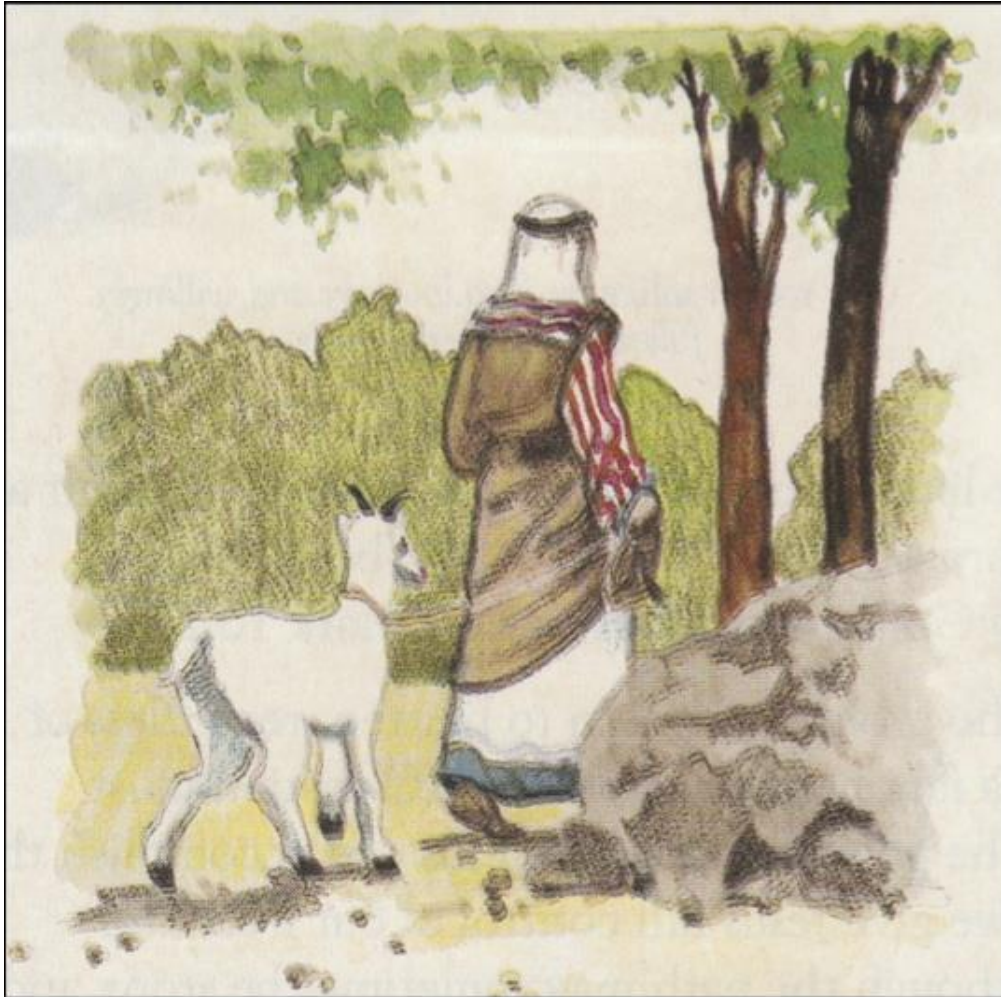
The believer's covenant identity is a very important truth in the Bible. We base our faith on the revelation of God's covenant promise. The knowledge of His covenant promise of righteousness to us, causes absolute truth to reign in our hearts. The truth sets us free from the natural and takes us into the supernatural. Have you accepted your covenant promise from God through faith?

The Presence of God

Man's identity had to be changed because natural sinful man could not come into the presence of the Holy God of Israel. God is separated and exalted above all other things: *“In the year that King Uzziah died, I saw the Lord sitting on a throne, high and lifted up, and the train of His robe filled the temple. Above it stood seraphim; each one had six wings: with two he covered his face, with two he covered his feet, and with two he flew. And one cried to another and said: “Holy, holy, holy is the LORD of hosts; The whole earth is full of His glory!” (Isaiah 6:1-3).* He has demanded us to be holy as He is holy (Leviticus 19:2; 1 Peter 1:16). Thank God, we receive the gift of righteousness and holiness by faith in His Son Jesus Christ. The Apostle Paul said: *“...you put on the new man which was created according to God, in true righteousness and holiness” (Ephesians 4:24).*

In the Old Testament, the people could only come into the presence of God's holiness with blood (Exodus, chapters 25-30). The best they could do was to offer a sacrifice at the tabernacle covering their sin. The priest would sprinkle blood upon himself for cleansing, and then enter into the Holy Place of the tabernacle for service and to hear from God. He would then go out to bless the people awaiting him. Once a year, on the Day of Atonement, he would enter behind the veil [curtain] into the Most Holy Place into the presence of God to sprinkle blood upon the mercy seat to cover the sins of the people.

The sprinkled blood (representing Jesus' sacrifice) was accepted by God, and the confessed sins of the people were transferred from the sanctuary to the high priest. He then transferred these confessed sins to the scapegoat, which was led into the wilderness, to the east of the Temple, as the sacrifice for the sins of the nation (Leviticus 16:16, 20-22). In this manner, the sanctuary was cleansed of the sins of the people, which had been transferred there by the blood sprinkled before the veil and had been accumulating for a year.

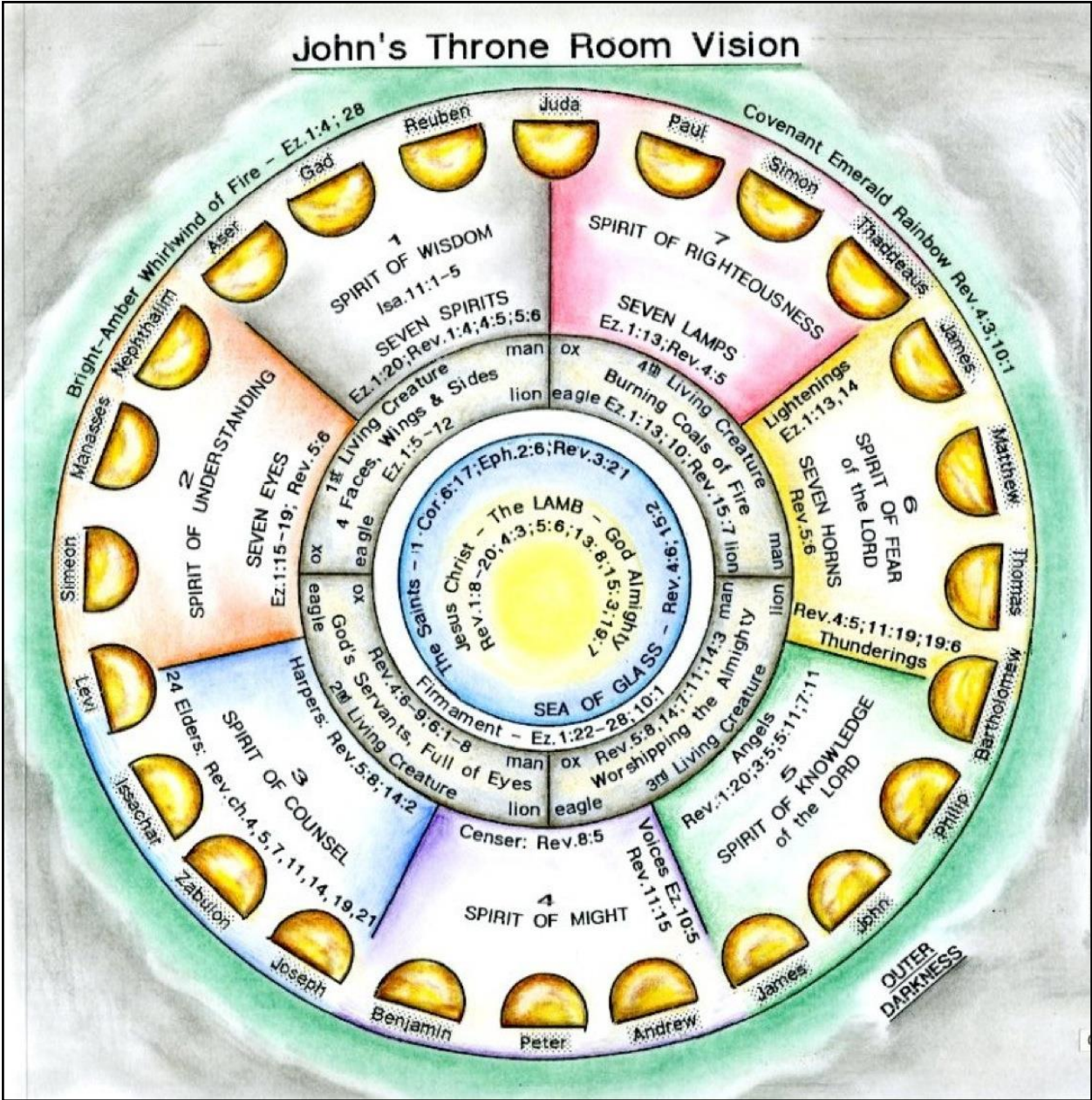


The Lord has always made a way for us to be cleansed and to come into His presence. He knew we needed His supernatural anointing to destroy the bondage of the natural man. Since the day of Pentecost, the Holy Spirit has lived in the believer, causing us to be “... *joined to the Lord in one spirit with Him*” (1 Corinthians 6:17). The offerings of the tabernacle could not join God's children to the presence of God in heaven: “...*the Holy Spirit indicating this, that the way into the Holiest of All was not yet made manifest while the first tabernacle was still standing*” (Hebrews 9:8). The tabernacle on earth was just a pattern of the true heavenly tabernacle (Hebrews 8:2, 9:23). Only Christ, as the great High Priest, could take us into the presence of God: “*For Christ has not entered the holy places made with hands, which are copies of the true, but into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God for us*” (Hebrews 9:24). He opened the high way of holiness to the whole world (Isaiah 35:8-10). He changed our identity through His blood, becoming sin for us, and through His power, He raised us up together with Him into the very presence of God. Do you desire to live in God's heavenly presence? The Apostle Paul wrote:

“But God, who is rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, even when we were dead in trespasses, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved), and raised us up together, and made us sit together

in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, that in the ages to come He might show the exceeding riches of His grace in His kindness toward us in Christ Jesus”
(Ephesians 2:4–7).

From our seat in heaven, we have overcome the devil by faith in the blood of Jesus Christ, so rejoice! We have come into the presence of God, so God’s will can be done on earth as it is in heaven (Matthew 6:10). The Revelation of Jesus Christ reveals to us a limited view of what the heavenly throne room is like in Revelation, chapters 4, 5. As spiritual men and women, “...we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, that we might know the things that have been freely given to us by God. These things we also speak, not in words which man’s wisdom teaches but which the Holy Spirit teaches, comparing spiritual things with spiritual” (1 Corinthians 2:12, 13).



John's Throne Room Vision

This is a limited, indistinct description of the glory of God as described in the apostle John's throne room vision (Revelation, chapter 4). As saints, we are seated in heaven, spiritually with the Lamb. As the Bride of Christ, we reflect God's glory like a sea of glass. There are four living creatures with four faces representing the four Gospels — God's plan for the redemption of all creation, delivered by the

saints. The Gospel is moved in all directions by the saints working through the power of the Holy Spirit.

If you place your fingers around the throne center and stretch it upwards, leaving the outer rim in place, the wheel becomes a cone; broad at the bottom and narrow at the top. Envision a lighthouse reaching from heaven to earth, with the top radiating the omnipresence of God's fulness interacting with men. At the base, the emerald rainbow of life turns into a bright amber whirlwind of God's judgment for those outside the rainbow. They are the ones cast into outer darkness, because they did not reflect the Gospel message given by the twenty-four elders. God is the light of life and there is no darkness in Him at all. We are to bring the light, as John the Baptist did (John 1:6-9).

Later in the book Revelation, John heard: *"...a loud voice shouting across the heavens, 'It has happened at last--the salvation and power and kingdom of our God, and the authority of his Christ! For the Accuser [Satan] has been thrown down to earth — the one who accused our brothers and sisters before our God day and night. And they have overcome him [the devil] because of the blood of the Lamb and because of their testimony. And they were not afraid to die. Rejoice, O heavens! And you who live in the heavens, rejoice!'"* (12:10-12a, emphasis added, NLT). Lift your voices in testimony of what the blood of Jesus Christ means to you, rejoice! As a result, you can more fully experience the presence of God.

Like Abraham, God is calling us to leave what is familiar in the natural realm and to move into the promised land of the supernatural. This is a walk of faith, taking our eyes off what we can see and putting our eyes on the unseen. The Psalmist David said: *"I would have lost heart, unless I had believed to see the goodness of the LORD in the land of the living"* (27:13). Life may look bleak for you at this point, but the Lord is calling you to a better life. It is never too late for God to carry you through your present troubles. The Lord is reaching out His hand to you with a covenant promise. He has already given you His best when He gave His only begotten Son on the cross for your sins. Won't you receive His righteousness today?

Who Are We?

We are the people of God who believe in Him. The nation of Israel is God's "son" (Exodus 4:22, 23), His *"...special treasure...a kingdom of priests and a holy nation"* (Exodus 19:5, 6), His *"inheritance"* (Deuteronomy 4:20), His *"holy people"* (Deuteronomy 14:2), His *"sheep"* (Psalm 95:7), and His *"servants"* (Isaiah 48:20). Today, Israel still has a special relationship with the Lord through His Covenant with Abraham. Not only the nation of Israel, but all people of the world have a covenant relationship available with God through Jesus Christ.

We are redeemed eternally in Christ, Who “...came as High Priest of the good things to come, with the greater and more perfect tabernacle not made with hands, that is, not of this creation. Not with the blood of goats and calves, but with His own blood He entered the Most Holy Place once for all, having obtained eternal redemption” (Hebrews 9:11, 12).

We are righteous in Christ with the ability to stand in God's presence without the sense of sin, guilt or inferiority: “For He [God] made Him [Jesus] who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him [Jesus]” (2 Corinthians 5:21, emphasis added).

We are God's special people. The Apostle Paul wrote Titus that Christ is the one “...who gave Himself for us, that He might redeem us from every lawless deed and purify for Himself His own special people, zealous for good works” (2:14).

The Apostle Peter writes about our Spiritual royalty: “...you also, as living stones, are being built up a spiritual house, a holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ — you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light” (1 Peter 2:5, 9).

We are purified in our hearts by the blood of Christ from deeds that lead to death. He is “...Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, the firstborn from the dead, and the ruler over the kings of the earth ... who loved us and washed us from our sins in His own blood, and has made us kings and priests to His God and Father...” (Revelation 1:5, 6).

We are bold in Christ to “...enter heaven's Most Holy Place because of the blood of Jesus. This is the new, life giving way that Christ has opened up for us through the sacred curtain [veil], by means of his death for us. And since we have a great High Priest who rules over God's people, let us go right into the presence of God, with true hearts fully trusting him. For our evil conscience have been sprinkled with Christ's blood to make us clean, and our bodies have been washed with pure water” (Hebrews 10:19-22, emphasis added, NLT).

The death and the blood of Jesus Christ satisfied the redemptive price required by the law for all the sins of everyone, world wide and for all time. Those who practice the many religions in the world are often blinded to the truth. They must believe in the finished work of Jesus Christ, His death, burial and resurrection, in order to be made right with God. Jesus obtained our salvation 2000 years ago! The righteousness of God is signed, sealed and delivered to us, who have received and accepted Him by faith. What a price He paid for us all! One would have to be foolish to forsake such a great salvation!

Part 2, Spirit, Soul, Body

The Three Part Man

“Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you completely; and may your whole spirit, soul, and body be preserved blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ” (1 Thessalonians 5:23).

Our being created in the image of God means, among other things, that we are fashioned after the pattern of God’s Trinity. Man is a spirit, created in the image of God. He is a living soul and lives in a body. *“Then God said, ‘Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness’...So God created man in His own image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them”* (Genesis 1:26a, 27).

The Godhead consists of God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit. Likewise, human personhood consists of three parts: spirit, soul and body. Paul prayed that God would sanctify the Thessalonians wholly, completely, through and through and that their *“...whole spirit, soul and body be kept blameless.”* The divine ideal is that we are to be perfected in all three areas.

Jesus told the Samaritan woman, *“God is a Spirit: and they that worship Him must worship Him in spirit and in truth”* (John 4:24). He desires to have intimate fellowship with mankind in all parts: spirit, soul and body. As we grow to know God’s love and grace, we will *“...put on the new man who is renewed in knowledge according to the image of Him who created him”* (Colossians 3:10).

The Garden Life

The Bible says, *“And the LORD God formed man of the dust of the ground [body], and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life [Spirit]; and man became a living being.[soul]”* (Genesis 2:7, emphasis added; cf. John 20:22; 1 Corinthians 15:45). The life of the soul is the spirit: *“...God that giveth breath...and spirit to them that walk therein”* (Isaiah 42:5). Zechariah wrote: the LORD *“...forms the spirit of man within him”* (12:1).

In the beginning, male and female were made in the image of God, spiritually alive with dominion over everything upon the earth. And God blessed them saying, *“Be fruitful and multiply; fill the earth and subdue it; have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over every living thing that moves on the earth”* (Genesis 1:28). As man walked in obedience to God; love, joy and delight existed in mankind, and were the natural responses of Adam’s and Eve’s relationship with God, each other, and with the animal kingdom. The prophet Moses wrote:

“The LORD God planted a garden eastward in Eden, and there He put the man whom He had formed. And out of the ground the LORD God made every tree grow that is pleasant to the sight and good for food. The tree of life was also in the

midst of the garden, and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil” (Genesis 2:8, 9).

The Fallen Life

Man fell to the bondage of Satan because of unbelief and disobedience, relinquishing his authority and dominion to him (Luke 4:6). He turned his back on the command of God, not to eat of the forbidden fruit, *“But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die”* (Genesis 2:17). Man humbled himself to the lying words of the serpent, therefore breaking relationship with God through obeying Satan’s thoughts and doing his will (Genesis, chapter 3). This was the original sin, and the cause for mankind’s sinful nature.

Deceived by lust and pride, Eve *“...saw [sensed] that the tree was good for food, that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree desirable [thought] to make one wise, she took [chose] of its fruit and ate [action]. She also gave to her husband with her, and he ate [disobedience]”* (Genesis 3:6, emphasis added). By allowing sinful imaginations to invade their minds, spiritual death reigned (Romans 5:17), resulting in eventual physical death. Man’s relationship with God was broken, his dominion was lost. Through Eve’s deception and the disobedience of Adam, sin and death entered the world (Romans 5:12, 6:23, 8:2).

Satan, the prince of disorder, and his hosts of fallen angels (Isaiah, chapter 14; cf. Ezekiel, chapter 28), now work in and through the children of disobedience (Ephesians 2:2, 3). When Adam relinquished his authority to Satan, the world changed to discord and confusion.

The Uncontrolled Life

As a result of his sinful choice in Genesis, man’s positive emotions became distorted, uncontrolled, wavering and misplaced (James 1:8). Suddenly, Adam and Eve felt the negative emotions of guilt (Genesis 3:7), fear (3:10), blame and anger (3:12), anguish, pain, distress (3:16), sorrow (3:17-19), jealousy and hate (4:4, 5), which passed upon all mankind. *“...God saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth and that every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually”* (6:5).

Emotional problems now arise when we seek fulfillment in illegitimate ways; by loving worldly things, by lusting rather than loving, by loving a person “unsuitably” or in the wrong way, or by loving others more than we love God. 1 John 2:15-17 exhorts us, *“Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world — the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life — is not of the Father but is of the world”* (cf. Matthew 4:1-11; Genesis 3:6).

Due to the fall, sin alienated man’s spirit and his soul (mind, will and emotions) from God; separation from God darkened the intellect, introduced mental disorder, lack of discipline and rendered man powerless. Our spirit became dead because of sin, and our mind became unyielded to the Spirit of God (Ephesians 2:1; Romans 6:19). Paul describes those with unregenerated minds as *“...having their understanding darkened, being alienated from the life of God, because of the ignorance that is in them, because of the blindness of their heart”* (Ephesians 4:18).

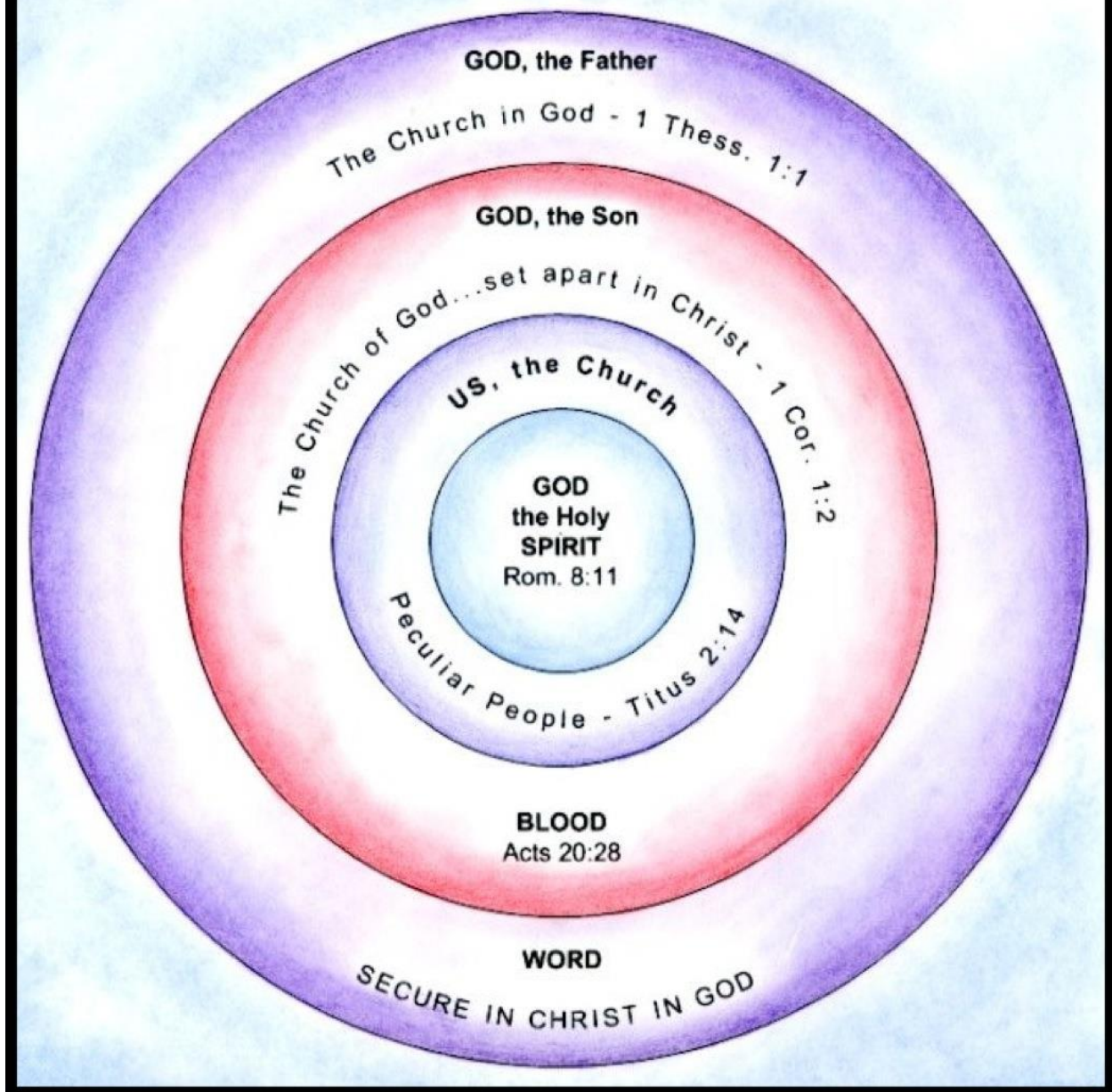
Before receiving new life at Calvary, we were “...*enemies in our mind by wicked works...*” (Colossians 1:21).

The Resurrected Life

The fulfillment of the promised seed came; the angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said: “...*you shall call his name Jesus; for He will save his people from their sins...Emmanuel...which is translated, God with us*” (Matthew 1:21-23; cf. Luke 2:26-38).

God promised to give a new heart and spirit, separated from sin (Ezekiel 36:26). Jesus Christ, the seed of the woman was to come and bruise the head of the serpent (Genesis 3:15). Jesus would bring God’s love back to rule and reign over man’s spirit, soul (mind, will and emotions), and bodily actions by faith as in the beginning (Colossians 3:10). Dominion would be restored to its rightful owner by redemption through faith in the resurrection of Jesus Christ (Romans 6:3-14).

The Triune Family of God



The Triune Family of God

The triune family is God's revelation of Himself as the ultimate truth, originating in the Father, expressed by His Son at Calvary, and energized by the Holy Spirit. "For God [Word] so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son [Blood], that whosoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life [Spirit]"

(John 3:16, emphasis added). *Jesus, the Seed of promise of Abraham, confirmed the New Covenant promise by God (Galatians 3:15-18; Hebrews 9:15-17). He made us, "...a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that we should show forth praises to Him who has called us out of darkness into His marvelous light"* (Exodus 19:5, 6; 1 Peter 2:9). *The same Spirit that "raised Christ from the dead, also raised us up, and quickened our mortal bodies (Romans 8:11). As a result, we are the temple of God (1 Corinthians 3:16, 17; 6:19, 20). God wrote His law upon the hearts of His people (Jeremiah 31:31-34; 2 Corinthians 3:3). We have a "new spirit" (Ezekiel 33:26), that is, a "divine nature" (2 Peter 1:4), because we are born of His "seed" (1 Peter 1:23; 1 John 3:9). The New Testament reminds us over 200 times that we are in Christ, since all He did was for our benefit: "crucified" (Galatians 2:20), "baptized into His death and burial" (Romans 6:3,4), "raised" (Colossians 3:1), "seated" (Ephesians 2:6), "hidden" (Colossians 3:3), and "reigning" (Romans 5:17). We are joined to Jesus in one Spirit (1 Corinthians 6:17); the redeemed, purified, a peculiar people, and set apart in Christ, God the Son (Titus 2:14; 1 Corinthians 1:2; 1 Thessalonians 1:1). We are co-heirs with Him, sharing all His inheritance (Romans 8:17; Ephesians 1:18). "For in Him we live, and move, and have our being" (Acts 17:28).*

Our Heavenly Father sent Jesus to place man back into His image: *"For whom He foreknew, He also predestined to be conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the firstborn among many brethren"* (Romans 8:29). The three parts of man take on wholeness and discipline as the authority of man is restored through faith in Christ. *"For since by man came death, by Man also came the resurrection of the dead. For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ all shall be made alive"* (1 Corinthians 15:21, 22).

Who I Am In Christ:

- I am created in the image of God (Genesis 1:26, 27).
- I am redeemed from the hand of the enemy (Psalms 107:2).
- I am a servant of God with fruit to holiness and eternal life (Romans 6:22).

- I am more than a conqueror because I am loved (Romans 8:37).
- I am united with the Lord, and I am one spirit with Christ (1 Corinthians 6:17).
- I am the salt and light of the world (Matthew 5:13, 14)
- I am free forever from condemnation (Romans 8:1).
- I am a saint sanctified [set apart made holy] (1 Corinthians 1:2).
- I am a member of the body of Christ (1 Corinthians 12:27).
- I am a branch of the true vine, a channel of God's life (John 15:1, 5).
- I am a son, child and heir of God (Romans 8:14-17).
- I am enriched in all utterance and all knowledge (1 Corinthians 1:5).
- I am being changed into God's image from glory to glory by the Holy Spirit (2 Corinthians 3:18).
- I am a friend of God (John 15:15).
- I am assured that all things work together for good (Romans 8:28).
- I am the temple of God Whose Spirit dwells in me (1 Corinthians 3:16, 17; 6:19).
- I am a servant of righteousness, set free from sin (Romans 6:18).
- I am free forever from any condemning charges against me (Romans 8:31, 34).
- I am washed, sanctified and justified by the blood of Christ (1 Corinthians 6:11).

The Inner Man

The Apostle Paul said: “...*though our outward man is perishing, yet the inward man is being renewed day by day*” (2 Corinthians 4:16).

The inner or inward man is the non-material part of man. The material part of man, or the body, is the outward man. The Zondervan Pictorial Encyclopedia of the Bible says the heart is, “...the inner man; the function of the mind, where man remembers, thinks; the seat and center of all physical and spiritual life; the soul or mind as the foundation and seat of thoughts, passion, desires, affections, appetites, purposes, endeavors.”

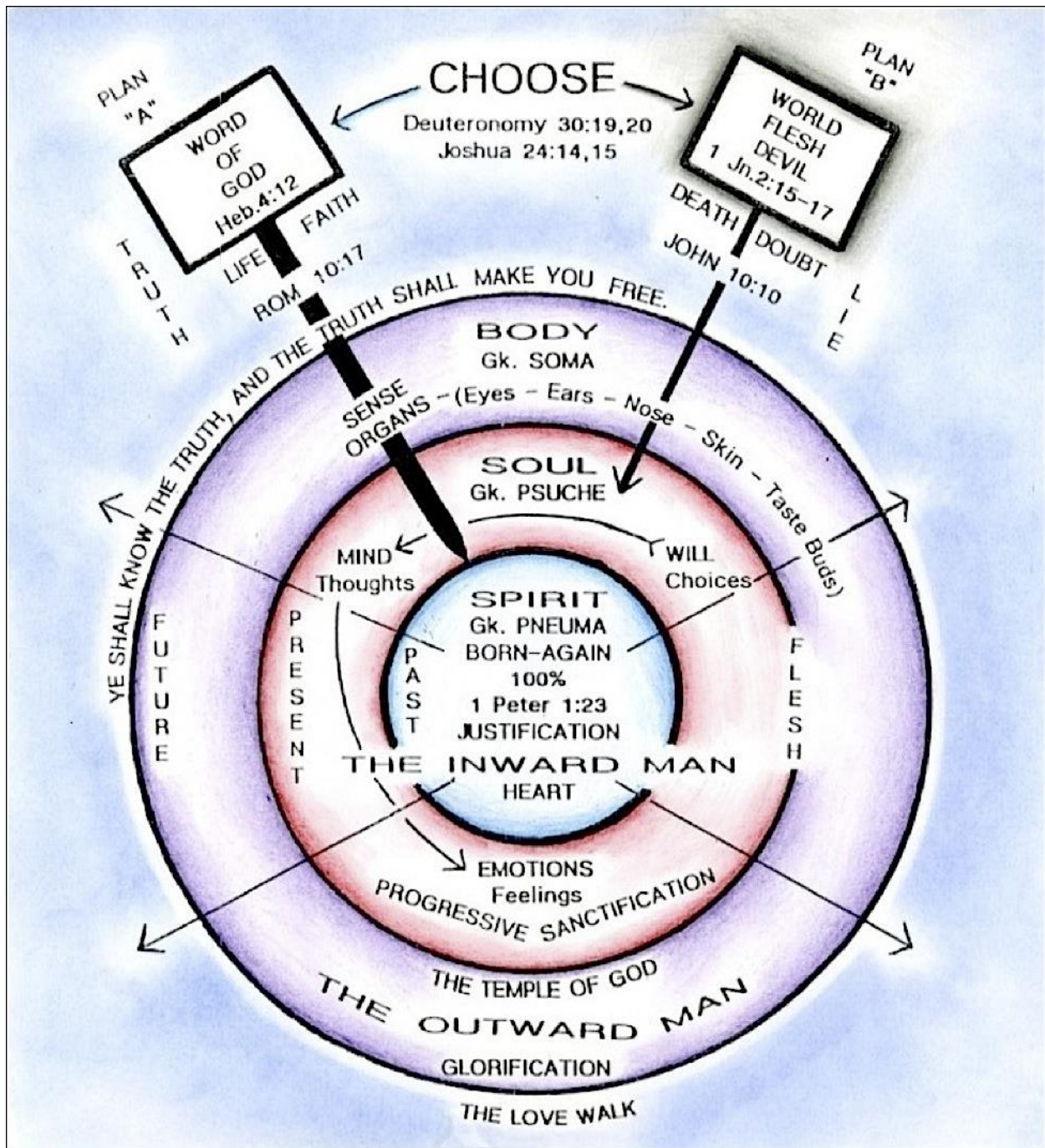
By this definition, the heart and the inner man are the same. The inner man is made up of both spirit (Greek: *Pneuma*) and soul (Greek: *Psuche*). The body (Greek: *Soma*) is the house for the inner man.

The Parts of Man

The spirit is the part of the inner man that is regenerated at new birth. As Jesus explained to Nicodemus, “...*You must be born again*” (John 3:3, 7). David gave us the reason for this need as he cried out to God in Psalms: “*Behold, I was brought forth in iniquity, And in sin my mother conceived me. Behold, You desire truth in the inward parts, And in the hidden part You will make me to know wisdom*” (51:5, 6). The born again experience is the wisdom of God, and through Christ, the life, light and love of God is shed forth in and through our hearts by the Holy Spirit (Romans 5:5; 2 Corinthians 1:22, 4:6).

The soul is the part of the inner man that needs renewal. 2 Corinthians 4:16 explains, “...*though our outward man is perishing, yet the inward man is being renewed day by day.*” The soul and spirit make up the heart of man or the inner man which energizes the body. Paul prayed that the soulish part of the Ephesians’ inner man would, “...*be strengthened with might through His Spirit in the inner man,*” (3:16).

The body is the outward part of man that houses the sense organs. The life of the body is the spirit. James told us, “...*the body without the spirit is dead...*” (2:26). As Christians, we are the temple of the Holy Spirit (1 Corinthians 3:16, 17; 6:19, 20). The apostle Paul spoke of our being in an “*earthly tent*” while earnestly longing for a heavenly house not made with hands (2 Corinthians 5:1, 2). Solomon used the image of a house to describe the process of our bodies growing old (Ecclesiastes 12:3-7). One day Jesus “...*will transform our lowly body that it may be conformed to His glorious body...*” (Philippians 3:21).



Spirit, Soul, & Body Chart

The foundation of the Christian life is based on faith in the person and work of Jesus Christ at the cross of Calvary. Our spirit is made alive [born again] when "...joined unto the Lord" (1 Corinthians 6:17, emphasis added), through regeneration. Our new spirit is released through our soul [mind, will and

emotions]. This release empowers our walk to be in harmony with the spirit. Our soul is the gateway which releases the Holy Spirit and brings forth the power and light of God into our actions and relationships. Our bodily conduct comes under control of the Spirit as we choose in our soul to walk in line with God's Word through the renewing of mind (Romans 12:1, 2).

The Heart of Man ("Kardia")

Remember, the heart is our inner man which is made up of spirit and soul. The heart must be changed to affect the outward. If we are not born again, we must receive Christ into our heart to be set free from our sinful nature, that is "*...the spirit who now works in the sons of disobedience*" (Ephesians 2:2; Jude 19).

One of the things the Lord hates is a "*...heart that devises [to think, to design, to contrive, to propose] wicked plans*" (Proverbs 6:18, emphasis added). Jesus had much to say about the wickedness of the heart. "*A good man out of the good treasure of his heart brings forth good things, and an evil man out of the evil treasure brings forth evil things*" (Matthew 12:34, 35). "*But those things which proceed out of the mouth come from the heart, and they defile a man. For out of the heart proceed evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, fornications, thefts, false witness, blasphemies. These are the things which defile a man...*" (Matthew 15:18-20a). Jesus said the Pharisees, "*...outwardly appear righteous to men, but inside you are full of hypocrisy and lawlessness*" (Matthew 23:28).

The Holy Spirit gives new life as the essence of God's power acts upon the heart or inner man. This is because, "*...the Spirit gives life*" (2 Corinthians 3:3-6). The prophet Jeremiah spoke for the Lord saying, "*...I will put my law into their minds and write it on their hearts; and will be their God, and they shall be my people*" (31:33).

The unregenerated heart is "*...deceitful above all things, And desperately wicked; Who can know it?*" (Jeremiah 17:9; 18:12), much less discipline [training that corrects, molds and perfects] it. We must have a new heart to grow toward wholeness. Just as our spirit must be made new through regeneration, our soul [mind, will and emotions] must be renewed through transformation, that is, "*...be transformed by the renewing of your mind...*" (Romans 12:2).

The Circumcision of Man (Spirit Change)

The Bible clearly states that "*...man looks at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart*" (1 Samuel 16:7). God's promise of a heart transplant is applicable for us, as it was for Israel, when He said: "*...I will put a new spirit within them, and take the stony heart out of their flesh, and will give them a heart of flesh*" (Ezekiel 11:19, 18:31, 36:26, 27, 44:7). Paul spoke of this new heart and spirit in his letter to the Romans: "*For he is not a Jew who is one outwardly, nor is circumcision that which is outward in the flesh; but he is a Jew who is one inwardly; and*

circumcision is that of the heart, in the Spirit, not in the letter; whose praise is not from men but from God” (2:28, 29).

Circumcision of the flesh by the Jew was a forerunner or symbol of a New Testament fulfillment in Christ (Genesis, chapter 17). Because of the resurrection, circumcision is not only of the body, but of the spirit and soul (Colossians 2:11, 12). By the new birth, the fleshly nature is cut away from the heart, 100% in the spirit, and then the soul by continually renewing the mind, symbolizing circumcision. The Lord says to us, *“Therefore circumcise the foreskin of your heart, and be stiff-necked [hard, firm and rigid] no longer”* (Deuteronomy 10:16, emphasis added; cf. Jeremiah 4:4).

The Discipline of Man (Soul change)

Therefore, the soulish part of the inner man must still be disciplined through spiritual circumcision by faith in God’s grace. The Apostle Paul exhorted: *“...throw off your old evil nature and your former way of life, which is rotten through and through, full of lust and deception. Instead, there must be a spiritual renewal of your thoughts and attitudes. You must display a new nature because you are a new person, created in God’s likeness — righteous, holy, and true”* (Ephesians 4:22-24, NLT).

The word “disciple” in the New Testament means “disciplined one.” *“Jesus said to the people who believed in him, ‘You are truly my disciples if you keep obeying my teachings. And you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free’”* (John 8:31, 32, NLT).

Paul wrote to Timothy: *“Train yourself to be godly. Physical training is good, but training for godliness is much better, promising benefits in this life and in the life to come”* (1 Timothy 4:7–8, NLT). The word must be hidden in our heart (Psalms 119:11). Only this new heart, a heart capable of knowing God (Jeremiah 24:7) and experiencing emotions in a God-ordained way is able to be disciplined (Deuteronomy 10:12, 13, 17-21).

But always remember, *“...sin shall not have dominion over you, for you are not under law but under grace”* (Romans 6:14). Grace is God’s favor and ability, working in man, making him able to do what he cannot do in his own ability through the Law. The power of grace will determine whether your life will be one of influence, peace, rest and victory, or one of difficulty, frustration, anguish and defeat. *“As you have therefore received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in Him”* (Colossians 2:6).

Who I Am In Christ

- I am a new creation (2 Corinthians 5:17).
- I am made perfect in weakness by the sufficiency of His grace (2 Corinthians 12:9).
- I am made alive, raised up and sit together in heavenly places with Christ Jesus (Ephesians 2:5, 6).
- I am a prisoner of the Lord, walking worthy of His calling (Ephesians 4:1).
- I am reconciled to God and a minister of reconciliation (2 Corinthians 5:18, 19).

- I am crucified and living by faith in the Son of God (Galatians 2:20).
- I am saved by grace through faith (Ephesians 2:8).
- I am a new man created according to God in righteousness and true holiness (Ephesians 4:24).
- I am an ambassador for Christ (2 Corinthians 5:20).
- I am redeemed from the curse of the Law (Galatians 3:13).
- I am God's workmanship, created for good works (Ephesians 2:10).
- I am an imitator of God, like His good child (Ephesians 5:1).
- I am the righteousness of God (2 Corinthians 5:21).
- I am Christ's; I am Abraham's seed; and heir to His promise (Galatians 3:29).
- I am brought near to the heart of God by the blood of Christ (Ephesians 2:13).
- I am strong in the Lord and in the power of His might (Ephesians 6:10).
- I am God's co-worker with Christ (2 Corinthians 6:1; 1 Corinthians 3:9).
- I am an heir of God since I am a son of God (Galatians 4:6, 7).
- I am a fellow citizen with all of the saints and a member of the household of God (Ephesians 2:19).
- I am fearless in Christ, Who loved me (2 Timothy 1:7).

The New Creation

“Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new” (2 Corinthians 5:17).

The foundation of our Christian life is the Person and work of Jesus Christ (1 Corinthians 3:9-17). The born again experience takes place (John 3:3-7) and man becomes a new creation and right with God (2 Corinthians 5:17, 21). The spirit of man receives the power and life of the Holy Spirit (John 1:12, 3:16, 17, 34). The apostle Peter wrote: *“...as His divine power has given to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of Him who called us by glory and virtue”* (2 Peter 1:3).

Then, and only then, can a cooperation between man and God begin to renew the soul through the power of God (Philippians 2:12, 13). It takes faith in the finished work of Christ and the power of the Holy Spirit to renew the mind (Romans 12:2), affect the will and emotions, and be released into the bodily actions (Acts 1:8, 2:38, 39).

But first, mankind must be, *“...born again, not of corruptible seed but incorruptible, through the word of God which lives and abides forever”* (1 Peter 1:23). Jesus told Nicodemus, *“Flesh gives birth to flesh, but the Spirit gives birth to spirit”* (John 3:6).

A New Nature

Being born again of the incorruptible word of God causes the nature of our spirit to line up 100% with God’s divine Spirit and nature. We are *“...sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise, who is the guarantee of our inheritance...”* (Ephesians 1:13, 14; cf. 2 Corinthians 1:21, 22). We take on the spiritual nature of God in our spirit, but residue from the old nature remains in the soul, which is in need of renewal. Peter explains our new position by saying, *“...the hidden person of the heart, with the incorruptible beauty of a gentle and quiet spirit, which is very precious in the sight of God”* (1 Peter 3:4). We become *“...partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust”* (2 Peter 1:4). Paul told the Corinthian believers, *“But he who is joined to the Lord is one spirit with Him”* (1 Corinthians 6:17).

Ezekiel prophesied: *“I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you...”* (36:26). This new heart, because the Holy Spirit lodges in it, is unlike the old heart with its fleshly spirit and corresponding worldly thoughts and desires: *“For when we were in the flesh, the sinful passions which were aroused by the law were at work in our members to bear fruit to death”* (Romans 7:5).

The spirit of man becomes perfected when regeneration takes place, *“...you are complete in Him”* (Colossians 2:9, 10). *“...For by that one offering he perfected forever all those whom he is making holy”* (Hebrews 10:14, NLT). We can shout with Christ: *“I am He who lives, and was dead, and behold, I am alive forevermore. Amen”* (Revelation 1:18). Jesus Christ *“...was raised from the dead, that we should bear fruit to God”* (Romans 7:4). We live to serve God *“...in newness of Spirit”* (Romans 7:6; 8:16, 17).

A New Gift

This new nature is a free gift (Romans 6:23). It is neither earned nor deserved (Ephesians 2:8, 9). Man is a sinner by birth (Psalms 51:5; Romans 5:12), and he cannot save himself (Titus 3:5). On the other hand, God is merciful and does not want to punish man (2 Peter 3:9). But, God is just and will surely punish sin. *“For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life through Christ Jesus our Lord”* (Romans 6:23, NLT).

Therefore, God sent Christ, the infinite God-Man, manifest in human form (John 1:14; Philippians 2:6-8). Christ died, was buried, and he rose from the dead on the third day (1 Corinthians 15:1-10). God, the Father, *“...made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him”* (2 Corinthians 5:21). We are saved by faith and this faith comes by hearing what God’s word says about Jesus Christ (Romans 10:17). *“For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life”* (John 3:16).

Upon hearing the good news concerning Jesus Christ and repenting (turning from sin to God), we become a new creation (Acts 2:38). Repentance is a simple change of mind, heart and will (Acts 11:18; 17:30; 26:18, 20). We turn from the ways of the world and the flesh, to God, making Jesus the Lord of our life. We begin to take on a whole new mind set.

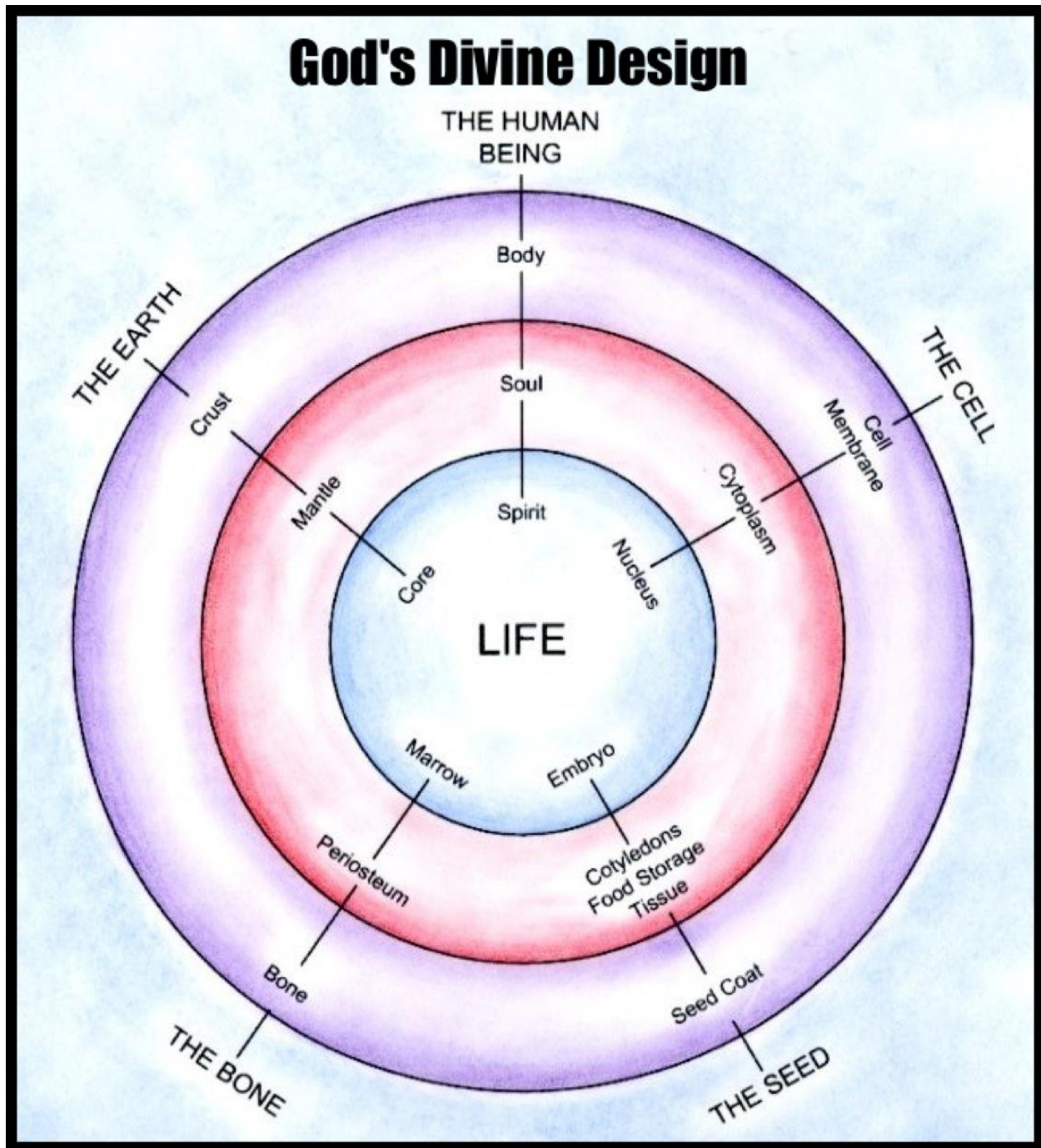
Instead of rejecting the Good News because of self-righteousness, we made a decision to choose God, by inviting His word, the Lord Jesus Christ, to come and live in our heart. We received Christ as Savior, which results in being made spiritually alive. Jesus said: *“But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God”* (John 1:12). By receiving God’s word, Jesus Christ, we came into agreement with God by saying the same thing He says about sin and His solution for sin. Paul declared to the Romans, *“...if you confess [say the same thing] with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation”* (10:9, 10, emphasis added). This is believing in your heart and is a result of true repentance. Then, *“... times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord”* (Acts 3:19).

A New Life

When salvation takes place through receiving God’s word, the spirit and soul are divided as the Holy Spirit comes into the heart to take up residence. The writer to the Hebrews said: *“For the word of God is living [alive], and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division (cut or part) of soul and spirit [producing life], and of joints and marrow [producing blood] — “For the life of flesh is the blood...”* (Leviticus 17:11) — *and is a discerner [judge] of the thoughts and intents [purpose, notions, designs, intentions] of the heart”* (4:12, emphasis added).

The cross section of a bone is a good illustration of dividing of soul and spirit, mentioned in the above scripture. The spirit being the soft marrow in the center of the bone, the soul being the joint or bone and the body being the meat around the bone. As the word of God enters the spirit

of man, the two-edged sword circumcises the heart. The spirit and soul are cut apart [separated] as a result of the word's action, separating and perfecting our spirit through regeneration (Romans 8:1-15; Hebrews 2:10, 11; 7:11, 19; 9:9; 10:1, 14).



God's Divine Design

The spirit of man is regenerated by the Holy Spirit, providing life to the believer. He directs our lives by filling us with His ability. The nucleus is the control center of a cell. The embryo is the part of the seed from which the mature plant develops. The marrow is the soft material within the bone that makes the body's red blood

cells. The bone repairs itself from the inside out. The core makes up the center of the earth, 2, 200 miles thick. It is the earth's energy source. God has designed all these parts to carry His life to the universe. "...All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made. In Him was life, and the life was the light of men" (John 1:3, 4).

Paul's letter to the Colossians reveals that, *"In Him you were also circumcised with the circumcision made without hands, by putting off the body of the sins of the flesh, by the circumcision of Christ [the whole corrupt, carnal nature with its passions and lusts]"* (2:11, emphasis added). He continues by saying, *"And you, being dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, He has made alive together with Him, having forgiven you all trespasses"* (2:13). Jesus proclaimed: *"...I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in Me, though he may die, he shall live"* (John 11:25).

The spirit of man is made perfect, for the flesh is cut away through circumcision, while the soul of man remains imperfect, badly in need of renewal (Romans 12:2). Because of the resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ, this renewal begins to take place. Our faith in God's grace [His ability, through Christ's righteousness] brings a continual change [metamorphosis] of our thoughts. We put off the old way of life as we learn Christ, through renewing our minds to who God's word says we are in Christ (Ephesians 4:20-24).

Moses wrote: *"... the LORD your God will circumcise your heart and the heart of your descendants, to love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul, that you may live"* (Deuteronomy 30:6). The Spirit that divides the soul and spirit is the same One that brings them back together. Selah.

A New Desire

Our new nature has an inbred desire to serve God (1 John 2:29, 3:3; Psalms 51:10-12). As it is written, *"...the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered Himself without spot to God, cleanse your conscience from dead works to serve the living God"* (Hebrews 9:14).

John gives us insight into the nature of our new spirit and desire when he wrote: *"Whoever has been born of God does not sin, for His seed remains in him; and he cannot sin, because he has been born of God"* (1 John 3:9). This truth emphasizes the position of our new spirit in Christ which cannot sin and desires to serve God.

Therefore, we are born of love, the salt of the earth and the light of the world (Matthew 5:13, 16). We have the power and life of God living in us (Acts 1:8). We are new creations (2 Corinthians 5:17, 21).

We walk now in newness of life (Romans 6:2-7) and in the heavenly places (Ephesians 1:16; 2:6), as children knowing Him, and *"...giving thanks to the Father, who has qualified us to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in the light. He has delivered us from the power of*

darkness, and has conveyed [translated] us into the kingdom of the Son of His love” (Colossians 1:12, 13, emphasis added).

Yet, we can still sin in certain areas of our soul [mind, will and emotions], but only faith in God’s love and grace causes us to overcome. Being born of God, we overcome the world by faith (1 John 5:4). We yield complete control to God (Romans 6:16-20). Then we take hold of the promises of God, bringing the bodily actions into that of a new lifestyle.

Our motto, like Paul’s, becomes: *“I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me” (Galatians 2:20).*

Who I Am In Christ

- I am confident that the work God has begun and we will be completed (Philippians 1:6).
- I am buried, risen, made alive and forgiven (Colossians 2:12, 13).
- I am one of God’s living stones, being built up as a spiritual house (1 Peter 2:5).
- I am a partaker of the divine nature (2 Peter 1:4).
- I am a citizen of heaven (Philippians 3:20).
- I am chosen of God, holy and dearly beloved (Colossians 3:12).
- I am a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people that I may proclaim the praises of Him who called me out of darkness into His marvelous light (1 Peter 2:9).
- I am growing in the grace and knowledge of my Lord Jesus Christ (2 Peter 3:18).
- I am delivered from the power of darkness (Colossians 1:13).
- I am a child of the light and not of darkness (1 Thessalonians 5:5).
- I am a sojourner and a pilgrim. I temporarily live in this world (1 Peter 2:11).
- I am born of God overcoming the world by faith (1 John 5:4).
- I am rooted and built up and established in the faith (Colossians 2:7).
- I am a holy brother, partaker of the heavenly calling (Hebrews 3:1).
- I am healed by the wounds of Christ Jesus (1 Peter 2:24).
- I am born of God and the evil one cannot touch me (1 John 5:18).
- I am complete and filled with the fullness of Christ (Colossians 2:9, 10).
- I am a partaker of Christ, fully confident and steadfast (Hebrews 3:14).
- I am an enemy of the devil (1 Peter 5:8).
- I am an overcomer by faith in the blood of the Lamb (Revelation 12:11).
- I am rejoicing with joy unspeakable and full of glory (1 Peter 1:8b).

The Renewing of the Mind

“And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God” (Romans 12:2).

This transformation spoken of by Paul is a supernatural change of our outward expression, which proceeds from our new divine nature (2 Peter 1:4). Simply, we are changed from the inside out by the work of God. God remolds our minds to affect our emotions within and actions without. But the outward, visible work of *“putting on Christ”* by faith, is the work of the believer through faith in God’s grace (Romans 13:14; cf. Colossians 3:12-17; Philippians 2:12, 13).

The Believer’s Renewal

Our spirit is providing the genuine, enduring motivation for renewal and self-discipline, because the born again experience has renewed our spirit bringing it 100% under the control of God’s Spirit (1 Corinthians 6:16-20).

Our soul requires continual renewal day by day (2 Corinthians 4:16). This on-going process transforms the soul [mind, will and emotions] to a new, fresh and strong existence with God (Psalms 23:3). In the garden, the mind of man was in tune with God’s mind and therefore perfectly ordered and controlled. But due to the fall, the sword of the spirit must now cut the carnal thoughts out of our disobedient minds (Romans 1:28; Ephesians 4:17-19; Colossians 2:18).

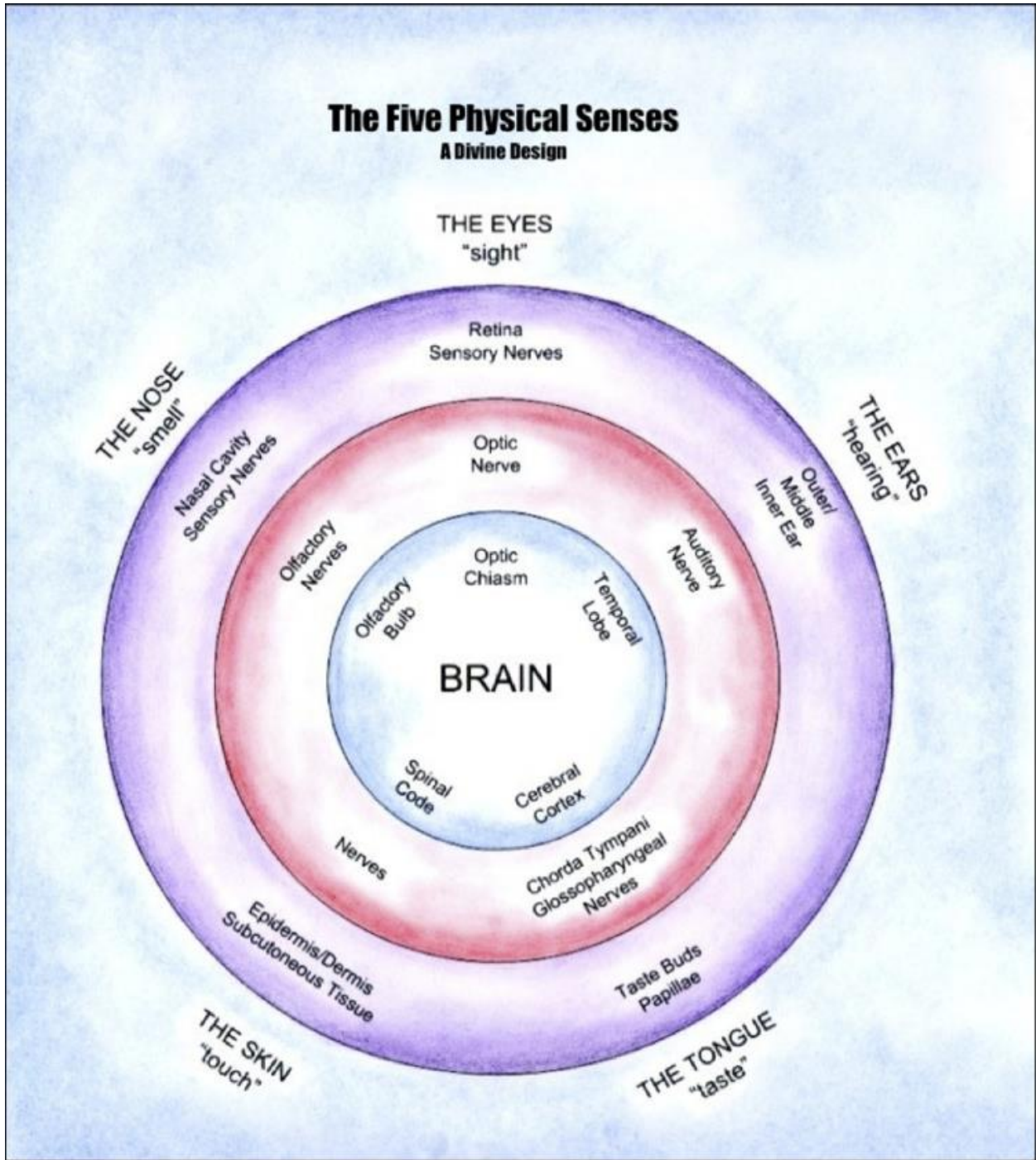
Our body will be gloriously changed in the future at the rapture, *“...in the twinkling of an eye”* (1 Corinthians 15:51, 52). John confirms, *“...we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is”* (1 John 3:2). But even now, the bodily actions gradually change from glory to glory into the image of Christ, for *“...we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as by the Spirit of the Lord”* (2 Corinthians 3:18).

The Believer’s Growth

Our Christian’s duty is not to feed the spirit. Our spirit is not a baby crying for food, but God’s Holy Spirit has sanctified [separated] our spirit unto God. Peter said: *“...as newborn babes, desire the pure milk of the word, that you may grow thereby”* (1 Peter 2:2). This growth does not take place in our spirit, but in our “spiritual understanding” (Colossians 1:9-11; Psalms 32:8, 9). We are to *“...grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ”* (2 Peter 3:18a). This growth in grace takes place in our soul. Knowledge comes as our understanding [soul, mind] is enlightened by the Holy Spirit to our new position in Christ, because of our resurrection in Him (Ephesians 1:16-2:6).

In other words, our Christian growth takes place in the soul, by renewing the attitude of our mind (Ephesians 4:20-24). This is accomplished by the Holy Spirit (Titus 3:5). As our mind becomes more governed by and identified with our regenerated spirit; then our life, actions and

behaviors will become more and more identified with Jesus (Hebrews 9:14). The seed planted in our spirit releases a new kind of love that purifies our soul (1 Peter 1:22, 23).



The Five Spiritual Senses

Our five physical senses put us in touch with the natural world. Our five Spiritual senses put us in touch with God, the Spirit carrying His revelation throughout our

being. The natural man is not in touch with God, so he tries to experience God through his physical senses. He attempts to earn God's approval, to please Him and to feel accepted and righteous through dead works, legalism, religion, flawed logic and self help. Whereas the believer has a sense of righteousness by faith in the finished work of Christ through His death, burial and resurrection. He has the seed of righteousness planted in his heart, providing the power of righteousness and a sense of well-being, security and wholeness. Because of his pure conscience, he manifests the love of God as a sweet smelling fragrance to others.

We must be reconciled to God in order to begin this growth (Colossians 1:21). The scriptures teach that there are two opposite minds (Romans 8:5, 6): the spiritual mind [the mind of Christ] and the mind of the flesh [the unsaved]. The mind of the flesh can never be truly disciplined (2 Corinthians 3:14, 4:4). It cannot submit to the law of God, nor please God (Romans 8:7, 8; 2 Timothy 3:8). We receive the mind of Christ in our spirit the moment we are saved (1 Corinthians 2:16).

Although the very mind of Christ is ours, because the conscience [the voice of our spirit] is purged from sins (Hebrews 9:14; 10:2), we still need to assume appropriate ownership by faith. As we do, the Holy Spirit enables the Christian to see things from Christ's point of view (Philippians 2:5). Paul stresses for us to, "*Set our minds on things above...*" (Colossians 3:2). God has given us a sound mind (2 Timothy 1:7), but to grow, it is our job to keep sound in faith (1 Timothy 1:13; Titus 1:13; 2:2).

The Believer's Faith

Justification by faith in Christ not only sanctifies our spirit, but begins a process of sanctifying, purifying and refining our thought life. Jesus said: "*Sanctify them by your truth. Your word is truth*" (John 17:17). This is an ongoing process of discipline and continual renewal, "*...receiving the end of your faith—the salvation of your souls*" (1 Peter 1:9). Peter continues:

"But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts, and always be ready to give a defense to everyone who asks you a reason for the hope that is in you, with meekness and fear" (1 Peter 3:15).

The apostle Paul wrote that "*...faith comes from listening to this message of good news — the Good News about Christ*" (Romans 10:17, NLT). The word of God relieves the mind of doubt and unbelief, as we refuse to be conformed to the world, "*...but let God transform you into a new person by changing the way you think. Then you will know what God wants you to do, and*

you will know how good and pleasing and perfect” (Romans 12:2, NLT). This renewal is facilitated as we think true, honest, just, pure, lovely thoughts and thoughts of good report, which are seen through our emotions and actions (Philippians 4:8, 9). We are to think, meditate and dwell on Godly thoughts. Our mind is to feed on God’s word, like the people of Berea, who “...were more open-minded than those in Thessalonica, and they listened eagerly to Paul’s message. They searched the Scriptures day after day to check up on Paul and Silas, to see if they were really teaching the truth. As a result, many Jews believed, as did some of the prominent Greek women and many men” (Acts 17:11, 12, NLT).

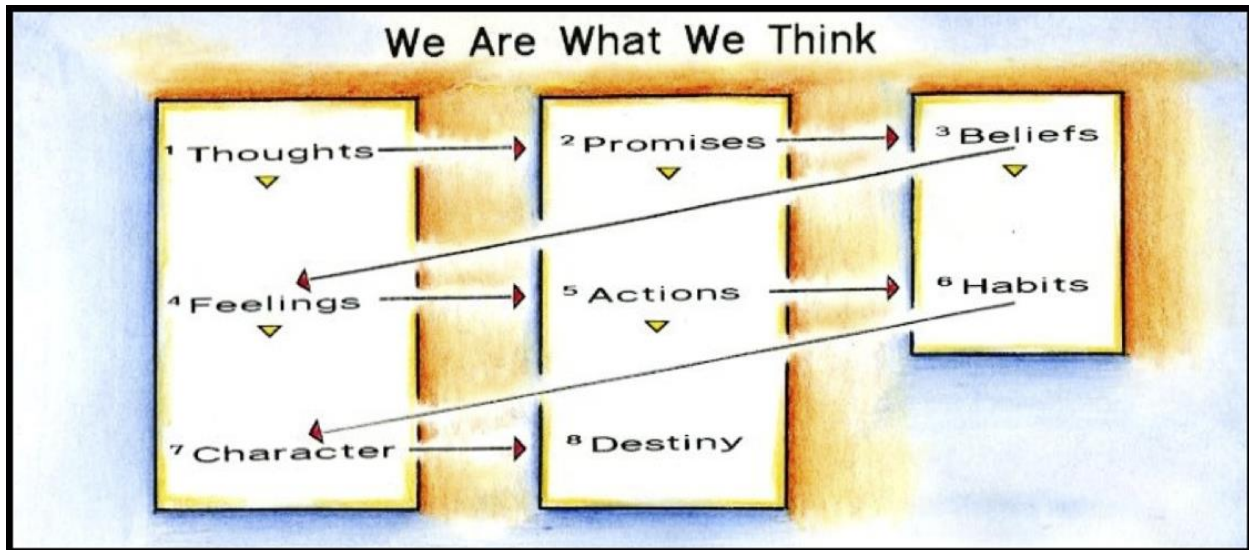
If you continually “*Commit your works unto the Lord your thoughts shall be established” (Proverbs 16:3; Isaiah 55:6-9). When you “In all your ways acknowledge Him... He shall direct your paths” (Proverbs 3:6). In His Sermon on the Mount, Jesus taught, “But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you” (Matthew 6:33).*

As we put faith in God’s word through trusting, delighting and committing our all to Him (Psalms 37:3-7), our soul comes into restful agreement with the finished work of Christ (Hebrews 4:1-3). We cease from walking in our own way which seems right (Proverbs 14:12), and those who receive God’s “... *abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness will reign in life through the One, Jesus Christ” (Romans 5:17b).*

Whatever change takes place deep within the heart is the work of God (Psalms 51:6-12). It is the Holy Spirit who teaches, purges, washes, fills, creates, restores and upholds. Just think, “...*how much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered Himself without spot to God, cleanse your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?” (Hebrews 9:14). “For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him” (2 Corinthians 5:21).*

The Believer’s Soul

Let us take a little closer look at our soul, where this renewing process takes place. Solomon said: “*For as he thinks in his heart, so is he” (Proverbs 23:7a). Someone once said, “What you feed your mind is what you are.” All the transactions of mankind take place in this order: thoughts (mind), choices [will] and feelings [emotions]. These areas of the soul are to be broken, mastered, ruled and renewed by the Holy Spirit.*



Our thoughts [understanding and reasoning] are based upon promises, which makeup our beliefs. Thoughts based upon the Good News promises of the Kingdom of God, lead to freedom: righteousness, peace and joy, with the hope of everlasting life. Thoughts based upon the Bad News promises of the kingdom of darkness, lead to bondage: crookedness, strife and pain, resulting in spiritual death and hell.

“For to be carnally minded [dependent upon self] is death: but to be spiritually minded [dependent upon God] is life and peace” (Romans 8:6, emphasis added).

The world has been “...given exceedingly great and precious promises, that through these [promises] you may be made partakers of the divine nature [character], having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust [self-gratification] (2 Peter 1:4, emphasis added). Our thoughts produce feelings, and when acted upon, lead to our destiny. If we are enticed and act upon lustful thoughts, they bring forth sin and death (James 1:14, 15). But, if our beliefs are quickened by the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Christ, our feelings can inspire us, with a sense of righteousness, peace and joy in the Holy Spirit. Our thoughts, beliefs and feelings lead to our actions. Faith is acting on what we believe, either the promises of God or what the world promises. These actions lead to our habits, demonstrate our character, and lead to our destiny,

whether good or evil. As King Solomon said, "...for as a man thinks in his heart, so is he" (Proverbs 23:7).

The Mind

The mind is to be renewed daily by the word of God. The Apostle Paul said: *"...there must be a spiritual renewal of your thoughts and attitudes. You must display a new nature because you are a new person, created in God's likeness — righteous, holy, and true"* (Ephesians 4:23, 24, NLT). This is the attitude of humility, which is simply the willingness to surrender your will, your opinions, and your view to the view and will of God. His word says, *"Your attitude should be the same that Christ Jesus had"* (Philippians 2:5, NLT). The humility of Christ highly exalted Him above every name (Philippians 2:9), and He'll do the same for us. *"So humble yourselves under the mighty power of God, and in his good time he will honor you"* (1 Peter 5:6, NLT).

Listen to the words of the Apostle Paul, who said:

"For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit, the things of the Spirit. For to be carnally minded is death, but to be spiritually minded is life and peace" (Romans 8:5, 6).

As we challenge our thoughts and seek alternatives from the Bible, we will be set free from undesired emotions (John 8:31, 32), which are a result of our fleshly and worldly thought life. This is a process of *"...casting down imaginations [thoughts]...bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ and having a readiness to revenge [punish] all disobedience"* (2 Corinthians 10:5, 6, emphasis added). As our mind is renewed, every thought is compelled to come under the authority of Christ. That is, every mental perception is brought into subjection to the obedience of Christ's victorious death, burial and resurrection. Then, we will be free to minister the life of God to the world through the perfect God-empowered emotion of love (Mark 12:28-34).

The Will

The will is the area of the soul where man chooses what he is going to allow in his thought life. We can choose life or death (Deuteronomy 30:19, 20; 1 Peter 4:1-8), spirit or flesh (Romans 8:5-7; Galatians 5:16-25; Colossians 3:3-6), depending on our desire (1 John 2:15-17). As Christians, our conscience is purged *"...from dead works to serve the living God"* (Hebrews 9:14). Isaiah said: *"You will keep him in perfect peace, Whose mind is stayed on You, Because he trusts in You"* (26:3).

Paul painted a picture of the "war" that is going on in our mind for control of our will (Romans 7:13-25). Our choice should be to *"put on"* holiness (Colossians 3:10-15), to *"...gird up the loins of your mind"* (1 Peter 1:13), to *"...be not soon shaken in mind or troubled"* (2 Thessalonians 2:2), to study, memorize and meditate upon God's word (Joshua 1:8; Psalms 1:1-3; Colossians 3:16), to fix our eyes upon the Lord (Acts 2:25), to not be tossed back and forth by the waves of life (Ephesians 4:14), but to be firm, incapable of being moved (1 Corinthians

15:58), to guard our minds (Proverbs 4:23, 24) and to do the perfect will of God (Romans 12:2). Again, Paul said: “...for it is God who works in you both to will and to do for His good pleasure” (Philippians 2:13). God will work in us, “...what is well pleasing in his sight” (Hebrews 13:20, 21).

The following scriptures will encourage you: Mark. 3:35; John 4:34, 5:30, 6:38-40; Acts 13:22; Galatians 1:4; Ephesians 5:17; Colossians 1:9; 1 Thessalonians 4:3, 5:18; and 2 Timothy 2:26.

The Emotions

Our emotions are determined by the thoughts we choose to think. As we put on the mind of Christ, we will “*Get rid of all bitterness, rage, anger, harsh words, and slander, as well as all types of malicious behavior. Instead, be kind to each other, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, just as God through Christ has forgiven you*” (Ephesians 4:31, 32, NLT).

Thoughts that lead to a healthy emotional life focus on the power of the blood of Christ, the power of the Resurrection, and the power of the Holy Spirit. As a result, we will experience the power to reign over unbelief, which is enemy number one.

The Bible says that we are to “*walk by faith, not by sight*” nor feelings (2 Corinthians 5:7). We are to walk by love, always realizing the danger of letting negative emotions such as guilt, sorrow, grief, jealousy, envy, fear, worry, anxiety, anger, frustration and hate control us (Genesis, chapters 3, 4). It helps to remember the simple rule: “feelings follow faith.” Our emotions will correlate to what we are placing our faith, thoughts of God’s love and grace or thoughts from the enemy.

James said a doubter, “...*is a double minded man, unstable in all his ways...therefore lay aside all filthiness and overflow of wickedness, and receive with meekness the implanted word, which is able to save your souls*” (James 1:8, 21). James goes on to tell us to “...*submit to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you. Draw near to God and he will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands and purify your hearts, you double minded*” (4:7, 8).

We are to continually live in the presence of God through humility to His word, becoming not only pure in spirit, but in soul (Matthew 5:8; James 1:25). Then, the spiritual blessings of God will flow from our life: “*He shall be like a tree Planted by the rivers of water, That brings forth its fruit in its season, Whose leaf also shall not wither; And whatever he does shall prosper*” (Psalms 1:3).

***“Beloved, I pray that you may prosper in all things and be in health,
just as your soul prospers”***

(3 John 1:2).

What I Have In Christ

- I have light, salvation and freedom from fear (Psalms 27:1).
- I have fullness of joy (John 15:11).

- I have the love of God given to me by the Holy Spirit (Romans 5:5).
- I have a rich inheritance as a joint-heir with Christ (Romans 8:17; 1 Peter 1:4).
- I have safety wherever I go (Psalms 91:10, 11).
- I have been chosen and appointed to bear fruit (John 15:16).
- I have the abundance of grace and the gift of righteousness to reign in life through One — Jesus Christ (Romans 5:17).
- I have been called according to His purpose (Romans 8:28).
- I have a legal right to be a child of God, having received Jesus Christ (John 1:12).
- I have received power from the Holy Spirit to witness to the lost (Acts 1:8).
- I have died with Christ and died to the power of sin's rule over my life (Romans 6:1-6).
- I have been predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son (Romans 8:29).
- I have the light of life (John 8:12).
- I have peace with God being justified by faith (Romans 5:1).
- I have freedom forever from condemnation (Romans 8:1).
- I have been given a measure of faith (Romans 12:3).
- I have wisdom from God, and righteousness, and sanctification and redemption (1 Corinthians 1:30).
- I have received the Spirit of God that I might know the things freely given to me by God (1 Corinthians 2:12).
- I have been given the mind of Christ (1 Corinthians 2:16).
- I have been bought with a price. I am not my own. I belong to God (1 Corinthians 6:19, 20).
- I have abundant life (John 10:10b).

The Release of the Spirit

“Always carrying about in the body the dying of the Lord Jesus, that the life of Jesus also may be manifested in our body” (2 Corinthians 4:10).

Our spirit *“...is joined unto the Lord”* (1 Corinthians 6:17), through regeneration. The Spirit is released through our soul [mind, will and emotions]. This release causes our walk to be in harmony with the Spirit, *“For you were bought at a price; therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God’s”* (1 Corinthians 6:20).

Our soul is the gateway which releases the Holy Spirit. This release brings forth the power and life of God into our actions and relationships. The Amplified translation of the Bible says, *“If by the [Holy] Spirit we have our life [in God], let us go forward walking in line, our conduct controlled by the Spirit”* (Galatians 5:25, emphasis added).

Our bodily conduct comes under control of the Spirit as we yield in our soul to walk in line with God’s word (Romans 12:1, 2). Then, *“You are of God, little children, and have overcome them, because He who is in you is greater than he who is in the world”* (1 John 4:4).

The Life of the Spirit

The Christian life is the life of Christ produced in and through the child of God by the power of the Holy Spirit. *“For it is God who works in you both to will and to do for His good pleasure”* (Philippians 2:13).

Just as we received the Spirit by faith, we release the life of the Spirit by faith (Galatians 3:2-5). Jesus said: *“According to your faith let it be to you”* (Matthew 9:29, cf. 8:13). Jesus taught that faith in God releases His power to move mountains of doubt and unbelief in our heart (Mark. 11:22-24). Christ manifested the life of the Spirit, and so shall it be with the Church today (Luke 4:18), as we live by faith: *“For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes...For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith to faith, as it is written, ‘The just shall live by faith’”* (Romans 1:16, 17).

This life of faith is trusting in what the word of God says about our victory in Jesus Christ. You are to, *“Trust in the Lord with all your heart; and lean not unto your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will direct your paths”* (Proverbs 3:5, 6). The Spirit directs our path as we acknowledge the Lord by identifying ourselves in the Lord’s death, burial and resurrection for us (Romans 6:3-14; Colossians 2:9-15; Galatians 2:20; Revelation 1:18). Paul prayed: *“...that I may know Him and the power of His resurrection, and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death”* (Philippians 3:10).

The release of the Spirit for a victorious Christian life is a result of faith in the power of the resurrection of Jesus Christ. Jesus said: *“I am the resurrection and the life”* (John 11:25). In His death and resurrection, He is indeed our Savior, Lord and Righteousness, who broke the bonds [2,000 years ago] that hold us prisoner and sets us free: *“If you continue in my word, then are ye my disciples indeed: And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free”* (John 8:31, 32).

The Gateway of the Spirit

The gateway of the Spirit is the soul. The soul is like a hinged gate. It opens up through repentance for regeneration by the Holy Spirit (Titus 3:5). This gateway releases the Spirit as we place faith in Christ's finished work of grace. The apostle Paul told the Colossians, "*As you have therefore received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in Him*" (2:6). Just as we opened our heart by faith to receive salvation, so it is by faith we release the Spirit through the same gateway. The faith that brought Jesus into our life is the same faith by which we are to live (2 Corinthians 5:7). "*Rooted and built up in Him and established in the faith, as you have been taught, abounding in it with thanksgiving*" (Colossians 2:7). Jeremiah said: "...*Your word was to me the joy and rejoicing of my heart...*" (15:16).

The secret of the fruitful Christian life is dying to self-will so that the indwelling life of Christ can be released through our soul (Jeremiah 17:5-8). Without dying to our own will [choices], it is impossible for the gate of the Spirit to open (Luke 9:23; cf. 2 Corinthians 5:15). For example, Mary had to die to her will in order to receive the Promised Seed, which brought forth Jesus (Luke 1:26-38). Jesus surrendered His will in Gethsemane saying, "...*not my will, but thine, be done*" (Luke 22:42), to bring forth the promised life (John 12:24; cf. Romans 6:5). Furthermore, when we surrender our will to God, we receive the incorruptible seed, to bring forth the life of Christ (1 Peter 1:23, 25). Paul explains our identity with Christ when he wrote: "*Therefore we were buried with Him through baptism into death, that just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life. For if we have been united together in the likeness of His death, certainly we also shall be in the likeness of His resurrection*" (Romans 6:4, 5).

The Holy Spirit dwelling in us uses the mind as a channel [gateway] for expression, but it may be cluttered by other things, such as self-righteousness. The fleshly mind inhibits the Spirit's expression to others. The undisciplined mind grieves the Spirit of God more often than we care to acknowledge. But, when the mind is stayed upon the power of the blood, the power of the resurrection and the power of the Holy Spirit, the flood gate open for God-empowered emotions and behavior to flow (Isaiah 44:3).

The Flow of the Spirit

As we yield in faith and patience, our soul is disciplined to maturity which causes the release of God's Spirit. Jesus said: "*By your patience possess your souls*" (Luke 21:19). Solomon makes the thought processes of the heart the very indicator of moral character. "*The fear of the LORD is a fountain of life, To turn one away from the snares of death*" (Proverbs 14:27). "*A sound heart is life to the body, But envy is rottenness to the bones*" (Proverbs 14:30). "*For as he thinks in his heart, so is he*" (Proverbs 23:7; cf. Zechariah 8:16, 17).

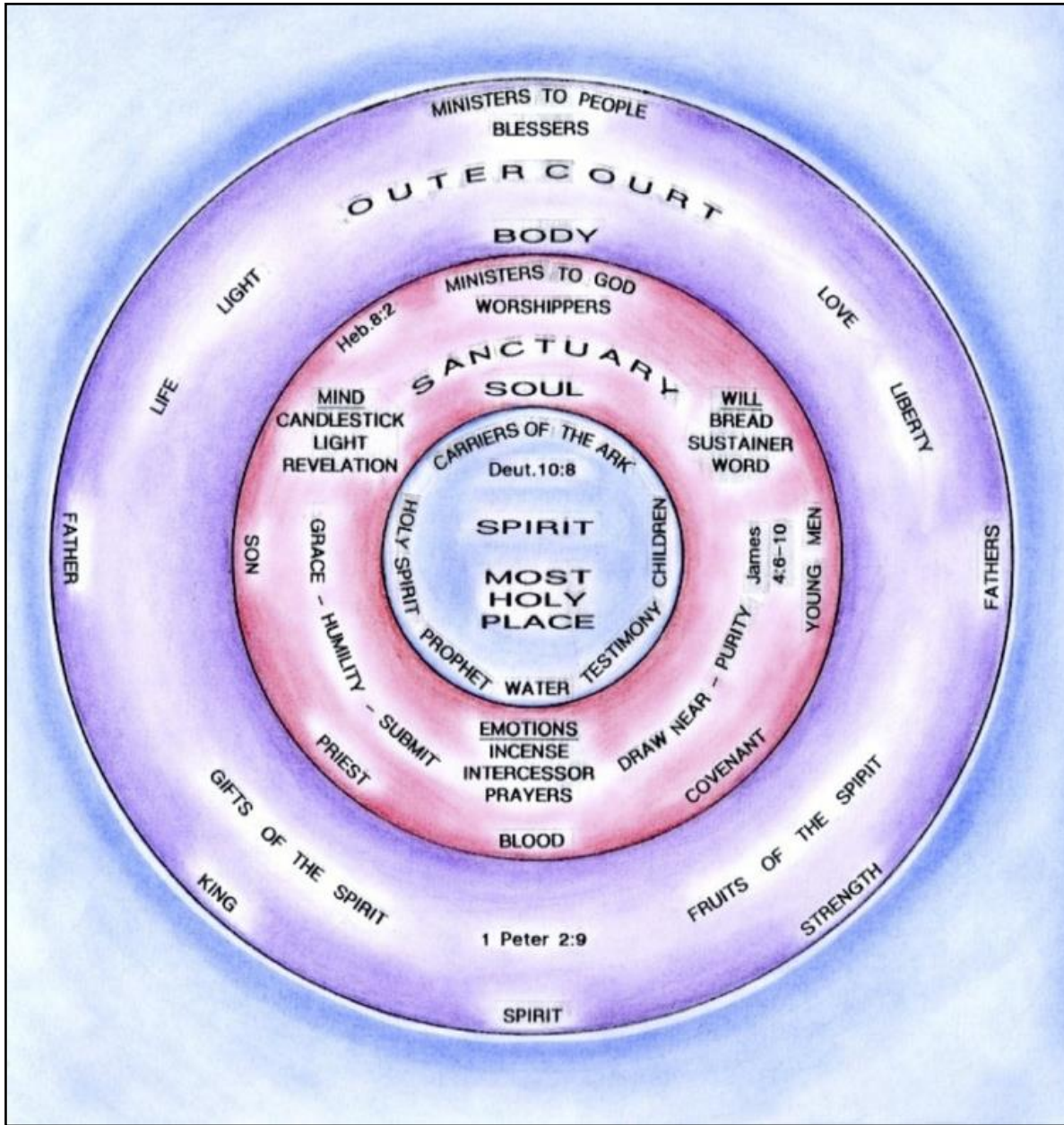
Therefore, the outward man simply reflects the thoughts of the soul, whether of faith or unbelief. Again, Solomon explained: "*The spirit of a man is the lamp of the LORD, Searching all the inner depths of his heart*" (Proverbs 20:27). Unbelief must be searched out by the Spirit, for

it will inhibit His release. The enemy knows the damage that the believer can do to his plans and devises (2 Corinthians 2:11). Satan is the great promoter of unbelief, but our soul must say yes only to God's word (Mark 16:14-20).

When the Holy Spirit regenerates the spirit of man, He is able to heal the soul and the body. Paul wrote: *"For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God"* (Romans 8:14). The evidence of the Spirit's control is the fruit and gifts of the Holy Spirit. The indwelling Spirit flows forth to comfort, instruct, direct and empower the believer. While ministering, Jesus cried out saying:

"If anyone thirsts, let him come to Me and drink. He who believes in Me, as the Scripture has said, out of his heart will flow rivers of living water"
(John 7:37, 38).

This river of living water produces much fruit from the branches of the vine (John 12:24; 15:1-5). The incorruptible seed planted in our spirit (1 Peter 1:23) brings forth life, not only in us, but in all who hear the word and understands it (Matthew 13:15). *"But he who received seed on the good ground is he who hears the word and understands it, who indeed bears fruit and produces: some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty"* (Matthew 13:23).



The Royal Priesthood

During the Old Tabernacle period, "...the LORD separated the tribe of Levi to bear the ark of the covenant of the LORD, to stand before the LORD to minister to Him and to bless in His name" (Deuteronomy 10:8).

In the New Testament, "...your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and you are not your own? For you were bought at a

price; therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God's" (1 Corinthians 6:19, 20).

Who are you? God's Word says, "...you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light; who once were not a people but are now the people of God, who had not obtained mercy but now have obtained mercy" (1 Peter 2:9, 10).

The Walk of the Spirit

The Spirit of Christ was manifested throughout the Gospel's recordings of His life and ministry (Luke 4:18; 8:41-48). The Holy Spirit revealed the glory of Christ on the mountain of Transfiguration (Matthew 17:1-5; cf. Luke 9:28-36). We are to "...walk, even as He walked" (1 John 2:6), then an eruption of faith, love, truth, light and life will take place in our life. "*But we all, with unveiled face, beholding [reflecting] as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as by the Spirit of the Lord*" (2 Corinthians 3:18, emphasis added; 4:10; cf. Exodus 34:29-35; Colossians 1:27). As we come to wholeness, we reflect and minister the life of Christ, as the moon reflects the sun. We are reflectors of His righteousness, reflecting God to the world by focusing on and resting in the finished work of Christ.

As a son or daughter of God, you "*...present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service*" (Romans 12:1), so that others may share our walk of the Spirit. Paul said to the Ephesians not only to walk filled with the Spirit (5:18), but to walk in unity (4:1-16), holiness (4:17-30), love (4:31; 5:2), and harmony (5:21; 6:9), all which are outward expressions of the Spirit being released by faith.

Peter shared: "*...you have purified your souls in obeying the truth through the Spirit in sincere love of the brethren, love one another fervently with a pure heart*" (1 Peter 1:22). For the gospel to affect others we must allow the fruit of the Spirit to be manifested and living through the whole man. As the fruit of the Spirit matures in our soul and body, "*...this is the victory that overcomes the world, even our faith*" (1 John 5:4, 5). The Apostle John knew that walking in the power of the Spirit can be accomplished only by faith in our resurrected victory with Christ. The Spirit reveals the word to our heart, developing active faith to live by, "*...being confident of this very thing, that He who has begun a good work in you will complete it until the day of Jesus Christ*" (Philippians 1:6).

What I Have In Christ:

- I have been established, anointed and sealed by God (2 Corinthians 1:21, 22).

- I have the blessings of Abraham having received the promise of the Spirit by faith (Galatians 3:14).
- I have been made accepted in the Beloved, Jesus Christ (Ephesians 1:6).
- I have a prize of the upward call of God (Philippians 3:14).
- I have liberty by the Spirit of the Lord (2 Corinthians 3:17).
- I have every spiritual blessing in heavenly places (Ephesians 1:3).
- I have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins according to the riches of His grace (Ephesians 1:7).
- I have the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, guarding my heart and mind through Christ Jesus (Philippians 4:6).
- I have the light shone in my heart to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ (2 Corinthians 4:6).
- I have been chosen to be holy and without blame before God (Ephesians 1:4).
- I have been given the Holy Spirit as a seal guaranteeing my inheritance to come (Ephesians 1:13, 14).
- I have all my needs supplied (Philippians 4:19).
- I have this treasure in an earthen vessel, that the excellence of the power maybe of God and not of me (2 Corinthians 4:7).
- I have a glorious future, chosen to be holy, without blame before Him in love, as a child of God (Ephesians 1:4, 5).
- I have a heavenly position — seated with Jesus Christ (Ephesians 2:6).
- I have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins (Colossians 1:14).
- I have died, I no longer live for myself, but for Christ (2 Corinthians 5:14, 15).
- I have been determined by God to be adopted as a son (Ephesians 1:5).
- I have direct access to God by the Spirit (Ephesians 2:18).
- I have been presented holy, blameless and above reproach in His sight (Colossians 1:22).

The Christian's Warfare

“For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty in God for pulling down strongholds” (2 Corinthians 10:4).

The Spirit-filled believer is a mighty soldier, fighting the good fight of faith in the New Covenant of Jesus Christ. Paul proclaimed: *“I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith”* (2 Timothy 4:7). Paul's faith was solely in *“Jesus Christ, and Him crucified”* (1 Corinthians 2:2).

As soldiers, our weapons are not physical, but the entire arsenal of God is at our disposal. We are full of God's divine power, more powerful than the equipment of the strongest army. Isaiah prophesied: *“...When the enemy comes in like a flood, The Spirit of the LORD will lift up a standard against him”* (59:19). Zechariah wrote: *“...Not by might nor by power, but by My Spirit, Says the LORD of hosts”* (4:6).

Jesus Christ, the great Captain of the Christian army (Hebrews 2:10), has already gone ahead of us and defeated the enemy, winning the war (Colossians 2:14, 15; Hebrews 2:14, 15). The only battle left is one of contending for the faith by standing in what He has already accomplished at Calvary (Jude 3; Ephesians 6:11, 13, 14). We are to keep the hedge of protection built up around us, guarding the gate of our soul by the shield of faith in the New Covenant, which is *“... able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked one”* (Ephesians 6:16).

The Spirit of faith already possesses the spirit of all born again believers (2 Corinthians 4:13). And now, this Holy Spirit power is to be released from within us, where He develops sound faith in our soul by the renewing of the mind, day by day (2 Corinthians 4:14-16). Then, our Christian walk is by faith and not by sight (2 Corinthians 5:7). We fight the good fight of faith in the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

The Sound Soldier

As sound minded soldiers of God, we are wide awake and resisting the enemy steadfastly by faith (1 Peter 5:8, 9). We agree with what God says in His word in and through all situations. The Spirit of God is to have full possession of our mind, with every rebellious thought being brought into captivity to Christ (2 Corinthians 10:5). We hear, believe and speak the word of God until we come to know the truth, that Jesus Christ has raised us from the dead, conquered the enemy and set us free from the law of sin and death (Romans 8:2; John 8:31, 32; Galatians 1:4; Ephesians 1:18; Hebrews 2:14; 1 John 3:8; Revelation 1:18). He broke Satan's control over this domain of darkness (Colossians 1:13), and He opened up a new, living way for us to approach God directly (Hebrews 10:20).

Boldly, we stand in the knowledge of the Name of Jesus Christ, whose authority flashes like a badge in the face of Satan. The enemy flees as we resist him by submitting to God (James 4:7). The demons know that we know the power of Jesus' Cross and Name (Philippians 2:5-10). It becomes clear to every name that is named, that Jesus Christ has given us His power and

authority over the power of the devil (Luke 10:19). But in order to exercise that power, we must remain in faithful subjection to the word of God (Matthew 28:19, 20).

The Strong Soldier

As strong soldiers of God, Paul's letter to the Ephesians tells us that we have become "... *strong in the Lord and in the power of His might*" (6:10). We have "*Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil*" (6:11). His letter lists each piece of our defensive armor:

1. "*Having girded your waist with truth...*" (6:14);
2. Your "*...breastplate of righteousness*" (6:14);
3. Your "*...shod your feet with the preparation of the gospel of peace*" (6:15);
4. Your "*...shield of faith*" (6:16);
5. Your "*...helmet of salvation*" (6:17).

This armor is to be put on while "*...praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit...*" (6:18).

We are to put on the truth, that righteousness in Christ brings peace by faith, resulting in salvation. The word "saved" comes from the Greek word *sozo*, which means to save, deliver, protect, heal, preserve, do well, make whole, keep safe, or rescue from destruction. We are dressed in Christ, which is the full armor of God. Paul said it like this to the Romans: "*The night is far spent, the day is at hand. Therefore let us cast off the works of darkness, and let us put on the armor of light...But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to fulfill its lusts*" (13:12, 14).

The strong soldier is well defended by the armor described above, but there is only one offensive weapon listed by Paul. That is, "*...the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God*" (Ephesians 6:17). This one weapon has a combination of other weapons within it. There are three major weapons for the soldier's use, which are listed below with scriptures for your study.

The Word of God: Psalms 107:20; 119:9, 11, 45, 89, 139; Proverbs 4:20-27; Isaiah 55:10, 11; Matthew 4:4; John 6:63; 14:23; Acts 19:20; Romans 1:16; 10:8, 17; Ephesians 5:25, 26; 6:16, 17; Colossians 3:16; 1 Thessalonians 2:13; Hebrews 4:12-14; James 1:22, 23; 1 Peter 1:23; 2:1, 2; 1 John 2:14; Revelation 19:13-15.

The Name of Jesus: Matthew 28:18, 10; Mark 16:15-20; John 14:13, 14; 15:16; 16:23, 24; 17:6, 26; Acts 3:6; 3:16; 4:7, 10, 12, 17, 18, 30; 5:41; 8:12; 9:15, 16, 21; 16:16-18; 19:13-17; Philippians 2:9-11.

The Covenant Names Of God	
Psalms 5:11; 83:18; 9:10; 91:14; Daniel 11:32	
<p>The eight (8) Redemptive Names of God:</p> <p>JEHOVAH-RAAH – the LORD my Shepherd, Psa.23:1; Jn.10:11-16; Heb.13:20; 1 Pet.2:25; 5:4; Rev.7:17</p> <p>JEHOVAH-JIREH – the LORD will see or provide, Gen.22:8-14; Ex.15:22; 1 Kg.17:6,12; Phil.4:19</p> <p>JEHOVAH-SHALOM – the LORD our peace, Jud.6:24; Jn.14:27; Acts 10:36; Rom.5:1; Col.3:15; Heb.7:2</p> <p>JEHOVAH-RAPHA – the LORD our healer, Ex.15:26; Isa.53:5,10; Mat.8:17; Lk.4:18; 1 Pet.2:24</p> <p>JEHOVAH-TSIDKEENU – the LORD our righteousness, Jer.23:6; Rom.3:25; 5:17; 1 Cor.1:30; 2 Cor.5:21</p> <p>JEHOVAH-SHAMMAH – the LORD is present, Ez.48:35; Ps.139:7-9; Mat.1:23; 28:20; 1 Cor.3:16; Heb.13:5</p> <p>JEHOVAH-NISSI – the LORD our banner, Ex.17:15; Rom.8:37; 2 Cor.2:14; 1 Jn.5:4</p> <p>JEHOVAH-M'KADDESH – the LORD our sanctifier, Ex.31:13; Lev.20:8; 21:8; 22:9,16,32; Ez.20:12; Jn.17:17-19; 1 Cor.1:30; Eph. 5:26; 1 Thes.5:23; Heb.2:11; 10:11; 13:12; 1 Pet.1:2; 3:15</p> <p>JEHOVAH ELOHE YISRAEL ("God strives") – the LORD God of Israel, supreme, great and mighty, Gen.32:28-30; 33:20; 1 Sam.15:28,19; Isa.1:24; 2 Sam.22:32; Isa.44:6-8; Dan.6:22</p> <p>EL SHADDAI – God Almighty, all sufficient, more than enough, breasty One, 48x in O.T. Gen.17:1; 28:3; 49:25; Ex.6:3; Num.24:4,16; Ruth 1:20,21; 31x in Job; Psa.91:1,9</p> <p>ADONAI-JEHOVAH – the LORD our Sovereign; Master Jehovah, 300x in O.T. Gen.15:1,8; Jud.6:13; 16:28; Job 28:28; Jer.1:6; Ez.37:9; Acts 9:5,6; Rom.10:13; Eph.5:17</p> <p>JEHOVAH-ELOHIM – the Eternal Creator, our God (plural) mighty and strong, Gen. ch.1 & 2; De.5:9</p> <p>JEHOVAH-TSEBAOTH – the LORD of hosts, Ex.14:5-15:6; Jos.5:14,15; 1 Sam.1:3; Neh.9:6; Ps.24:6-10; 147:4; Isa.13:4; 38:8; Mat.2:1-10; 26:53; Lk.1:26-28; 2:9-11; Rom.9:29; Eph.1:21; 3:10; Col.2:15</p> <p>JEHOVAH-ELYON – the LORD most high, Gen.14:22; 2 Sam.22:14; Ps.7:17; 21:7; 46:4; 47:2; 77:10; 83:18; 92:1,8; 97:9; 107:11; Lam.3:35-38; Dan.4:24; I Isa.6:1; Eze.9:4</p> <p>JEHOVAH-HOSEENU – the LORD our Maker, Ps.95:6; Pro.22:2; Isa.17:6; 45:8,11; 51:13; 54:5; Jer.33:2</p> <p>JEHOVAH-ELOHEENU – the LORD our God, the LORD of corporate righteousness, Ps.95:7; 99:5-9</p> <p>JEHOVAH-ELOHEKA – the LORD thy God, Ex.20:2,5,7</p> <p>JEHOVAH-ELOHAY – the LORD my God, Gen.32:30; Zech.14:5</p> <p>JEHOVAH-MAKKEH – the LORD that smitteth – Eze.7:9; 22:13; Pro.19:25; Ps.141:5; Isa.33:4,5,10</p> <p>JEHOVAH-GMOLAH – the LORD of recompenses – Isa.34:8; Jer.51:56; reap what we sow, Ps.94:1; Pro.12:14; 20:22; 1 Kg.17:15; Rom.11:35; 12:19; Heb.2:2; 10:35</p> <p>YESHUA – JESUS, YHWH Saves, Joshua, Jehovah is salvation, Ex.3:14; Isa.9:6; 43:3,11; 62:11; Mat.1:21; Lk.2:11; 19:10; Jn.4:42; 8:58; 14:13,14; 15:16; 16:23; Acts 3:16; 4:12; 5:31; 13:23; Eph.5:23; Phil.2:9; 3:20; 1 Tim.1:15; 2:3; 4:10; 2 Tim.1:10; Tit.1:3,4; 2:10,13; 3:4,6; 2 Pet.1:1,11; 3:18; Heb.7:25; 1 Jn.4:14</p>	<p>DAILY STEPS</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Meditate these Names of God. 2. Recognize that all these provisions are fulfilled in the Name of Jesus. 3. Confess each Name daily, and acknowledge the Name as yours in Christ. 4. Pray from your throne room position in the Name of Jesus Christ. 5. Praise God with the revelation of being seated with Christ in the heavenly places.
Charles D. Watson, www.aboundinglove.org	

The Blood of Jesus: Exodus 12:13, 21-24; Acts 20:28; Romans 3:25; 5:9; 1 Corinthians 6:19, 20; Ephesians 1:7; Colossians 1:20; Hebrews 9:12, 14, 22; 10:19-24; 13:12; 1 Peter 1:18, 19; 1 John 1:7; Revelation 1:5, 6; 7:14; 12:10, 11.

The Blood of Jesus Christ	
<p>Gen.4:3-5 – Abel's sacrifice was offered by faith (Heb.11:4), with an attitude pleasing to God. Gen.8:20-22 – Noah recognized by faith the blood sacrifice as God's divine provision. Gen.12:1-3 – Abraham rejoiced by faith foreseeing his promised redeemer, Jn.8:56; Gal.3:8,9,29. Ex.12:1-13,21-24 – Moses took the Lamb (a type of Jesus), applied the blood and overcame by faith. Ex. ch.24 – Moses applied the blood of the covenant and entered into the presence of God's glory. Ex. ch.29 – Aaron offered blood to cleanse himself and to sanctify the tabernacle by God's glory. Zec.9:11,12 – The blood brings us out of the pit with no water to provide a double blessing. Matt.26:28 – The blood of the new covenant is poured out to forgive the sins of many. John 1:24 – The blood of the Lamb of God takes away the sins of the world, Rev.13:8. John 6:29-56 – I believe in Jesus Christ and partake in His body and blood for eternal life. Acts 20:28 – I am purchased from the slave market of sin with the blood of Jesus Christ. Rom.3:24-26 – I am justified by grace, redeemed by Christ and declared righteous by faith. Rom.5:9 – I am made right in God's sight by the blood of Christ and saved from His judgment. 1 Cor.6:19,20 – I am bought with a high price. I glorify God in spirit and body which is God's temple. 1 Cor.10:16 – I am blessed because I share in the benefit of the blood of Jesus Christ. 1 Cor.11:25 – I have in remembrance who I am in Christ because of the blood of the new covenant. Eph.1:7 – I am purchased by grace, free through the blood of God's Son and my sins are forgiven. Eph.2:13 – I am God's property, once far away, but now I'm near to God by the blood. Col.1:20 – I have peace with God through the blood of the cross, reconciled to God. Heb.9:12-14 – Jesus took His blood into heaven's Most Holy Place, securing my salvation forever. His blood purified my heart from dead works to serve and worship the true and living God. Heb.9:21,22 – I am forgiven of my sins which would be impossible without the shedding of blood. Heb.10: 19,20 – I have boldness to enter heaven's Most Holy Place because of the blood of Jesus. I have a new and living way to enter into God's presence through the sacred veil by Jesus' death. Heb.12:24 – I have come to Jesus, the mediator of the new covenant and forgiven by His blood. Heb.13:12 – I am set apart unto God and made holy by the blood of Jesus who suffered for my sin. Heb.13:20 – I have an everlasting covenant, signed in Jesus' blood, the great Shepherd of the sheep. 1 Pet.1:2 – I am made holy by the Spirit, because I've been cleansed by the lifeblood of Jesus Christ. 1 Pet.1:19 – I am paid for with the precious blood of Jesus, the sinless, spotless Lamb of God. 1 Jn.1:7 – I have fellowship with God, because the blood of Jesus cleanses me from all sin. Rev.1:5,6 – I am loved and washed from sin by Jesus' blood, Who made me a king and priest. Rev.5:9 – I am blood bought for God's purpose, causing me to reign as a priest in God's kingdom. Rev.12:11 – I overcome the devil by the blood of the Lamb and the word of my testimony.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">DAILY STEPS</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Meditate these Blood Scriptures. 2. Recognize that you are bought with a price, and brought into the presence of God. 3. Confess each Scripture with your mouth daily. God's glory and presence will follow. 4. Pray from your throne room position in the Name of Jesus Christ. 5. Praise God with the revelation of being seated with Christ in the heavenly places because of the blood of Jesus.

These weapons of our warfare must now be launched with our mouth [sword] against Satan's strongholds in our lives. Again Paul wrote: *"For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal but mighty in God for pulling down strongholds"* (2 Corinthians 10:4). They are launched through speaking forth by four methods: prayer, preaching, testimony, and praise and worship. These activators carry the weapons into enemy territory, causing devastation to his plans and devices.

Prayer activates our weapons against the strongholds of the enemy by praying the word of God in agreement (Matthew 18:19), with Christ as our Intercessor (Romans 8:34; Hebrews 7:25), using our authority in the Name of Jesus Christ (John 14:13), and entering God's throne room boldly with the blood of Jesus (Hebrews 4:15, 16; 10:19-25).

Preaching activates our weapons against Satan's strongholds in the lives of others by preaching the word (2 Timothy 4:2), revealing the power that we all have in the name of Jesus (Philippians 2:9-11), and proclaiming the power of the blood of Jesus Christ (Romans 5:9).

Testimony activates our weapons to bring down the strongholds of Satan by confessing the word of God (1 John 2:14), lifting up the name of Jesus Christ in personal testimony (John 12:31, 32), and overcoming the enemy by the blood of the Lamb, and by the word of our testimony (Revelation 12:11).

Praise and worship activates our weapons against the strongholds of the enemy by praising and worshipping God for our great deliverance (Exodus 15:1-27), *"...giving thanks always for*

all things unto God and the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ" (Ephesians 5:20), and sacrificing our praise to God for our great sanctification (Hebrews 13:12-16).

[A book that teaches more on this subject is called **THE POWER OF PRAISE AND WORSHIP** by Terry Law, available on www.amazon.com].

The Humble Soldier

As humble soldiers of God, we have put off the old destructive weapons of Satan and by faith have put on the weapons of God through renewing the mind (Ephesians 4:22-24). We do not give place to the devil (Ephesians 4:27). We have come to be "resurrected minded," knowing the power of the resurrection, where sin's dominion is destroyed (Romans 6:3-14). Satan wars against our mind with his thoughts (Romans 7:23), but victory is certain as our thought life identifies with our resurrection in Christ Jesus (1 John 5:4, 5). God has made us "*...more than conquerors through Him who loved us*" (Romans 8:37). We are "*...steadfast, unmovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord...*" (1 Corinthians 15:58).

Evil spirits try hard to crush our soul and harass our mind with evil suggestions, fears, unbelief and insecurities. Satan is a thief who comes to steal, kill and destroy (John 10:10), but we know the truth and the truth in God's word has set us free (John 8:32). We do not permit prideful thoughts to enter our minds with lies, "*...for we are not ignorant of his devices*" (2 Corinthians 2:11). We submit ourselves to God, resisting the devil. We are not double minded (James 4:6-8). Through humbling ourselves to God, we resist Satan's foul spirits who produce mental unsoundness, nervous disorder, gloom, heaviness and depression.

We don't allow deceitful words to produce unbelief in our hearts like Eve did. In the garden, Satan spoke words to Eve. She saw the fruit was good, only after listening to him. By doing this, she humbled herself to the word of the serpent, which led to doubting the spoken truth of God (Genesis 2:17, 3:3-6). In a sense, she was born from below, or reborn of Satan which resulted in sin and death passing upon all mankind (Romans 5:12). Paul warned: "*But I fear, lest somehow, as the serpent deceived Eve by his craftiness, so your minds may be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ*" (2 Corinthians 11:3).

The bondage of Satan and the curse of the law rested upon mankind because of lust and pride, but the Good News is that Jesus Christ came to redeem us from the yoke of bondage (Galatians 5:1). Paul further writes, that Christ came to "*...redeem us from the curse of the law...that the blessings of Abraham may come upon the Gentiles in Jesus Christ, that we may receive the promise of the Spirit through faith*" (Galatians 3:13, 14; Deuteronomy 28:1-14). Isaiah prophesied: "*...the yoke shall be destroyed because of the anointing*" (10:27). Don't be your own worst enemy through unbelief. Today, the yoke of bondage is destroyed, for God has "*anointed us*" (2 Corinthians 1:21). He raised us up to sit on the throne of grace where we have power and authority to reign in His name. "*...thank God! He has made us His captives and continues to lead us along in Christ's triumphed possession. Now He uses us to spread the knowledge of Christ everywhere, like a sweet perfume*" (2 Corinthians 2:14, NLT).

The Obedient Soldier

As obedient soldiers of God, we have grown to hate the imaginations that so angered God in the beginning (Genesis 6:5), by the consistent practice of “...*casting down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ, and being ready to punish all disobedience when your obedience is fulfilled*” (2 Corinthians 10:5, 6).

We reap the rewards of obedience whether it is obedience to God or to Satan. Paul wrote to the Galatians saying, “*Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, that he will also reap. For he who sows to his flesh will of the flesh reap corruption, but he who sows to the Spirit will of the Spirit reap everlasting life*” (6:7, 8).

But it is faith in the obedience of Christ that allows us to open the doors to the arsenal of God to release His power from within us. We are to bring every thought to the power of the blood, the power of the resurrection and the power of the Holy Spirit, proclaiming who we are in Christ. Jesus “...*humbled Himself and became obedient to the point of death, even the death of the cross. Therefore God also has highly exalted Him and given Him the name which is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those in heaven, and of those on earth, and of those under the earth, and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father*” (Philippians 2:8-11). “...*For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that He might destroy the works of the devil*” (1 John 3:8b). “*For whatever is born of God overcomes the world. And this is the victory that has overcome the world — our faith*” (1 John 5:4).

Always remember — faith in God’s grace equals obedience and fulness of Spirit in all you do. When unbelief comes about your healing, the answer to your prayer, the salvation of your loved ones or the supply of your need, you speak assertively by saying out loud with your mouth, “Halt, you doubtful spirit, I resist you in the Name of Jesus, for it is written, ‘*Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus*’” (Philippians 4:6, 7). We are to humble our thoughts to the knowledge of God and never to the enemy and his imaginations, taking every thought captive to the obedience of Christ. In the like manner, we are to never yield our mouth to the voice of the enemy, but only to the voice of God’s word. The prophet Isaiah proclaimed:

“No weapon formed against you shall prosper, And every tongue which rises against you in judgment You shall condemn. This is the heritage of the servants of the Lord, And their righteousness is from Me, Says the Lord” (Isaiah 54:17).

We are to realize and proclaim that, “*We know that whoever is born of God does not sin; but he who has been born of God keeps himself, and the wicked one does not touch him. We know that we are of God, and the whole world lies under the sway of the wicked one. And we know that the Son of God has come and has given us an understanding, that we may know Him who is true;*

and we are in Him who is true, in His Son Jesus Christ. This is the true God and eternal life. Little children, keep yourselves from idols. Amen” (1 John 5:18-21).

Facts to Remember:

The amazing love of God causes us to be born again by faith, uniting us to Christ. *“Whoever believes that Jesus is the Christ is born of God...” (1 John 5:1).* We have the life of the Spirit living in us, since we are born of God.

The amazing love of God causes us to be united to Christ by faith, justifying us; that is, counting us made righteous by faith. *“Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ” (Romans 5:1).* God credits righteousness to us on the basis of Christ’s righteousness through the finish work of the cross.

The amazing love of God causes us to be united to Christ by faith, and having *“...made us accepted in the Beloved” (Ephesians 1:6),* He placed us in His family, because of righteousness. *“But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name: who were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God” (John 1:12, 13).* God made us His heirs and spiritual children.

The amazing love of God causes us to be united to Christ by faith, then the Holy Spirit produces the fruit of righteousness: Love. *“For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision avails anything, but faith working through love” (Galatians 5:6).* *“We know that we have passed from death to life, because we love the brethren...” (1 John 3:14).* Where there is new birth, there is love.

The amazing love of God causes us to be united to Christ by faith, Who is our righteousness, then the sanctifying power of the Holy Spirit conforms us into the image of Christ. *“For whom He foreknew, He also predestined to be conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the firstborn among many brethren. Moreover whom He predestined, these He also called; whom He called, these He also justified; and whom He justified, these He also glorified” (Romans 8:29, 30).*

What I Have In Christ:

- I have been firmly rooted, built up and established in my faith (Colossians 2:7).
- I have sound words, in faith and love in Christ Jesus (2 Timothy 1:13).
- I have the Lord as my helper. I need not fear (Hebrews 13:5, 6).
- I have the greater One living in me (1 John 4:4).
- I have been circumcised [my old unregenerated nature has been removed] Colossians 2:11).
- I have endurance to share a glorious salvation (2 Timothy 2:10).
- I have died to sins, that I might live for righteousness. I am healed by His bruises (1 Peter 2:24).
- I have no fear, for perfect love casts out fear (1 John 4:18).

- I have been raised up and now dead to self. My life is hid with Christ in God (Colossians 3:1-3).
- I have the promise of the blessed hope and a glorious appearing of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ (Titus 2:13).
- I have every good and perfect gift (James 1:17).
- I have the hope of eternal glory — that I will be perfected, established, strengthen and settled (1 Peter 5:10).
- I have eternal life (1 John 5:11, 12).
- I have been given the Spirit of power, love and a sound mind (2 Timothy 1:7).
- I have my representative, Jesus Christ, in heaven interceding for me in the presence of God (Hebrews 7:25, 9:24).
- I have fellowship because of the cleansing blood of Jesus Christ, His Son (1 John 1:7).
- I have the confidence that if I ask anything according to His will He hears me (1 John 5:14).
- I have been saved and called [set apart] for God's own purpose and grace (2 Timothy 1:9).
- I have an eternal inheritance promise to me (Hebrews 9:15).
- I have a purifying hope in Jesus (1 John 3:3).

Part 3, A Living Testimony

Let's Get Real

Let's face it! Many of us are living defeated lives for various reasons. Often we look outwardly to blame our defeat on people, places, things or circumstances, but instead, let's look to God's wisdom, asking ourselves a few questions that might spark some insight.

Who Is The Enemy?

It is pretty common knowledge that we have three enemies who try to defeat us: the world, the flesh and the devil. This world system has been in our face since we came forth from our mother's womb. This evil world looms before us and tells us that God is far away, in the distance. We grab the closest treats to satisfy our persistent cravings. And we blame everyone else, instead of taking responsibility ourselves. Could it be that we are our own worst enemy?

Let's get real! The enemy is that person in the mirror. Granted, you may have come from a dysfunctional family. We may blame God, but God is not our enemy. God loves you, and He has a plan and a purpose for your life. I encourage you to keep hope alive!

Look At Me

After getting through County jail, I went straight to death row, awaiting execution. God had another purpose for my life. The death penalty was found unconstitutional in '72, and I went to California Men's Colony where I got into hobby craft. I made a toy helicopter for my friend John, and on the side of it, I wrote, "Game is Blame!" I knew at that time that I could blame a lot of folks for my past behavior, but to do so, would be only a game. I knew right then and there, I needed to take full responsibility for my actions.

This was before I came to Christ in '75. Yeah, I could have blamed my folks for not being perfect, or the devil, who is loose in this world to deceive, but my own choices were responsible for my downfall. I am now suffering the consequences

With responsibility came a need to be forgiven. People sure didn't offer much of it. But for the first time, I felt the unconditional love of my family. Slowly, people did begin to reach out to me. I'm so thankful for those early friends like David, John, Luitgard and others, who saw something in me regardless of my crime. Then, those who knew the Lord came and told me about forgiveness through Jesus Christ. My greatest need was to unload my burden of sins at the foot of the cross, which I had already confessed to man.

The Real Mirror

As I begin to look into the real mirror, the Bible, I saw that I had not only broken man's law, but I had broken many of God's laws too. My conscience was already feeling guilty. As I looked into the mirror of God's commandments more closely, I had broken all ten! I might have escaped man's death penalty, but if God had immediately judged me, I would never have escaped His death penalty. I deserved death for my sin!

As a hobby, I made many toys in those couple of years before coming to Christ. I stayed busy with many things trying to get my mind off what I had done, but there was no relief. I lived in my headphones listening to Rock music, but still my conscience was speaking even louder. I could not drown out the thoughts of my responsibility for what I had done.

Then, the book *Helter Skelter* showed up in the prison library. It was not an easy read, to say the least. I learned a whole lot that I did not know as a result of Bugliosi's investigation, but not without soaking the book with tears. I won't rehash a lot that I have written about before, but God even used that book to show me the condition of my heart. It wasn't long after that, until I got on my knees and received Jesus' payment for my sins. What About You?

Our sin causes us to live defeated lives in torment and condemnation. You may not have a book written about your sins, but you do have the Bible, that tells us without the love of God in Christ, we have a fear of torment. The fear of judgment hangs over our head, because we have not believed the judgment of Jesus Christ on the cross as being for us.

I went to church, but I found out that just going to church could not help me, unless my ears were opened to the message of the Good News. Although I was doing a lot of listening, it took me a while to snap that I was there to hear. I thank God I was in a church where the gospel was being preached, which is not always the case these days. Some churches make you feel like you need to give up all your vices before you can be saved. If that was the case, we would not need Jesus or the church! I knew I was a sinner before I went to church. I needed to be saved and rescued from a sinking ship. I needed the Savior, Jesus Christ, to do what I could not do in my own strength.

The law had showed me my need to be forgiven, and I knew now that only the grace of God could help me. "*For the law was given through Moses, but grace and truth came through Jesus Christ*" (John 1:17). A friend, Melvin, was there to walk me to the altar. There at the cross, the Lord opened my heart, giving me that measure of faith to trust in Him. It was clear, Jesus had died in my place for my sin. I see now that "Tex" died that day and was buried with Christ. That night a new man rose up not only from the altar, but from the dead with Christ. I became a man who is no longer defeated by the world, the flesh and the devil.

The Reality of Victory

It wasn't too long until I found in the Bible the truth. Jesus destroyed the the power the devil had over my life at the cross. I found that God also placed me spiritually in a heavenly position with His Son Jesus, beside Him, far above all the demonic forces of this world. I saw that I could proclaim, and even sing, "Victory in Jesus, my Savior forever. He sought me, He bought me, with His redeeming blood!"

The years have passed now. I have grown in the grace and knowledge of my Lord Jesus Christ. I can not stress enough, the two most important things are how we see God and how we see ourselves. We are not only to see ourselves victorious because of Christ's victory, but that we have Christ's righteousness. He became sin for us, so that we could be perfectly right with God.

Jesus Christ is the heir of the blessings of Abraham, and we are co-heirs in Christ, blessed with all the spiritual blessings in the heavenly places.

How we see God will determine our level of victory. God is sovereign, having everything in His control. He is all powerful, all knowing, everywhere present and oh, so much more. But listen, number one, realize that God Loves You! As the Apostle John wrote: *“This is real love. It is not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son as a sacrifice to take away our sins”* (1 John 4:10, NLT).

What I Can Do In Christ:

- I can establish God’s word here on earth (Matthew 16:19).
- I can pray and receive from God (John 16:23, 24).
- I can be steadfast, unmovable, always abounding by faith in the work of the Lord Jesus Christ (1 Corinthians 15:58).
- I can confirm the Word with signs following (Mark 16:17, 18, 20).
- I can be led by the Holy Spirit (Romans 8:14).
- I can exercise authority over the enemy (Luke 10:19).
- I cannot be separated from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus (Romans 8:35-39)
- I can abide in the word, be a disciple, know the truth, and be free (John 8:31, 32)
- I can be changed by renewing my mind to God’s perfect will (Romans 12:2).
- I can do greater works through the Holy Spirit (John 14:12).
- I can labor together with God (1 Corinthians 3:9).

Ten Times Higher

The first time I took illegal drugs was in the summer of '67 in Texas. My fraternity brothers, many of whom drank, spoke negatively against marijuana, but I had met an airline stewardess at work, who turned me on to marijuana. She helped me get some from a member of the rock group, "The Five Americans." I knew of this group, who played at a club named "LouAnn's" in Dallas, where I took my dates. Back then, matches made from wood came in small boxes. These boxes would be filled with marijuana and sold for \$15 each. I learned fast that marijuana was also called "pot, weed or grass". We bought a box, but it turned out to be stems and seeds. She told me I got burned, but I didn't know the difference. I was disappointed, because it didn't get me high like the leafy stuff.

Medicating My Pain

I was running from the pressure I put on myself to succeed. I felt I would only be accepted by my family if I performed well. I didn't realize they loved me regardless, much less God. I looked for love and acceptance in sex and relationships that never fully satisfied the void in my heart. My grades were not that good. I had had several car wrecks and felt like a failure. I decided to flee to California. I thought I could get away from the pressure, find freedom, a new girl friend and real marijuana. I found all of this and more with a friend, who had moved out west a few months earlier.

Now I see that I was only medicating my pain, the same pain I had in Texas. Alcohol and marijuana no longer was enough, so I tried hallucinogens. My friend and I chewed up rosewood seeds, supposedly from Hawaii. They turned everything in the house blue and caused all my anger to come out at once. I went on to ingest LSD and other poisonous chemicals for the next two years. Once I ate the root of the jimson weed, a poisonous plant with large trumpet shape flowers, which almost killed me. This is where the wild man photo was taken of me under the influence of that plant, while in the Van Nuys County jail. So be warned; children have died from jimson weed, which should be avoided at all cost. Many had paid a heavy price for a deadly dose.

It is pointless to share the many trips I had on drugs, but taking methamphetamines for 30 days before my crime, took me over the edge. This drug affects the entire make up of the human body: mentally, emotionally and physically, not to mention socially. I became extremely compulsive, not able to restrain myself with any sort of normalcy. I dulled my conscience while on meth, with no concern for right and wrong, or the value of life. After the crime, I couldn't believe what I had done. I was emotionally sick about it — heart broken.

Lock up

I was at home in Texas when an arrest warrant showed up for me. I had returned home like the prodigal son, still smoking marijuana, but before I turned myself in to custody, I flushed it down the toilet. Now, I had to deal with my pain without drugs. Those nine months in the Collin County Jail were very painful. I couldn't deal with what I had done. I lashed out at my parents while on visits breaking their hearts. I was full of fear, not able to control the situation. I can only

imagine how my parents cried all the way home. I was not able to receive their love, because I unfairly blamed them for my mistakes. I was able to record eight hours with my attorney walking him through my crime, which ended up in my testimony book, *Will You Die For Me?* It felt good to get the whole truth out of my heart. I thank God, that my attorney was a Christian and a compassionate man, who loved me, without me even realizing it. It was just a part of his nature. He was a man of God.

The time came when I had to leave Texas to face justice in California. There was no mercy from the first minute I stepped off the plane. I felt like a wild dog with hunters surrounding me ready to make the kill. I dropped down to 106 pounds in a catatonic state, and was sent to Atascadero mental hospital for a ninety day observation. Slowly, I gained a little weight, got through court and was placed on death row, where I started to receive letters from friends. These compassionate letters helped to lift my depression. Nine months later, the death penalty was abolished, by the grace of God. I ended up going to a prison on the coast of central California.

After I got off death row, my family and friends started visiting me. I stopped rejecting the love of God I was experiencing through my family and attorney in Texas. For almost three years I had been experiencing the pain of my failure and the hatred focused towards me. I was looked upon by some as a celebrity monster. Some of my friends saw me as the Charles they had always known, who had met up with the wrong crowd and needed care. Others just wanted to meet me for the notoriety, but Christians came to share the love of God. I could see something in their lives that I desired to have.

Experiencing Love

My mother always wanted for me to know the love of God. Her favorite song was titled, "Others." It spoke of the Lord helping us to live for others. She wrote many letters to others asking them to help me see my need for the Lord. As I often say, Christians started "coming out out of the wood work", even though I was surrounded by concrete and steel. Mom contacted Chico Holiday, who she heard on television and Chaplain Ray on the radio, asking them to write, or to visit me. Her letters to me always ended by encouraging me to serve the Lord.

I started going to the prison chapel because of my mom's urgings. The Christian brothers were on me like bees on honey. One man asked me to go with him every time he went to church. Each time I went, I heard good news. I would go see the special groups who came into prison to sing and preach. It was the Easter season, so I heard about Christ's death, burial and resurrection several times. During the same time, I was in the visiting room with my girlfriend, while another girl was telling the camera man about Jesus. I overheard the conversation, and told my girlfriend about John 3:16, I had remembered it from my youth, but she did not want to hear it. I was blessed to hear it over and over for six months. "*For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life*". The Lord was speaking to me in many ways, through many different people. His love was drawing me closer to Him.

Finally, Chico came to visit, telling me about Jesus. Then, Chaplain Ray came from Texas, telling me of two other former Manson family members, who had given their lives to Jesus. I

hadn't yet, but I was close. A couple of weeks later, while attending a prison revival, my hand went up. I wasn't fearless enough to go to the altar by myself, but an usher took my arm and walked me down. The preacher asked me a few questions concerning my beliefs, and I accepted Christ's death for my sins. I asked Jesus to come into my heart, and immediately all my burdens were lifted off me. I knew I had been forgiven, and for the first time, I experienced God's love inside my heart. I remember feeling like candle wax that was melting. I wanted to shout, but I wasn't that free yet!

Free At Last

I remember going back to my cell that night and looking in the mirror. My face was glowing with the Spirit of the Lord. I was radiant, without any sense of sin. I felt like a clean vessel, who had been washed in the love of God. I remember saying to myself, "I'm ten times higher than I have ever been on drugs!" I remember thinking, "And this is free", because I always paid for the drugs. Later, I was reminded that God had paid for the gift of righteousness I had received, with the death of His Son, Jesus.

I still didn't know a lot about God, but I had experienced God's love that night, and I had a new desire to know about His love. My faith grew in God's word. I began to understand what it meant to be in right standing with God. Years later, I found in Daniel chapter 1, verse 20, where the Scriptures say, "*And in all matters of wisdom and understanding, that the king inquired of them, he found them ten times better than all the magicians and astrologers that were in all his realm*" What I had experienced that night was indeed ten times better than what I had ever experienced with drugs. The next day, I couldn't help but tell others about the love of God I had experienced the night before.

Drugs could not compare with my new found relationship with God. Drugs were a panacea, but they could not cure the pain that was in my heart due to my sin. The drugs could make me feel good for a moment, but they could not remove the guilt and shame that my crimes had caused. The drugs created a euphoric high, but they could never bring the forgiveness from God that I needed to remove the pain. Truly, Jesus had set me free from my addiction to drugs.

It's All About Loves

I'm so thankful that my parents and I were able to share the love of God together, before they went home to heaven. What has made the difference in my life is the healing power of God's love. I've grown to see the importance of sharing God's love daily with those around me, because of how His love drew me to Him. God works through love!

The Scriptures verify that those who have been forgiven much, love much. I have experienced the love and forgiveness of God. It was the love of God that drew me to Him, so that I could experience His forgiveness. In like manner, it is the love of God that ministers through our lives to draw others to God, so they too, can experience His forgiveness. This is the God kind of love — unconditional. The kind of love that does not judge, but acts with compassion towards those who are lost.

Let us love one another as God has loved us, especially those who are not in the Body of Christ. I often think of how I was loved by Christians, when I did not know Christ. It is hard for us to share God's love, if we have not experienced His love for ourselves. As Christians, we are born of His love, and if we do not love, we do not really know God, for God is love. Let us meditate on the book of First John in the New Testament. As we behold the love of God displayed in the passion of the cross, we receive His love and reflect it. As we come to truly know His love, righteousness and grace, the Lord will use us to reach this world with the Good News of Christ. This way the world will be won, as they see God's love demonstrated in us.

“And I pray that Christ will be more and more at home in your hearts as you trust in Him. May your roots go down deep into the soil of God's marvelous love. And may you have the power to understand, as all God's people should, how wide, how long, how high, how deep His love really is. May you experience the love of Christ, though it is so great you will never fully understand it. Then you will be filled with the fullness of life and power that comes from God” (Ephesians 3:17-19, NLT).

What I Can Do In Christ:

- I can always triumph by faith in Christ (2 Corinthians 2:14).
- I can abound in grace doing every good work (2 Corinthians 9:8).
- I can approach God with boldness, and confidence (Ephesians 3:12).
- I can stand fast and firm in the Lord (Philippians 4:1).
- I can minister the New Covenant through the Spirit of the living God (2 Corinthians 3:6).
- I can cast down imaginations, every thought against the knowledge of God, and bring every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ (2 Corinthians 10:5).
- I can walk as a child of the light having overcome darkness (Ephesians 5:8).
- I can rejoice always in Christ Jesus (Philippians 4:4).
- I can walk by faith and not by sight (2 Corinthians 5:7).
- I can draw near to God by the blood of Christ (Ephesians 2:13).
- I can be strong in the Lord and in the power of his might (Ephesians 6:10).

Love Is All You Need

One of my favorite songs in the '60s was “Love Is All You Need” by the Beatles. Children were singing this song around the world. I don't know if the Beatles understood the enormous truth behind their message, since they were singing about a “feeling”.

At the same time, our generation was singing with the Righteous Brothers, “You've lost that loving feeling, now she's gone, gone, gone”, which reflects a sensual, romantic love between male and female from the Greek word *eros*. This erotic kind of love was freely flowing among the flower children.

The children of the '60s were trying to fill a void in their hearts, desiring something real. I was looking for love to fill me, but found lust in all the wrong places. Many times I fried my mind with drugs. L.S.D. caused a euphoric feeling, but within hours it would fade away, leaving me with a few less brain cells. I rejected the love of my family, and I was blind to God's love. He seemed so far away. Now I know only His love can truly satisfy my heart.

The Beatles were right; all I needed was love, the God kind of love, flowing from my heavenly Father, filling my heart with His presence. It is in His presence that we find fullness of joy. Jesus said that He is the vine and we are His branches. If we abide in His word, His love would abide in us, and our joy would be made full. He knows that only His love can truly satisfy and bring peace and joy. His love strengthens our lives for successful ministry.

Love Dependent

I remember an episode years ago which occurred after I was born-again. During a Psychiatric panel interview, I was asked if I considered myself God dependent. I responded by saying “yes”, and briefly mentioned my prayerful relationship with the Lord. In those days, it was looked upon as a weakness to trust God for healing. If I were asked today, I'd not only say I'm God dependent, but love dependent, since God is love.

The love of God flowing through one's heart is the source of healing for all mankind. This fact is acknowledged only in tragic situations when all other avenues are exhausted. But in reality, God sent His love to heal us and to deliver us from destruction. Let us pray that God will open our eyes to the healing power of this love. This way, He can rescue us before an impossible circumstance arises.

It has always been God's plan for us to depend on His love. Adam & Eve turned from a love dependence upon God to independent love based on worldly wisdom. Their lack of Godly love allowed sin to reign. God's love called out for them to return, saying, “*where art thou?*” Their descendants continued to run from His love, until judgment came with a flood. God scattered Noah's offspring at the tower Babel, when they tried through their own means to reach Him. God's love requires faith, so He called Abraham, making a covenant of loving grace that could only be achieved by faith in the promise Seed, Jesus Christ.

God gave Moses the Law, to reveal man's sinfulness and need for salvation. He gave instructions to build a tabernacle for blood sacrifices to cover sin. The Lord led His children to

the Promised Land and endured their rebellion for centuries, until they went into Babylonian captivity. His love delivered them. He knew from the foundation of the world that His loving plan called for His Son Jesus, to take our judgment and to cleanse us from sin through the love of Calvary's cross. Jesus died and rose again, presented His blood in the heavenly temple, made us right with God and sent His Spirit to live in our hearts. He will come soon to take us home to be with Him for eternity. What healing love! Those who do not receive Christ's payment for sin, will not see it that way. They will bear their own judgment for sin at the Great White Throne, refusing God's love forever.

It can be heart breaking to miss that moment when called upon to minister, not having a word from God, because of our lack of a relationship with God. This experience of failing to carry out our ministry can leave us in deep sorrow for failing the Lord's body, having quenched or grieved the Holy Spirit. The Lord desires to use us to speak His word freely in these last days. A word that is directly placed in your heart minutes or seconds before you are asked to give it. Sadly, many ministers today do not realize the difference in fleshy works and the ministry of the Holy Spirit.

A Godly Desire

As we come to know God's voice through His love, a fresh desire springs from our heart to serve Him and others. As we yield to the prophetic ministry, the Lord will use us more often. There will be a noticeable difference in your ministry as the Holy Spirit manifests God's power of love. This trust relationship, between you and your heavenly Father, will free His word to be spoken through you, when you open your mouth, He will fill it with His loving flow. The Holy Spirit will teach the Scriptures through you, as He frees you from your fear and intellect.

Those interested in moving in the Spirit must let go and let God flow in their lives. If He is not flowing in our daily relationships with those around us, it is hard for Him to flow in public ministry. This flow of divine love is a lifestyle that permeates every aspect of our lives both private and public. This is a lifestyle of praying without ceasing and in everything giving thanks, for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus. The communication of our faith becomes effective as we acknowledge every good thing that is in us because of Christ Jesus.

To be effective in ministry, we can not have the perspective that it is a profession. The ministry of Christ is our royal priesthood. It is no longer our ministry, but His ministry as the Holy Spirit manifests healing love through His words, which we speak. His words become our words, and our words becomes His words as they line up with Scripture, dying to self, so that the Lord Jesus Christ is truly manifest in our mortal flesh. This is the ministry of the Holy Spirit, no longer I, but Christ who lives in me!

Our Need Supplied

Jesus Christ gave us the perfect example of ministry in the Gospels. He spent hours with His Father hearing His voice. The words that He spoke were Spirit and Life from His Father. He knew the love of His Father, and that love is what enabled Him in the ministry of healing and

miracles. Those who believe, are promised to do even greater works than He did because He went to be with His Father so that He could anoint us with the Holy Spirit.

We are motivated by the love of Calvary. All of our needs have been supplied according to His riches in heaven by Christ Jesus our Lord. There is an unlimited source of love flowing from God's heavenly throne room. As we increase in His love, we are promised to do abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us. The Lord has done all He can do to provide, so now it is up to us to walk in His divine flow. We are a channel of God's blessings.

We know the areas in our life that are hindering the flow. The Lord is causing hearts to break all around the world in repentance for not yielding to His holy call. Men and women are desiring to walk in purity, so their Father's divine flow can do the work of the ministry. Folks are tired of “playing church” in the midst of a world crying out to God for something that is real. It is time to step out into His ministry in a new and loving way. Won't you take advantage of the ministry He made possible for you through the finished work of the cross?

God has struggled with mankind for six thousand years as He dealt with us through His loving kindness. We learn about this love story and how His love works by example. Many prisoners were not raised around a family and people who showed them God's love. Those who were, quickly return to God once in prison. Most did not experience sufficient love, to allow healing to flow in their lives. They desired to receive love, because God made it so a person can not successfully survive without it. If they had been showered with hugs, kisses, affection and positive affirmation while growing up, most likely a healthy life would have resulted, motivating them to live in society free from criminal acts.

The Love Connection

I often tell the story how Jesus is our forerunner. I jokingly say that I am not talking about a Toyota 4Runner. When the word “forerunner” is used in the New Testament, it is talking about a little boat that would carry the ship's anchor close to shore for dropping it where the ship could not. This word is used when Jesus is declared to be the anchor of our soul. After His resurrection, He went into heaven to anchor us there, so that we would always be divinely connected to His throne room. Jesus established the love connection between God and us, which can never be broken, but can be realized more fully.

The secret to victorious Christian living is to always stay conscious of God's love for us. This is God's self-sacrificial love, displaying His very character. It is the love that He desires us to walk in continually. I like to change the word “God” to “love” whenever I see “God” in the Bible. For instance, Romans 1:16, 17 says, “*For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God [love] to salvation [healing, deliverance, soundness, preservation, liberation and more] for everyone who believes...For in it [the Gospel] the righteousness of God [love] is revealed from faith to faith, as it is written, ‘the just shall live by faith’*” (emphasis added). How about “*...by grace we have been saved through faith, and that not of ourselves; it [salvation] is a gift of God [love]*” (Ephesians 2:8, emphasis added). We read, hear and speak the Word of love,

as children of love, in the kingdom of love. Truly, all we need is the realization of God's love in every step we take for us to be His expression of love to the world.

As we grow to experience the love connection, we no longer trust in ourselves, but in the power of God's love, flowing through our lives. This divine flow increases as we enjoy a continuous and unhindered interchange with God. Like the Saints who have gone before us, we trust God through every trial and situation, building patience and character. We experience God's creative power directing our lives as we minister to others.

Throne Room Ministry

Our ministry is to flow from heaven, where we are connected by the the Holy Spirit. Heaven is where we get Christ's authority and wisdom for ministry. As Christians, one day our works will be examined at the Judgment Seat of Christ, whether they are of gold and silver or of wood and clay. Only gold and silver works, carried out by the Holy Spirit, will be rewarded with honor and glory. The wood and clay works, done in the flesh, will be burned as dishonorable. My heart's desire is to speak words given by the Holy Spirit, so my works will be of value. My purpose is to give the testimony of Jesus, which is the Spirit of prophecy, revealing the love of our heavenly Father. My prayer is that my Father's love may overflow from my heart.

Our responsibility is to be ready at all times to have a word from the Lord for those around us by way of the Holy Spirit. If we are walking in the flesh, minding the things of the flesh, we will not be ready to hear from God. It is tempting to only minister from prepared sermons notes, but to have a specific word from God is entirely different. It can be fresh bread for the church body or for an individual member.

What I Can Do In Christ:

- I can enter into God's presence by the blood of Jesus, by a new and living way (Hebrews 10:19, 20)
- I can cast all my cares on Jesus (1 Peter 5:7).
- I can daily overcome the devil because He who is in me is greater than he who in the world (1 John 4:4).
- I can cast out all fear by God's perfect love (1 John 4:18).
- I can love God and others because God first loved me (1 John 4:19).
- I can overcome the world as a believer by faith (1 John 5:4).
- I can overcome the devil by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of my testimony (Revelation 12:11).
- I can do all things through the strength of Christ Jesus (Philippians 4:13).
- I can walk and live steadfastly by faith (Colossians 2:5, 6).
- I can come boldly before the throne of God [the throne of grace] to find mercy and grace in time of need in Christ Jesus (Hebrews 4:16).

- I can be a mature and strong co-worker with Jesus (Colossians 1:28, 29).
- I can mix God's word with faith and enter into His rest (Hebrews 4:1-3).
- I can have a clean conscience by faith in the blood of Jesus Christ (Hebrews 9:14; 10:1, 2).

Meditating Your Covenant

The key to living in God's presence is to meditate your covenant, experiencing yourself united with Christ's death, burial and resurrection throughout the day. King David knew the importance of the Ark of God, representing God's covenant with His children. It had been housed in the wilderness tabernacle's Most Holy Place where the Shekinah glory of God dwelt during the old covenant. David and his men rescued it and *"They brought the Ark of God and placed it inside the special tent David had prepared for it. And they presented burnt offerings and peace offerings to God."* He exhorted the people to *"Remember His covenant forever — the commitment He made to a thousand generations"* (1 Chronicles 16:1, NLT).

Today, we are God's special tent, His temple, with Jesus our Ark living in us through the presence of the Holy Spirit. *"Therefore by Him let us continually offer the sacrifice of praise to God, that is the fruit of our lips, giving thanks to His name"* (Hebrews 13:15, NLT). This helps us to understand and experience how generous God has been to us in Christ. As a result, our faith increases through hearing, meditating and even singing God's Word (Colossians 3:16, 17).

The A to Z Identity System

This system is a useful tool to help us meditate, understand and experience our identity in Christ. I pray that you will pick up this simple technique to remind yourself of who you are in Christ. Let's start with "A", saying:

- I am accepted.
- I am anointed.
- I am the apple of God's eye.

Now, we'll move on to "B" and so on, saying:

- I am blessed.
- I am the beloved, so I be loved.
- I am blood bought.
- I am a child of God.
- I am delivered.
- I am eternally secure.
- I am forgiven, free, etc.

The Lord gave this fresh word while teaching a class in the prison chapel. The men and myself picked it up and ran with it. Before we knew it, we were at "Z", saying, "I am zealous" and then we jumped around to all the letters having fun as the joy of the Lord filled our hearts to overflowing.

The brothers in the class along with myself see one another daily reminding each other who we are in Christ by shouting out a letter, such as “R” with the response, “I am the righteousness of God in Christ.”

Meditating the Promises

Meditation is a constant looking at one thing until that becomes an inner image and the inner image becomes so real that you begin to speak as though it is already in existence. For us, we’re “...*looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God*” (Hebrews 12:2).

Let your throne-room reality become so real that you see yourself sitting there in Him. Then, you speak of the reality of who you are in Christ’s finished works until you see yourself as He is in this world “...*raised up together, and made us sit together in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus*” (Ephesians 2:6).

- I am crucified.
- I am buried.
- I am risen.
- I am seated.
- I am hidden.
- I am reigning.

This A to Z meditating tool helps to keep you covenant minded. As you read through the Bible, especially the New Testament Epistles, you bring to mind inner images of God’s promises from A to Z. For instance, when you hear a promise, meditate on it and then proclaim:

- 1 Peter 2:24 – “I am healed.”
- John 3:16 – “I am loved.”
- 1 Corinthians 12:27 – “I am a member of Christ’s body.”
- 2 Corinthians 5:17 – “I am a new creation.”
- Colossians 1:12 – “I am qualified.”
- 3 John 2 – “I am prosperous in the soul.”

As you find more and more words describing who you are in Christ, plug them into your A to Z system. You can write them down, but the idea is to plug them into your memory for meditation. You’ll be able to have several words for each letter, such as “I am saved, sound minded, sanctified, significant and secure in Christ.”

Challenging Every Thought

The enemy of our mind brings all sorts of thoughts contrary to the promises of God, saying “I’m sick and tired,” “I’m dying,” “I’m losing my mind,” “I’m worried,” “I’m scared to death,” “I’m fat,” “I’m Ugly” and others. We are not to place faith in those lies, but instead, “...*casting down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ*” (2 Corinthians 10:5).

As we recall our A to Z Identity System, we keep ourselves on track to the knowledge of God by bringing every thought captive to the knowledge of the truth.

“You [God] will keep him in perfect peace, Whose mind is stayed on You, Because he trusts in You” (Isaiah 26:3, emphasis added).

- I have the mind of Christ.
- I have a sound mind in Christ.
- I have perfect peace, because I trust in God.

We have a responsibility to be assertive in Christ against the thoughts of the enemy. Thank God, He has given us the grace [ability] to respond through the power of the Holy Spirit. I believe when we confess the Word of God. He creates our reality (Matthew 12:35-37).

Projecting Christ

It is a proven fact even in Psychology that we project upon others what is in our hearts. The Apostle John wrote:

“And as we live in God, our love grows more perfect. So we will not be afraid on the day of judgment, but we can face him with confidence because we are like Christ here in this world” (1 John 4:17, NLT).

Our spirit is made perfect in love when we are born again, but our soul [mind, will and emotions] is always growing to become more perfect in love. As our thoughts line up with God’s thoughts of who we are in Christ, His love flows forth as fruit of the Spirit: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control (Galatians 5:22, 23). As the apostle Paul wrote to Titus, “*Everything is pure to those whose hearts are pure...*” (1:15a, NLT).

So you can say:

- I am loving.
- I am joyful.
- I am peaceful.
- I am patient.
- I am kind, etc.

When you see yourself in Christ as God sees you, you'll project your identity in Christ upon others. What you have in Christ, you'll see others having too. What you can do in Christ, you'll see others able to do as well. Your whole view of God, yourself and others will be changed, *"...because as He is, so are we in this world."*

- I can do all things through Christ Who strengthens me.

An Exhortation for you. . .

"Dear friends, you must build each other up in your most holy faith, praying in the power of the Holy Spirit, and await the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ, who will bring you eternal life. In this way, you will keep yourselves safe in God's love.

Now all glory to God, who is able to keep you from falling away and will bring you with great joy into His glorious presence without a single fault. All glory to Him Who alone is God, our Savior through Jesus Christ our Lord. All glory, majesty, power, and authority are His before all time, and in the present, and beyond all time" (Jude 20, 21, 24, 25, NLT).

The Gospel

Eternal life is a gift from God (Romans 6:23) available free for the asking because of a love story written in blood on a wooden cross 2000 years ago. Without this wonderful gift, mankind is eternally separated from God and will suffer everlasting punishment (2 Thessalonians 1:8).

God is holy and righteous (Habakuk 1:2) and must punish sin (Exodus 34:6, 7). Everyone is conceived in sin, born a sinner and enters the world under the judgment of God (Romans 3:10, 23). The penalty of sin is death (Romans 6:23), and the second death is the eternal lake of fire (Revelation 20:14).

We can be reconciled to God only through His Only Son Jesus Christ (John 14:6). Jesus, the second person of the triune God, lived a perfectly righteous life by obeying (Hebrews 7:26) and fulfilling the law of God (Colossians 2:14). God demands perfect righteousness to enter heaven (Revelation 21:27). Since it is impossible for sinners to become righteous, God offers us the righteousness of His Son as a gift (Romans 5:17) to those who come to Him by faith in the Only righteous One — Jesus Christ (Romans 4:5). Those God justifies, He will glorify (Romans 8:30).

Eternal life is free to all who receive it by faith alone because Jesus paid the ransom for our redemption with His shed blood (Titus 2:13, 14). Jesus, the sinless Savior, took upon the wrath of God, paying the death penalty that God demands for sinners (Romans 5:8).

Salvation can only be received by grace, God's ability through the finished work of Calvary's cross (Ephesians 2:8, 9). It cannot be merited by righteous deeds (Titus 3:5) because anyone who attempts to earn acceptance before God by their own works nullifies the grace of God (Romans 11:6).

Those who receive Jesus Christ by faith are adopted into God's eternal family (John 1:12) and nothing can ever separate them from God's love (Romans 8:28, 29). Jesus Christ loses no one that the Father gives Him (John 6:39).

Have you received God's gift of eternal life? Do you know if all your sins are completely forgiven? Do you know if you have been reconciled to God? If not, why not forsake all attempts to save yourself, repent from your dead works (Hebrew 6:1) and put all your trust and confidence in the Lord Jesus Christ. Believe the promises of God as revealed in His Holy Word. Then find a church that has Biblical integrity so you can worship God in Spirit and Truth (John 4:24). This will help you grown in the grace and knowledge of Jesus Christ, our wonderful Savior.

Prayer of Surrender

Father, I surrender my life to Your plan. I believe that You sent Your Son Jesus to take my sin, guilt and pain upon Himself, so that I could be made right with You. I believe my sins are completely forgiven because of the precious blood of Jesus. Forgive me for trying to save myself by my own works. I turn to You with all my heart, and trust only the finished work of Calvary. Thank you for this awesome gift of eternal life. Thank you for taking up residence in my heart

and for inviting me into your glorious kingdom. I commit my life to serving before Your throne forever. Amen!

Appendix

Jesus says, “*Search the Scriptures...they...testify of me.*” (John 5:39). Indeed, they do! Jesus portrait is found in every book of the Bible.

- In **Genesis**: Jesus is The Seed of The Woman, a descendant of Abraham, a king in the line of Judah in the order of Melchizedek. The sacrificed Son (as like Isaac, Genesis 22) and a rejected brother (as like Joseph, Genesis 27).
- In **Exodus**: Jesus is The Passover Lamb, the leader and deliverer out of slavery (as like Moses), the manna from heaven, the rock that gave water, the Tabernacle in the camp and every item inside (Brazen Altar, Lampstand, Table of Showbread, Ark of the Covenant, etc.).
- In **Leviticus**: Jesus is The High Priest, personified by the sacrifices and offering, the Jewish festivals (Passover, Atonement, Trumpets, etc.). The scapegoat and what Christ does as our high priest.
- In **Numbers**: Jesus is The Cloud and The Fire, the Messiah that would be King. The healer in the bronze serpent. The Water from the Rock.
- In **Deuteronomy**: Jesus is The Prophet Like Moses, worshipped by angels. He is the cities of refuge.
- In **Joshua**: Jesus is The Captain of Our Salvation, our leader into the promise land (as like Joshua), the commander-in-chief of the Army.
- In **Judges**: Jesus is The Judge And Lawgiver, the true judge for the living and the dead.
- In **Ruth**: Jesus is The Kinsman Redeemer, the descendent of Boaz and Ruth. As personified by Boaz.
- In **1 & 2 Samuel**: Jesus is The Prophet of the LORD, exalted by God with power. A descendent of David, personified by David – the exiled King. The faithful friend (Jonathan).
- In **1 & 2 Kings, 1 & 2 Chronicles**: Jesus is The Reigning King, for the Millennial Reign (as like Solomon). Multiplying bread and healing leper (as like Elisha).
- In **Ezra**: Jesus is The Faithful Scribe, the builder of the temple (Zerubbabel).
- In **Nehemiah**: Jesus is The Rebuilder of The Broken Down Walls, the rebuilder of the walls of salvation (as like Nehemiah).
- In **Esther**: Jesus is Mordecai, the personified defeater of evil. The Guardian.
- In **Job**: Jesus is The Dayspring From on High, the sufferings and the subsequent blessings (as like Job).
- In **Psalms**: Jesus is The Lord Who Is Our Shepherd, the resurrected Son of God, that was despised and crucified; Hated without cause, rejected by the Israelites. But now seated on the right hand of God.
- In **Proverbs & Ecclesiastes**: Jesus is The Wisdom of God.
- In **The Song of Solomon**: Jesus is The Lover & Bridegroom.
- In **Isaiah**: Jesus is The Suffering Servant. Born of a virgin, the Immanuel, “God with us”. The God and Man, with 7-fold spirit upon Him. He healed the blind, lame and deaf, preceded by a

forerunner. A light to the Gentiles but despised by the Israelite nation. He was whipped and beaten; and finally died as a guilt offering for sin. But He resurrected and lives forever.

- In **Jeremiah & Lamentations**: Jesus is The Weeping Prophet, the righteous Branch, our righteousness.
- In **Ezekiel**: Jesus is The son of Man, a descendent of David.
- In **Daniel**: Jesus is The Son of Man coming in the clouds of Heaven, giving an everlasting kingdom. He died 483 years after the decree to rebuild Jerusalem. Foretold He would be killed and revealed as the stone that smashed the kingdoms of the world. The fourth Man in the fiery furnace.
- In **Hosea**: Jesus is The Bridegroom Married to The Backslidden Woman, faithful to his adulterous wife.
- In **Joel**: Jesus is Baptized With The Holy Spirit And Fire, offered salvation to all mankind and baptized people with the Holy Spirit.
- In **Amos**: Jesus is The Burden Bearer, that darkens the day at noon during Messiah's death.
- In **Obadiah**: Jesus is The Mighty Savior.
- In **Jonah**: Jesus is The Forgiving God, being 3 days and 3 nights in the belly of a fish.
- In **Micah**: Jesus is The Messenger With Beautiful Feet, born in Bethlehem and from everlasting.
- In **Nahum**: Jesus is The Avenger of God's Elect.
- In **Habakkuk**: Jesus is The Great Evangelist, Crying For Revival, the Messiah that would come from Teman at His return, full of glory. With intercession and prayer for His people (Habakkuk).
- In **Zephaniah**: Jesus is The Restorer of God's Lost Heritage.
- In **Haggai**: Jesus is The Cleansing Fountain, who visited the 2nd temple.
- In **Zechariah**: Jesus is The Pierced Son, a Priest and King who rides into Jerusalem on a donkey. The Messiah who would be God and be pierced.
- In **Malachi**: Jesus is The Son of Righteousness, Rising with Healing in His Wings, the Messiah who would be God who appears at the temple and His forerunner came in the spirit of Elijah.
- In **Matthew**: Jesus is The King, the Son of David, the King of the Jews, the Son of God and the Bridegroom.
- In **Mark**: Jesus is The Wonder Worker, The Holy One of God, the Servant, the King of Israel.
- In **Luke**: Jesus is The Son of Man, the Horn of Salvation and the Consolation of Israel.
- In **John**: Jesus is The Son of God, the Begotten Son, the Lamb of God, the Bread of Life, the Light of the World, the I AM, the Door of the Sheep, the Good Shepherd, the Resurrection and Life, the Way, the Truth and the Life. The True Vine.
- In **Acts**: Jesus is The Ascended Lord, the Prince of Life, the Judge of the living and the dead, the Just One, and the Hope of Israel.

- In **Romans**: Jesus is The Justifier, the Rock of Offense, the Deliverer, the Lord of the Dead and the living. The Root of Jesse.
- In **1 & 2 Corinthians**: Jesus is The Gifts of The Spirit, the First-Fruit and the Last Adam.
- In **Galatians**: Jesus is The One Who Sets Us Free, the Lord Jesus Christ.
- In **Ephesians**: Jesus is The Christ of Riches, the Head of All Things and the Cornerstone.
- In **Philippians**: Jesus is The God Who Meets Our Every Need, the Name Above All Names.
- In **Colossians**: Jesus is The Fullness of The Godhead, the Image of the Invisible God, the Head of the body, the Beginning, the Firstborn of the Dead and the Hope of Glory.
- In **1 & 2 Thessalonians**: Jesus is The Soon Coming King, the Lord of Peace.
- In **1 & 2 Timothy**: Jesus is The Mediator between God and Man, the King of Ages and the Mediator.
- In **Titus**: Jesus is The Faithful Pastor, the Blessed Hope. The Great God and Savior.
- In **Philemon**: Jesus is The Friend That Sticks Closer Than a Brother, the Lord Jesus Christ.
- In **Hebrews**: Jesus is The Blood That Washes Away My Sins, the Heir of All Things, the Faithful High Priest, the Author and Finisher of Our faith.
- In **James**: Jesus is The Great Physician, The Lord of Glory and the Judge at the door.
- In **1 & 2 Peter**: Jesus is The Chief Shepherd, and the Living Stone.
- In **1 & 2 & 3 John**: Jesus is The Everlasting Love, the Eternal Life and the Righteous.
- In **Jude**: Jesus is The Lord Who Came Down with 10,000 Saints, the Only Wise God, Our Savior.
- In **Revelation**: Jesus is The King of Kings and the Lord of Lords! The Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End. The Lion of the Tribe of Judah, the Word of God, the Bright Morning Star.

Glossary

This glossary of terms contains many of the critical words and concepts in this book. They are a combination of definitions from the Merriam-Webster Dictionary, and my own Biblical understanding.

ABILITY - natural man's proficiency to be sufficient in himself; the sufficiency that comes from God, which enables man to live victoriously in the world.

ACCEPTANCE - a need for approval, appreciation; favor with one another; acceptance by the grace, mercy or covenant love of God through faith and repentance.

ALTAR OF INCENSE - where the priests burnt incense every morning, while they trimmed the lamps, and offered prayer to God (Exodus 30:7).

ATTITUDE - a firmly held point of view or way of regarding something.

BELIEF - to place one's trust in God's truth; to take God at His Word and trust in him for salvation.

BELIEVER - a person who through faith in God's plan for salvation, accepts the Good News of Jesus Christ and His work of redemption; a person who is "born again" due to the foregoing; a person who has the Holy Spirit dwelling within his heart [inner man] due to his faith in Jesus Christ.

BLESSING - the act of declaring favor and goodness upon others; God promised to bless all nations through Abraham (Genesis 12:3); the believer is blessed with all spiritual blessings (Ephesians 1:3).

BONDAGE - to be subject to an owner or master, such as slavery to Satan; the slave market of sin, which Christ paid the price of His blood for us to be freed from; slavery in general; imprisonment.

BORN AGAIN - regeneration of a man spiritually from a sinner to a sanctified, redeemed person. The beginning of the total salvation of a person — spirit, soul and body.

BROKENNESS - emotionally distressed over sorrow, or sin; contrite spirit; softhearted vessel before God (Psalm 31:12).

CHARACTER - maturity that is refined and revealed through life's tests, humiliations and setbacks; what God knows you to be.

CHOICE - free will in the soul to choose; direction we take in life based upon promises, self-will or circumstances.

CHRISTIAN - a believer; a person saved by grace through faith in Jesus Christ and the Gospel; a person who is one with Christ, who has Christ's mind.

COMMITMENT - the singleness of heart and mind that overcomes every obstacle to fulfill the promise of God; a pledge or promise to do something.

COMPASSION - to suffer with another; sympathetic feeling for one in distress or pain; understanding.

CONDEMNATION - a damnable sentence of judgment; none for a sinner who repents and believes in Jesus (Romans 8:1,3); condemnation is of the devil (1 Timothy 3:6).

CONFESSION - to say the same thing that God says about sin and the solution for sin; declare faith in something to self and others; to admit wrong doing.

CONSCIENCE - that faculty within our heart that determines right and wrong thoughts and actions, and instantly approves or convicts us; the voice of our spirit.

CONTROL - to exercise a decisive role in influencing the actions and conduct of others; to yield control to God's promises; to bring oneself or one's emotions under control.

CONVICTION - different from condemnation, in that it is God shining His light on areas of our heart that need change: such as wrong doings or sin (Acts 2:37; 16:29); strong belief.

CURSE - opposite of a blessing; anyone violating God's covenant is cursed; faith in Christ removes the curse of the law (Galatians 3:13, 14); that which produces an undesirable outcome.

DELIVERANCE - victory or safety; to be set free by God from sin and the power of demonic forces; to be brought out of danger.

"DENY SELF" - to say no to self, to make no room for blame, anger and depression; to humble oneself, forgive and love (Luke 9:23).

DISCIPLINE - to train by instruction and knowledge, or by correction, punishment, reproof or control; a disciple is a disciplined one (John 8:31, 32); to be taught.

EMOTIONS - an intense feeling in the soul; internal response or reaction to the thoughts we choose to think upon or circumstances.

FAITH - is given by God to the believer for him to act on his belief in God's Word; being fully persuaded of things hoped for, the conviction of things promised; trust.

FEAR - the spirit of the world; unpleasant emotions caused by a sense of danger; fear of failure; reverence, awe or respect (2 Timothy 1:7).

FLESH - man's ability to change or become righteous through his own strength, efforts, good works or by keeping the law; the physical aspects of a person.

FORGIVENESS - the act of excusing or pardoning others in spite of their guilt, shortcomings and errors; God's pardon of sins.

FREEDOM - having liberty or independence; the power of acting without compulsion; an attitude of the heart that supersedes the external condition of our lives.

FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT - the qualities of God's character flowing forth through the believer; a work of God's grace; love, joy, peace, etc. (Galatians 5:22, 23).

GIFTS OF THE SPIRIT - God's abilities working through the believer as He wills for service to God and ministry to others.

GLORIFICATION - the final work of salvation when the Spirit perfects the believer: spirit, soul and body; where God's beauty and brilliance is fully realized; the final transfiguration of a believer.

GLORY - God's excellence, brightness, beauty, power, mercy, grace, patience, truth, faithfulness and prosperity seen in creation, Jesus Christ and His children; God manifesting Himself in our lives.

GOSPEL - the entire "good news" of God's ability to redeem as seen throughout Scripture and as fulfilled in the ministry of Jesus Christ.

GRACE - God's willingness to use His power and ability on our behalf, making us able to do what we cannot do in our own ability. How God deals with present and future events.

GUILT - bearing responsibility for an offense or wrong doing; remorseful awareness of having done wrong.

HEART - the inner man; that part not seen; the spirit part is reborn at conversion 100%; the soul part (mind, will and emotions) are presently being renewed.

HOLINESS - a separation from the world, the fleshly desires of man, and the devil; to be separated and sanctified.

HOPE - a confident expectation of good; firm assurance in things unseen and still in the future; hope comes from God.

HELPLESSNESS - unable to effect one's purpose, intention, or end; powerlessness; lacking expectation of anything good in the future.

HUMILITY - the willingness to surrender our will, our opinions and our view to the will of God.

ILLUMINATION - the light of the Holy Spirit making clear or enlarging the revelation [an unveiling or disclosing of Who Jesus Christ is and what He did to bring salvation]. [See Revelation and Unveiling].

INFERIORITY - being lower in position, degree, rank, or merit; a state of mind where one belittles themselves; makes oneself feel unimportant or worthless.

INSECURITY - uncertain, unsafe, fearful or jealous; resulting in putting others down to build up oneself; causing harsh judgment of others.

INTEGRITY - quality of being honest or sincere; singleness of purpose; wholeness; completeness; reverence of God; purity of heart and motive; adherence to a code of values.

JOY - a fruit of the Holy Spirit that is experienced in God producing victory through His strength in the battles of life.

JUSTIFICATION - the process by which sinful human beings are made acceptable to a holy God, just as if they had never sinned; righteousness.

KINGDOM OF HEAVEN - God's rule of grace in all three levels of heavens, including earth, present and future; righteousness, peace and joy in the Holy Spirit (Romans 14:17); where God rules.

KING - ruler of a nation or territory, especially one who inherits his position and rules for life; the believer reigns because of the King of kings, Jesus Christ's inheritance being given to us.

LAMPSTAND - a seven-lamp oil-burning vessel of gold, which reflects upon the showbread, lighting the tabernacle (Exodus 25:37; 30:8).

LAW - an orderly system of rules and regulations by which a society is governed; fleshly works some depend on for their salvation and righteousness.

LOVE - God's high esteem for His children and ours for Him and others [Greek: *agape*, divine love]; brotherly love [Greek: *phileo*]; and sexual love [Greek: *eros*].

LUST - desire for what is forbidden; lust of the eye; flesh and world (1 John 2:15-17); an obsessive sexual craving; contrary to God's will; idolatry.

MEDITATION - to "chew on," to say or roll over and over in one's mind; think; ponder; reflect; contemplate; listen quietly.

MERCY - to withhold wrath; forgiveness; to show God's love, kindness or compassion; pity or leniency, divine blessing. How God deals with the consequences of past events, subject to God's will for our lives (Romans 9:15-16; Exodus 33:19).

MIND - that part of the soul where a person thinks and reasons; one becomes what he thinks he is (Proverbs 23:7).

PAIN - an emotion of sorrow, distress or grief, resulting from sin, life's trials or wrong doings; physical hurts; to injure.

PATIENCE - a fruit of the Spirit; forbearance under suffering and endurance in the face of adversity; patience is to possess our soul (Luke 21:19).

PEACE - a combination of hope, trust and inner tranquility in the mind and soul, brought about by reconciliation with God through Christ, the Prince of Peace; lack of war; absence of strife.

PRAISE - the language of our faith; an act of worship or acknowledgment by which virtues or deeds of God are recognized and highly esteemed.

PRAYER - communication with God; adoration, confession, thanksgiving, worship, making requests and dedicating our service, while living in His presence, carrying out our royal priesthood.

PRIEST - one chosen by God to serve Him in the sanctuary of our hearts; a minister communicating to God, walking in the light of God's revelation, applying the blood of Christ.

PRIDE - the basic urge to be a god, master of our lives; desire to command and control the universe; arrogance.

PROMISE - a Word sent forth from God for us to expect the performance of an act; a solemn pledge from God; a commitment.

REBELLION - disobedience against God; resistance or unwillingness to submit to the authority of God and man.

RECONCILIATION - to restore peace in relationships; the process where God and people are brought together again.

REGENERATION - the change of man's sinful nature by the Holy Spirit – being born again.

RELATIONSHIPS - connections between God and others as family, based upon promises, commitment and actions; interactions with others.

RENEWAL - a new creation; reversal; the newness of life; a freshness; a new lifestyle (way of living); putting on the new man (Colossians 3:10), fresh thinking and attitudes.

REPENTANCE - a turning away from sin, disobedience or rebellion and a turning back to God; a change of mind; Godly sorrow or remorse for past conduct.

RESPONSIBILITY - to face the consequences of our choices; fulfilling obligations and duties to God and others.

REVELATION - the unveiling of Jesus Christ; there is no new revelation, only illumination as we grow to see Jesus on the throne of our life; the giving of knowledge.

RIGHTEOUSNESS - the ability to stand in God's presence without the sense of sin, guilt, fear or inferiority; justification.

SALVATION - deliverance from the power of sin; redemption, the price being paid to purchase us from the bondage of sin; being saved from the righteous requirements of the Law.

SANCTIFICATION - the ongoing process of God's grace; being continually separated from sin, being dedicated to God's righteousness and changed into the image of Christ.

SANCTUARY - a holy place set apart for the worship of God; a refuge from danger; the Most Holy Place, or the Holy of Holies in the tabernacle or temple; God's holy habitation in heaven; the heart [spirit and soul] of a believer set apart unto God for worship.

SELF-CONTROL - a fruit of the Spirit; control of actions or emotions by the will; yielding self to God's will.

SELFISHNESS - being self-centered; based on looking good, feeling good, being right and in control in our flesh, idolatry.

SEPARATION - [Positive] to be Holy - separate from the world, the flesh and the devil; [Negative] the quality, state or condition of being excluded from God's family because of sin.

SERVICE - Christ redeemed us, then commissioned us to join His work for the benefit of others; to do for others.

SIN - "original sin" through Adam; lawlessness; rebellion against God's law in thought, word and deed; moral depravity; anything that drives us to be independent from God.

SOUL - that part of the heart made up of mind, will and emotions which must be renewed by the knowledge of the truth.

SPIRIT - that part of the heart that is reborn with the life, light and love of God; the Holy Spirit.

STRONGHOLDS - what one uses to defend a personal belief or idea, especially when you are dead wrong; what keeps one from changing.

SUFFICIENCY - only God Almighty [El Shaddai] is our self-sufficient LORD; He is adequate for all things; as much as is needed or wanted; the One Who can accomplish what He says.

TABLE OF SHOWBREAD - twelve loaves of holy bread, changed weekly, set before the LORD always in the sanctuary of the tabernacle to symbolize God's presence and provision.

"TAKE UP THE CROSS" - embrace the humiliation and rejection before us, putting others first, self last; the example of humility set by Jesus Christ in the crucifixion; to deny the flesh.

TORMENT - to inflict extreme physical pain or severe mental agony, anguish, or harassment; to inflict upon one something hard to endure; to annoy or disturb with hostile intent or injurious effect.

TRANSFIGURE - to change from one state to another; metamorphosis, sudden or drastic change [as of form]; glorify.

TRUST - assured hope and reliance; faith; believing the promises of God.

TRUTH - reality; God's Word; spiritual revelation of the Word; faithfulness to a correct standard.

UNVEILING - revelation; reveal oneself, such as Jesus Christ; disclose; to make mentally and spiritually visible; to make known what has been concealed. [See Illumination and Revelation].

VALUES - guiding principles, such as one's old value system vs. the new one, after receiving Christ.

VICTOR - one who governs himself by his vision and promises regardless of circumstances (John 10:10); the one who wins.

VISION - the redemptive revelation of God; a future of God's provision and relationship with others; the ability to see; understanding.

WILL - that part of the soul where man makes his choices whether or not to think what God thinks or the world thinks.

WILLINGNESS - consisting of or proceeding from, an exercise of free will; readiness, without reluctance; a desire to cooperate.

WISDOM - the ability the believer receives to make choices and reach conclusions and decisions from God's point of view; knowledge; for a believer, Jesus Christ is wisdom from God (1 Corinthians 1:24,30).

WORSHIP - reverent devotion pledged to God, denotes the worthiness of one receiving the special devotion; attributing proper value to God, to his Son, and to His will for your life.

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