

TRUSTING THE FATHER

BIBLE STUDY BOOKLET
LESSONS 001 – 020

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I. PURPOSE:

To share with you how I have come to understand the Lord.

Having grown up in a very religious background, my understanding of the Lord was shaped through church doctrine, not the Holy Spirit. I lived in a constant fear of God that caused me much guilt and shame (coming too from a life where guilt and shame was a norm for me with my abusive dad). I portrayed God as I did my dad: love, intermixed with abuse. All the while, constantly trying not to bring on his anger; and feeling like I was never perfect enough to keep his anger at bay. I subconsciously felt I always disappointed my dad—this in turn developed in a conscious feeling that I always disappointed God.

I grew up becoming a defeated human being. And being Born-Again at the age of 16, continued as a defeated Christian. All I did was wait my turn in this world, longing for the day my days on this earth were over and I was with the Lord—even though I often felt that some sin I would commit would instead send me to Hell (not Heaven).

Being the Christian I expected myself had become an impossible chore—yet didn't give up trying—which continued those feelings of guilt and shame when I failed (over and over again). And church didn't help; no matter which one I went to...they all seemed to share the same doctrinal message about me just being a "sinner saved by Grace"; and finding ways to remind me of my sinful nature and perpetual short-comings. I felt church wasn't there to build me up, but to make me an even more miserable Christian than I already was. So, I'd stopped going to church.

My life (and life as a Christian) all began to change when I heard and believed this "un-church" and "un-religious" message about a Loving God and a Holy Spirit indwelling that provided power, authority, and a correct understanding of who God the Father is. So, at age 38, getting Baptised in the Holy Spirit, I stopped being that helpless Christian! And as I grew with His power and authority, knowing too He was not judging or condemning me for any failures, my life (and Christian life) was now a positive that just kept distancing itself from religion, guilt, and shame.

This is my desire too for you. To share with you an understanding of this transformation in my life through how I began to see scripture anew. And that, if you happen to find yourself stuck as a "defeated Christian", or you're tired of being "Bible-thumped" over the head by churches, you deserve the Freedom that you have been given through Christ Jesus. For, no matter what you do, you cannot minimize the True "Agape" Love that the Lord has for you!

II. GUIDANCE:

- A. No matter what I share in this Bible Study booklet, always let the Holy Spirit be the one to interpret what is being said. He will always speak the Truth about a subject or verse, and as I genuinely try and share with His guidance, I will always be growing in the Lord and increasing my knowledge and understanding of Him. Thus, He may share with you in more detail, or more accurately. I am not, and should not be, your only source of understanding—He has given us an array of individuals whom know Him; don't be shy to let Him guide you to hear the right people.
- B. There is no perfect Bible translation. As such, I reference several different ones. I also have found that the Lord has me do an in-depth Greek/Hebrew analysis of verses or key words, and thus come up with a translation that differs from any published ones I can find. In such cases, I refer to the translation version as Provisions of Grace [PoG]. A [PoG] translation stems from the KJV/AKJV with meaning derived from the original Greek/Hebrew. [*Italicized words*] indicate that they are added for clarity or reference, not found in the original.
- C. When referencing "the Cross", I am attributing it to the entire life and ministry of Jesus: including His death, resurrection, ascension, and delivery of the Holy Ghost for and to mankind.
- D. The use of the word "Lord" references the Unified Trinity of God the Father, Jesus Christ, and the Holy Spirit.
- E. Don't be afraid to journal and take notes as you go. Your relationship with the Lord allows you to openly communicate with Him about anything in your life or about this Bible Study. This can feel odd at times if you are still developing a trust with Him; but the more you do it, the more you will recognise His voice and trust Him.

III. GENERAL BELIEFS:

Through a relationship with the Father, we as children of the Father continue to come to understand His Heart. As such, we see that He truly is a Loving Father that is beyond measure and time. His jealousy for all of us is so great and always so good—He really does only want the best for us in any and all situations of life. And this Love was demonstrated through the pure heart and ministry of Jesus Christ—Jesus embodied the Spirit of the Father and in all ways showed us the Heart of the Father. This is what we believe and hold true in our hearts.

The following are beliefs and understandings through scripture that share some of what we hold true about the Love of the Father, Jesus Christ, and the Holy Ghost.

- God the Father Loves everyone in this world. So much so, that through the sacrificial giving of His Only Son (Christ Jesus), He has Gifted us Forgiveness, Righteousness, Health & Healing, and a personal intimate relationship with Him as a Father.
 - [John 3:16-17](#). [Romans 3:21-22](#). [Hebrews 10:12](#). [1 Peter 2:24](#).
- God is Love. This type of Love is not of our own ability, but God's unique "Agape" Love as defined in 1 Corinthians 13:4-8. This Love, and no other, is what is demonstrated to all the world from the Father. And this is the Love we gain in and through ourselves when we accept Him into our hearts. And His only command to us is to Love Him and each other in that Agape Love which only comes from His ability in us.
 - [John 13:24](#). [John 15:12](#). [1 John 3:23](#). [1 John 4:7,16](#). [1 Corinthians 13:4-8](#).
- The Kingdom of Heaven / Kingdom of God is in us now. It is not a place yet to come (a future Heaven / Reign), or a ritual (religious activity); but Power and Righteousness and Peace and Joy in the Holy Spirit.
 - [Matthew 6:33](#). [Luke 17:21](#). [Romans 14:17](#). [1 Corinthians 4:20](#).
- All humans (all men, all women, all races, and all nationalities) are created equally and have always been so. We are all created in the likeness of the Father, Son (Jesus Christ), and Holy Spirit; not only from the beginning of Creation, but now. This was clearly demonstrated in the ministry of Jesus; and is demonstrated now through Christ, to us from the Father, and in the working of the same Holy Spirit with and in both males and females; as well as in all races and nationalities. The Lord is no respecter of persons.
 - [Genesis 1:26-28](#). [Acts 10:34-35](#). [Romans 2:11](#). [Galatians 3:26-28](#). [Colossians 3:9-17](#).
- Righteousness has been Gifted to all through the Completed Work of Christ Jesus. It has been Gifted to all of us by God's Grace through the finished Faith of Christ Jesus; not by our works (self-righteous acts), nor through the Law (which has been fulfilled by Christ). It is unto all, and upon all that believe.
 - [Romans 3:21-22](#). [Galatians 2:16](#). [Ephesians 2:8](#).
- Salvation is the God-Gifted deliverance and preservation of a person out from the ways of self, the world, and Satan; to live a Kingdom life now on earth. It exists for all, and becomes personal (manifests) upon believing in Jesus Christ as our Saviour. It is by God's Grace through Christ's Faith; which we in turn believe, and thus come into salvation. It begins upon believing (being Born-Again), and is fulfilled when a believer dies; guaranteeing eternal existence with the Lord. There is no other way to obtain salvation but by believing in Christ Jesus.
 - [Luke 3:4-6](#). [Acts 4:10-12](#). [Romans 1:16](#). [Romans 10:9-10](#). [Romans 13:11](#). [Ephesians 1:13-14](#).
[Ephesians 2:8-9](#). [Philippians 2:12-13](#). [2 Thessalonians 2:13-14](#). [Titus 2:11](#).
- The Holy Spirit has been gifted to every person on earth. He is with us all, and in all who accept His infilling. And this infilling does not differ from person-to-person (regardless of gender, age, status, culture, or nationality)—for the Lord is no respecter of persons. For we are each given the same Holy Spirit as Jesus has.
 - [John 15:26](#). [John 16:7-11,13](#). [Acts 2:1-18 \(Joel 2:28-29\)](#). [Acts 10:34-35](#). [Romans 2:11](#). [Galatians 3:26-28](#).

- The Holy Spirit does not condemn us of the sins of our flesh; He only brings to light the sin of not believing in Jesus Christ as our Saviour. When we do not accept the testimony of Truth from the Holy Spirit to believe in Christ Jesus, it is that sin of not believing that is not forgiven. However, when we are Born-Again through believing on Him, that sin is forgiven. All other sins (all the sins of the flesh) were forgiven once-and-for-all-time at the Cross, and it is not necessary to ask forgiveness of them.
 - [Matthew 12:30-32](#). [Mark 3:27-30](#). [John 14:6](#). [John 15:26](#). [John 16:7-11,13](#). [Hebrews 10:12](#). [1 John 5:6-11](#).
- Gifts of the Holy Spirit are for all who believe as part of His Kingdom in us now. The Lord has blessed us with all Spiritual blessings and demonstrates Himself through signs and wonders; including miracles, healings, prophesy, words of knowledge, speaking in tongues, and more. Each one of us as believers can operate in all of the Holy Spirit's Gifts, just as Jesus Christ Himself demonstrated and more. They are both a testimony of Christ's accomplishment, and the Lord's Love to both believers and non-believers.
 - [Mark 16:16-18](#). [John 14:12](#). [Acts 4:29-31](#). [Ephesians 1:3](#).

These become a testimony in our lives and relationship with Him. This experiencing of Him is what makes Him so personal—this is His Love towards us and for us. He wants to demonstrate Himself to us, so we can fully understand His Love for everyone on this earth. **God Bless (As He Always Does).**

IV. RESOURCES:

- A. As you go through these Bible Study lessons, I sometimes refer to my blog that also goes into sharing my relationship with the Lord. This blog is written in a different format than these Bible Studies, so you might garner further insight into a subject through it. So please feel free to visit: www.cbadenhorst.blogspot.com
- B. The following are additional resources referenced throughout this Bible Study Booklet:
 - www.BibleGateway.com
 - www.BlueLetterBible.com
 - www.jglm.org
 - www.awmi.net
 - www.bjm.org
 - www.FaithMinistries.ws
 - www.BornOfSpirit.net
 - www.CarlieTerradez.wordpress.com
 - www.DrLeaf.com
 - www.BWRT.org

V. ACKNOWLEDGEMENT & SUPPORT:

- A. A big THANK YOU to all the family, friends, sponsors, and donors whom have fed into our person lives and ministry. If you would like to support our ministry or part of our outreach, you may do so via our website or at:
 - www.paypal.com/us/fundraiser/charity/2413858
 - www.CrosspointAcademy.co.za
- B. And most of all, thank you to my wife **Kelly Badenhurst** whom has supported and encouraged me in this journey.

CHARACTER AND NATURE OF GOD: “GOOD”

INTENTION:

When we think of God, we do not always think of Him as being a good person—as we would ourselves judge a person we see or meet living in this world. We oftentimes give more “good” credit to people around us than to God.

Yet it is God that lives up to His own “Good” standard and will always Himself follow the guidelines He gives us.

Additionally, we can falsely assume that even if God sends hurricanes, earthquakes, famine, or hardship on me, that this is somehow “good” of God to do out of some mysterious, incomprehensible plan He has.

But we will learn that God’s true nature of “Good” does not involve such trauma and hardship. Good actually means it is wonderful, pleasing, glad, happy, kind, prosperity, etc. This is the God we need to know!

CHARACTER AND NATURE OF GOD

Bible Study: Lessons 001 – 004



PREFACE – CHARACTER AND NATURE OF GOD (PARTS 1 – 4):

This 4-part series will look into, and help to clarify, whom God is. Oftentimes, we may feel we don't know what God is doing, can do, or will do in our lives or this world. We may think one day He is out to bless me; and the next, out to 'get' me. Leaving us wondering if He even cares for us.

For me, I grew up with the notion that God was like my own dad: angry, abusive, unpredictable, loving. As such, I complicated God into some multi-personality being that I could not trust in any fashion, because I never "knew" what He was going to do or how He was going to react—whether I did something wrong or not.

The way I feared my own dad, I feared God. So much so, that if I messed up (sinned), I would pre-emptively punish myself before God punished me—like sleeping on the hard floor for a week instead of the comfy bed. All to save me from getting a flat tire, having my photography negatives stolen, or finding myself in a financial bind. I really thought it was God doing those things to me for the "error of my ways".

If God was punishing me, how could I ever see Him as good or loving? Or even worse, I defined good and loving as Him being able to punish me (bring misfortune on my life). But is God like that (like my dad), confused and short-tempered? NO!

We can know He is not by the example of Him that is Christ Jesus. Jesus only did what He saw His Father (God) do. And never did we see Jesus punish someone for their sins. He even admitted that He did not come to Judge, and neither was His Father (God) Judging us.

God the Father, Jesus Christ the Son, and the Holy Spirit (Holy Ghost) are "Three-in-One"—in that although they are three separate beings, they each follow the same principal. One cannot do what another does not do; nor not do what the other does. They each have a role and function, yet they cannot and will not contradict each other. This is why Jesus said a "Kingdom divided cannot stand". If they did not think alike, act alike, and be alike, they would be a Kingdom divided (not united); and always be at odds with one-another. And who would "win" the discrepancy???

So if we ever see something in our lives, or hear someone say something about God that does not align with what Jesus demonstrated, it is not "good" nor of God. We can then see that "good" is not sickness, disease, birth-defects, misfortune, hardships, natural disasters (storms, drought, famine), lack, nor death.

When God creates something (as we will read in Genesis 1:1-26), He will claim it as "good". That being perfect and without flaw. So if we see something that is flawed in us or the world, we can know it is not of or from Him.

He is Love too (and not a confusing kind of Love, one that can be clearly seen and experienced). He only desires us to have the most in life—for He gave His only Son in exchange for us that we may have Life and Life more abundantly! He also gave His Holy Spirit to us, with the Gifts and Fruit provided by Him.

We will dig into better understanding the character and nature of God through these 4 parts:

1. The first part is looking at what it means that God is "Good".
2. The second part is looking at God as "Love".
3. The third part is looking at God as "Jesus".
4. The fourth part is looking at God as the "Holy Spirit".

When we see these aspects of whom He is, it will alleviate any cause for fear of Him and be able to see Him as Jesus did: His Father. And, as a believer, you are His child (son/daughter) just as Jesus is to God—you are Jesus's brothers and sisters...how awesome is that! And this same Father treats you the exact same way He treated His own Son Jesus: with Love, Care, and someone He is "well pleased" with.

Let's come to an understanding that "God is for us and not against us", and that He is not out to punish us.

CHARACTER AND NATURE OF GOD: “GOOD”

Bible Study: Lesson 001 (Character and Nature of God, Part 1)



I. TOPIC (PART 1 – GOOD):

We want to look at the Character and Nature of God as “Good”.

When you go through the following scripture reading, focus on the times God says something is “good”. This term “good” really is what it means, without the notion of hurt or pain. The Hebrew word is:

טוֹב (*towb*, [H2896](#))

1. good, pleasant, agreeable
 - a. pleasant, agreeable (to the senses)
 - b. pleasant (to the higher nature)
 - c. good, excellent (of its kind)
 - d. good, rich, valuable in estimation
 - e. good, appropriate, becoming
 - f. better (comparative)
 - g. glad, happy, prosperous (of man's sensuous nature)
 - h. good understanding (of man's intellectual nature)
 - i. good, kind, benign
 - j. good, right (ethical)
2. a good thing, benefit, welfare
 - a. welfare, prosperity, happiness
 - b. good things (collective)
 - c. good, benefit
 - d. moral good
3. welfare, benefit, good things
 - a. welfare, prosperity, happiness
 - b. good things (collective)
 - c. bounty

Then think about what that means to you, and if you feel you define God in this “Good” way.

II. READING: [Genesis 1:1-26](#) (NLT)

1 In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. 2 The earth was formless and empty, and darkness covered the deep waters. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the surface of the waters.

3 Then God said, “Let there be Light,” and there was Light. 4 And God saw that the Light was good. Then he separated the Light from the darkness. 5 God called the Light “day” and the darkness “night.” And evening passed and morning came, marking the first day.

6 Then God said, “Let there be a space between the waters, to separate the waters of the heavens from the waters of the earth.” 7 And that is what happened. God made this space to separate the waters of the earth from the waters of the heavens. 8 God called the space “sky.” And evening passed and morning came, marking the second day.

9 Then God said, “Let the waters beneath the sky flow together into one place, so dry ground may appear.” And that is what happened. 10 God called the dry ground “land” and the waters “seas.” And God saw that it was good. 11 Then God said, “Let the land sprout with vegetation—every sort of seed-bearing plant, and trees that grow seed-bearing fruit. These seeds will then produce the kinds of plants and trees from which they came.” And that is what happened. 12 The land produced vegetation—all sorts of seed-bearing plants, and trees with seed-bearing fruit. Their seeds produced plants and trees of the same kind. And God saw that it was good. 13 And evening passed and morning came, marking the third day.

14 Then God said, “Let lights appear in the sky to separate the day from the night. Let them be signs to mark the seasons, days, and years. 15 Let these lights in the sky shine down on the earth.” And that is what happened. 16 God made two great lights—the larger one to govern the day, and the smaller one to govern the night. He also made the stars. 17 God set these lights in the sky to light the earth, 18 to govern the day and night, and to separate the light from the darkness. And God saw that it was good. 19 And evening passed and morning came, marking the fourth day.

20 Then God said, “Let the waters swarm with fish and other life. Let the skies be filled with birds of every kind.” 21 So God created great sea creatures and every living thing that scurries and swarms in the water, and every sort of bird—each producing offspring of the same kind. And God saw that it was good. 22 Then God blessed them, saying,

CHARACTER AND NATURE OF GOD: "GOOD"

Bible Study: Lesson 001 (Character and Nature of God, Part 1)



"Be fruitful and multiply. Let the fish fill the seas, and let the birds multiply on the earth." 23 And evening passed and morning came, marking the fifth day.

24 Then God said, "Let the earth produce every sort of animal, each producing offspring of the same kind—livestock, small animals that scurry along the ground, and wild animals." And that is what happened. 25 God made all sorts of wild animals, livestock, and small animals, each able to produce offspring of the same kind. And God saw that it was good.

26 Then God said, "Let us make human beings in our image, to be like us. They will reign over the fish in the sea, the birds in the sky, the livestock, all the wild animals on the earth, and the small animals that scurry along the ground."

III. RELATED VERSES AND QUESTIONS:

A. [Isaiah 61:1](#) / [Luke 4:18-19](#) (NLT) [PoG]

The Spirit of the Sovereign Lord is upon me, for the Lord has anointed me to bring good news [*Gospel*] to the poor. He has sent me to comfort the broken-hearted and to proclaim that captives will be released, and prisoners will be freed.

Question: How is this "Good News"? In what ways can you or have you spoken "good news" to someone?

Response:

B. [Psalms 23:6](#) (NLT)

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.

Question: Do you feel that God follows you with anger and wrath; would that make you want to dwell with God?

Response:

C. [Psalms 34:8](#) (NLT)

Taste and see that the Lord is good. Oh, the joys of those who take refuge in him!

Question: Have you experienced ("tasted and seen") in your own life that the Lord is good? How have you trusted (taken refuge) in the Lord, and have seen it come through in your life?

Response:

CHARACTER AND NATURE OF GOD: "GOOD"

Bible Study: Lesson 001 (Character and Nature of God, Part 1)



D. [Luke 12:29-32](#) (NLT)

“And don’t be concerned about what to eat and what to drink. Don’t worry about such things. 30 These things dominate the thoughts of unbelievers all over the world, but your Father already knows your needs. 31 Seek the Kingdom of God above all else, and he will give you everything you need. 32 “So don’t be afraid, little flock. For it gives your Father great happiness to give you the Kingdom.”

Question: Does God want to give to you? Have you ever feared something that never came to pass?

Response:

E. [John 10:10-11](#) (NKJV)

The thief’s purpose is to steal and kill and destroy. My purpose is to give them a rich and satisfying life. 11 “I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd sacrifices his life for the sheep.

Question: Does God “steal, kill, and destroy”? How has the Lord been a good Shephard in your life ([Psalms 23](#))?

Response:

F. [Romans 2:4b](#) (PoG)

It is the Goodness of God that leads to repentance.

Question: Do you fear the Lord when you do something wrong?

Response:

G. [Galatians 5:22-23a](#) (PoG)

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering [patience, endurance, steadfastness, and perseverance over a long period of time], kindness, goodness, faith, 23 gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law.

Question: Do you feel the Holy Spirit provides you with all these gifts?

Response:

CHARACTER AND NATURE OF GOD: "GOOD"

Bible Study: Lesson 001 (Character and Nature of God, Part 1)



H. [Philippians 1:6](#) (NLT)

And I am certain that God, who began the good work within you, will continue his work until it is finally finished on the day when Christ Jesus returns.

Question: Is there something the Lord is perfecting in you every day?

Response:

I. [Philippians 4:8](#) (NLT)

And now, dear brothers and sisters, one final thing. Fix your thoughts on what is true, and honourable, and right, and pure, and lovely, and admirable. Think about things that are excellent and worthy of praise.

Question: Why should we think (meditate) on these things?

Response:

IV. FURTHER THOUGHT:

A. [Philemon 1:6](#) (PoG)

That the communication [fellowship, communion, intimacy] of your faith may become active by the correct knowledge of every good thing which is in you in Christ Jesus.

Thoughts: It's important to have the correct knowledge of the Lord. Without it, we can tend to lead a life unsure what is the Will of the Lord or what is actually Good. When we align with knowing Him correctly, we then flow more freely with Him and have a deeper intimacy and trust with Him.

CHARACTER AND NATURE OF GOD: “LOVE”

INTENTION:

Just as we can confuse ourselves as to what is “Good”, we can confuse ourselves to what is “Love”.

Growing up, the kind of love my dad had for me included punishment (abuse)—and the religious church I grew up in interpreted God in that same fashion: out to get me “in love”. I thus feared God was always disappointed in me and although thought He might love me because He “was obligated to”, I really felt in my heart that this love of God was really Him looking for reasons to punish me for my imperfections.

I lived this way for decades before coming to finally believe opposite to that understanding—now knowing that God’s Love has no punishment. And because He wants to Love me always, I never have to fear any punishment from Him. We have that ability to come close to Him, into His presence, because we never have to fear Him.

CHARACTER AND NATURE OF GOD: “LOVE”

Bible Study: Lesson 002 (Character and Nature of God, Part 2)



I. TOPIC (PART 2 – LOVE):

We want to continue to look at the Character and Nature of God—this time as “Love”.

As we learned to see what it means that God is “Good”, we want to see also what it means to see God as “Love”. Sometimes we can view love (especially in the world we live in) as including abuse and pain. But this is not the true Love that is from God—an “Agape” ([G26](#)) Love. This same Love He asks us to live in, is the same Love He lives in.

II. READING: [1 John 3:16-24](#), [1 John 4:7-21](#), & [1 John 5:1-5](#) (NIV) [PoG]

16 This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down his life for us. And we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers and sisters. 17 If anyone has material possessions and sees a brother or sister in need but has no pity on them, how can the love of God be in that person? 18 Dear children, let us not love with words or speech but with actions and in truth.

19 This is how we know that we belong to the truth and how we set our hearts at rest in his presence: 20 If our hearts condemn us, we know that God is greater than our hearts, [as] He knows everything. 21 Dear friends, if our hearts do not condemn us, we have confidence before God 22 and receive from Him anything we ask, because we keep His commands and do what pleases him. 23 And this is His command: to believe in the name of His Son, Jesus Christ, and to love one another as he commanded us. 24 The one who keeps God’s commands lives in Him, and He in them. And this is how we know that He lives in us: We know it by the Spirit he gave us.

...

7 Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God. 8 Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love. 9 This is how God showed his love among us: He sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through Him. 10 This is love: not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins. 11 Dear friends, since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. 12 No one has ever seen God; but if we love one another, God lives in us and His love is made complete in us.

13 This is how we know that we live in Him and He in us: He has given us of his Spirit. 14 And we have seen and testify that the Father has sent his Son to be the Saviour of the world. 15 If anyone acknowledges that Jesus is the Son of God, God lives in them and they in God. 16 And so we know and rely on the love God has for us.

God is love. Whoever lives in love lives in God, and God in them. 17 [Love has been perfected among us in this: that we may have boldness in the day of judgment; because as He (Jesus Christ) is, so are we in this world.] 18 There is no fear in love; but perfect love drives out fear, because fear has to do with punishment. The one who fears is not made perfect in love.

19 We love because He first loved us. 20 Whoever claims to love God yet hates a brother or sister is a liar. For whoever does not love their brother and sister, whom they have seen, cannot love God, whom they have not seen. 21 And He has given us this command: Anyone who loves God must also love their brother and sister.

...

Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ is born of God, and everyone who loves the father loves his child as well. 2 This is how we know that we love the children of God: by loving God and carrying out his commands. 3 In fact, this is love for God: to keep His commands. And His commands are not burdensome, 4 for everyone born of God overcomes the world. This is the victory that has overcome the world, even our faith. 5 Who is it that overcomes the world? Only the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God.

CHARACTER AND NATURE OF GOD: "LOVE"

Bible Study: Lesson 002 (Character and Nature of God, Part 2)



III. RELATED VERSES AND QUESTIONS:

A. [John 3:16-19](#) (NIV)

For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. 17 For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him. 18 Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe stands condemned already because they have not believed in the name of God's one and only Son. 19 This is the verdict: Light has come into the world, but people loved darkness instead of light because their deeds were evil.

Question: What does God's Love look like? Imagine watching your own child be beaten and crucified on a cross for someone else's fault / sin.

Response:

B. [1 Corinthians 13:4-8a](#) (NIV) [PoG]

4 Love is patient, love is kind. [Love] does not envy, [Love] does not boast, [Love] is not proud. 5 [Love] does not dishonour others, [Love] is not self-seeking, [Love] is not easily angered, [Love] keeps no record of wrongs. 6 Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. 7 [Love] always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres. 8 Love never fails.

Question: Since we have learned that God = Love, in these verses, replace the words "Love" with "God" and read through it again. Does that change how you see God?

Response:

C. [Mark 12:28-31](#) (NIV)

28 One of the teachers of the law came and heard them debating. Noticing that Jesus had given them a good answer, he asked him, "Of all the commandments, which is the most important?" 29 "The most important one," answered Jesus, "is this: 'Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. 30 Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.' 31 The second is this: 'Love your neighbour as yourself.' There is no commandment greater than these."

Question: Which commandment is the most important? Why do you think so?

Response:

CHARACTER AND NATURE OF GOD: "LOVE"

Bible Study: Lesson 002 (Character and Nature of God, Part 2)



D. [Galatians 5:14](#) (PoG)

For all the law is fulfilled in one word in this: "You shall love your neighbour as yourself."

Question: This one "word" is love. Have you ever loved a difficult "neighbour" or "person"?

Response:

E. [Galatians 5:22-23](#) (PoG)

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering [patience, endurance, steadfastness, and perseverance over a long period of time], kindness, goodness, faith, 23 gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law.

Question: If we are saved, we have the Fruits of the Spirit. How do you manifest Love to yourself and others?

Response:

F. [Romans 5:5b](#) (NIV)

...because God's love has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit, who has been given to us.

Question: Do you feel the Holy Spirit? In what ways do you feel God's Love through you?

Response:

G. [Ephesians 1:3-4](#) (NKJV)

3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ, 4 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.

Question: What does it mean to be Holy and without blame? Do you believe you are?

Response:

CHARACTER AND NATURE OF GOD: “LOVE”

Bible Study: Lesson 002 (Character and Nature of God, Part 2)



H. [2 Timothy 1:6-7](#) (PoG)

6 Therefore I remind you to stir up the gift of God [*the Holy Spirit*] which is in you through me laying my hands on you. 7 For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind (discipline).

Question: How does the Lord’s Gift of power, love, and discipline help in your everyday life?

Response:

I. [Jude 1:20-21](#) (NKJV)

20 But you, beloved, building yourselves up on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Spirit, 21 keep yourselves in the love of God, looking for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ unto eternal life.

Question: What are some ways you can build yourself up in your belief?

Response:

IV. FURTHER THOUGHT:

A. [Ephesians 3:14-21](#) (NIV)

For this reason I kneel before the Father, 15 from whom every family in heaven and on earth derives its name. 16 I pray that out of his glorious riches he may strengthen you with power through his Spirit in your inner being, 17 so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith. And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, 18 may have power, together with all the Lord’s holy people, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, 19 and to know this love that surpasses knowledge—that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God. 20 Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, 21 to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen.

Thoughts: Being “rooted and established in love” is that we live and dwell in how much the Lord loves us! His love is immeasurable to us and we should never doubt that. When we come to realize His over-encompassing love, we realize He has nothing but Love towards us (not anger or wrath). For when we fear the Lord in that He is always dwelling on our mistakes and eager to punish us, we lose sight of His love—in that there is no love in fear:

[1 John 4:18a](#) (NIV)

There is no fear in love. But perfect love drives out fear, because fear has to do with punishment.

And that living without fear makes life so much less stressful; we do not have to dwell on our own mistakes either, knowing that His love took care of all our mistakes at the Cross (hence why we do not have to believe we will be punished). His power works in and through us; but when we fear or lose sight of His love, we limit God’s immeasurable ability in our life. Let’s not limit God!

CHARACTER AND NATURE OF GOD: “JESUS”

INTENTION:

This is one area of God’s character and nature I did not related—that God is exactly as Jesus is; and Jesus exactly as God is. So, even though I read about God “doing” things in the Old testament of the Bible, I could override or put-aside those things if they contradict anything Jesus demonstrated. Jesus came to reveal the exact true nature and character of God: both as a Father and as what that really looked like.

Thus, let us see and experience God as we see and experience Jesus!

CHARACTER AND NATURE OF GOD: “JESUS”

Bible Study: Lesson 003 (Character and Nature of God, Part 3)



I. TOPIC (PART 3 – JESUS):

We want to continue to look at the Character and Nature of God—this time as “Jesus”.

As we learned to see what it means that God is “Good” and “Love”, we want to see also what it means to see God as “Jesus”. If there is still any confusion as to God’s character and nature, this is cleared up fully in Jesus being the exact representation of God—whom we see and experience from Jesus, is exactly what we can see and experience from God. They are never in disagreement and we can always see them as acting and behaving the same ways.

II. READING: [John 8:1-59](#) (J.B. Phillips New Testament) [PoG]

... Jesus went off to the Mount of Olives.

2-5 Early next morning he returned to the Temple and the entire crowd came to him. So he sat down and began to teach them. But the scribes and Pharisees brought in to him a woman who had been caught in adultery. They made her stand in front, and then said to him, “Now, master, this woman has been caught in adultery, in the very act. According to the Law, Moses commanded us to stone such women to death. Now, what do you say about her?”

6-9a They said this to test him, so that they might have some good grounds for an accusation. But Jesus stooped down and began to write with his finger in the dust on the ground. But as they persisted in their questioning, he straightened himself up and said to them, “Let the one among you who has never sinned throw the first stone at her.” Then he stooped down again and continued writing with his finger on the ground. And when they heard what he said, they were convicted by their own consciences and went out, one by one, beginning with the eldest until they had all gone.

9b-10 Jesus was left alone, with the woman still standing where they had put her. So he stood up and said to her, “Where are they all—did no one condemn you?”

11 And she said, “No one, sir.” “Neither do I condemn you,” said Jesus to her. “Go home and do not sin again.”

12 Later, Jesus spoke to the people again and said, “I am the light of the world. The man who follows me will never walk in the dark but will live his life in the light.”

13 This made the Pharisees say to him, “You are testifying to yourself—your evidence is not valid.”

14-18 Jesus answered, “Even if I am testifying to myself, my evidence is valid, for I know where I have come from and I know where I am going. But as for you, you have no idea where I come from or where I am going. You are judging by human standards, but I am not judging anyone. Yet if I should judge, my decision would be just, for I am not alone—the Father who sent me is with me. In your Law, it is stated that the witness of two persons is valid. I am one testifying to myself and the second witness to me is the Father who sent me.”

19 “And where is this father of yours?” they replied. “You do not know my Father,” returned Jesus, “any more than you know me: if you had known me, you would have known him.”

20 Jesus made these statements while he was teaching in the Temple treasury. Yet no one arrested him, for his time had not yet come.

21 Later, Jesus spoke to them again and said, “I am going away and you will try to find me, but you will die in your sins. You cannot come where I am going.”

22 This made the Jews say, “Is he going to kill himself, then? Is that why he says, “You cannot come where I am going’?”

23-24 “The difference between us,” Jesus said to them, “is that you come from below and I am from above. You belong to this world but I do not. That is why I told you will die in your sins. For unless you believe that I am who I am, you will die in your sins.”

CHARACTER AND NATURE OF GOD: “JESUS”

Bible Study: Lesson 003 (Character and Nature of God, Part 3)



25-26 Then they said, “Who are you?” “I am what I have told you I was from the beginning,” replied Jesus. “There is much in you that I could speak about and condemn. But he who sent me is true and I am only speaking to this world what I myself have heard from him.”

27-30 They did not realise that he was talking to them about the Father. So Jesus resumed, “When you have lifted up the Son of Man, then you will realise that I am who I say I am, and that I do nothing on my own authority but speak simply as my Father has taught me. The one who sent me is with me now: the Father has never left me alone for I always do what pleases him.” And even while he said these words, many people believed in him.

31-32 So Jesus said to the Jews who believed in him, “If you are faithful to what I have said, you are truly my disciples. And you will know the truth and the truth will set you free!”

33 “But we are descendants of Abraham,” they replied, “and we have never in our lives been any man’s slaves. How can you say to us, ‘You will be set free?’”

34-38 Jesus returned, “Believe me when I tell you that every man who commits sin is a slave. For a slave is no permanent part of a household, but a son is. If the Son, then, sets you free, you are really free! I know that you are descended from Abraham, but some of you are looking for a way to kill me because you can’t bear my words. I am telling you what I have seen in the presence of my Father, and you are doing what you have seen in the presence of your father.”

39-41 “Our father is Abraham!” they retorted. “If you were the children of Abraham, you would do the sort of things Abraham did. But in fact, at this moment, you are looking for a way to kill me, simply because I am a man who has told you the truth that I have heard from God. Abraham would never have done that. No, you are doing your father’s work.” “We are not illegitimate!” they retorted. “We have one Father—God.”

42-47 “If God were really your Father,” replied Jesus, “you would have loved me. For I came from God, and I am here. I did not come of my own accord—he sent me, and I am here. Why do you not understand my words? It is because you cannot hear what I am really saying. Your father is the devil, and what you are wanting to do is what your father longs to do. He always was a murderer, and has never dealt with the truth, since the truth will have nothing to do with him. Whenever he tells a lie, he speaks in character, for he is a liar and the father of lies. And it is because I speak the truth that you will not believe me. Which of you can prove me guilty of sin? If I am speaking the truth, why is it that you do not believe me? The man who is born of God can hear these words of God and the reason why you cannot hear the words of God is simply this, that you are not the sons of God.”

48 “How right we are,” retorted the Jews, “in calling you a Samaritan, and mad at that [having a demon]!”

49-51 “No,” replied Jesus, “I am not mad [demon-possessed]. I am honouring my Father and you are trying to dishonour me. But I am not concerned with my own glory: there is one whose concern it is, and he is the true judge. Believe me when I tell you that if anybody accepts my words, he will never see death at all.”

52-53 “Now we know that you’re mad [demon-possessed],” replied the Jews. “Why, Abraham died and the prophets, too, and yet you say, ‘If a man accepts my words, he will never experience death!’ Are you greater than our father, Abraham? He died, and so did the prophets—who are you making yourself out to be?”

54-56 “If I were trying to glorify myself,” returned Jesus, “such glory would be worthless. But it is my Father who glorifies me, the very one whom you say is your God—though you have never known him. But I know him, and if I said I did not know him, I should be as much a liar as you are! But I do know him and I am faithful to what he says. As for your father, Abraham, his great joy was that he would see my coming. Now he has seen it and he is overjoyed.”

57 “Look,” said the Jews to him, “you are not fifty yet, and has Abraham seen you?” ([Genesis 18](#))

58 “I tell you in solemn truth,” returned Jesus, “before there was an Abraham, I AM!”

59 At this, they picked up stones to hurl at him, but Jesus disappeared and made his way out of the Temple.

CHARACTER AND NATURE OF GOD: "JESUS"

Bible Study: Lesson 003 (Character and Nature of God, Part 3)



III. RELATED VERSES AND QUESTIONS:

A. [Hebrews 1:3](#) (J.B. Phillips)

... This Son, radiance of the glory of God, flawless expression of the nature of God, himself the upholding principle of all that is...

Question: Do you see God as you see Jesus—with Jesus being a “flawless expression of the nature of God”?

Response:

B. [John 5:19-20](#) (J.B. Phillips)

Jesus said to them, “I assure you that the Son can do nothing of his own accord, but only what he sees the Father doing. What the Son does is always modelled on what the Father does, for the Father loves the Son and shows him everything that he does himself, Yes, and he will show him even greater things than these to fill you with wonder.

Question: Have you seen any marvellous things that Jesus has done in your life?

Response:

C. [John 9:1-7](#) (J.B. Phillips) [PoG]

Later, as Jesus walked along he saw a man who had been blind from birth. 2 “Master, whose sin caused this man’s blindness,” asked the disciples, “his own or his parents’?” 3-5 “He was not born blind because of his own sin or that of his parents,” returned Jesus, “[nevertheless, that the works of God should be made manifest in him]. I must carry on the work of him who sent me while the daylight lasts. Night is coming, when no one can work. I am the world’s light as long as I am in it.” 6-7 Having said this, he spat on the ground and made a sort of clay with the saliva. This he applied to the man’s eyes and said, “Go and wash in the pool of Siloam.” (Siloam means “one who has been sent”.) So the man went off and washed and came home with his sight restored.

Question: Is it sin that caused him to be born blind; or do you think God made him blind? What ways can God heal?

Response:

D. [Matthew 9:1-6](#) (J.B. Phillips)

So Jesus re-embarked on the boat, crossed the lake, and came to his own town. Immediately some people arrived bringing him a paralytic lying flat on his bed. When Jesus saw the faith of those who brought him he said to the paralytic, “Cheer up, my son! Your sins are forgiven.”

CHARACTER AND NATURE OF GOD: “JESUS”

Bible Study: Lesson 003 (Character and Nature of God, Part 3)



At once some of the scribes thought to themselves, “This man is blaspheming”. But Jesus realised what they were thinking, and said to them, “Why must you have such evil thoughts in your minds? Do you think it is easier to say to this man, ‘Your sins are forgiven’ or ‘Get up and walk’? But to make it quite plain that the Son of Man has full authority on earth to forgive sins”—and here he spoke to the paralytic—“Get up, pick up your bed and go home.” And the man sprang to his feet and went home.

Question: Have you ever felt like a sin you committed can’t be forgiven or a sickness can’t be healed?

Response:

E. [John 14:11-14](#) (J.B. Phillips)

Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The very words I say to you are not my own. It is the Father who lives in me who carries out his work through me. Do you believe me when I say that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? But if you cannot, then believe me because of what you see me do. I assure you that the man who believes in me will do the same things that I have done, yes, and he will do even greater things than these, for I am going away to the Father. Whatever you ask the Father in my name, I will do—that the Son may bring glory to the Father. And if you ask me anything in my name, I will grant it.

Question: Look at all the miracles Jesus did; can we do anything that Jesus did while He was on the Earth?

Response:

F. [Matthew 12:25-26](#) (J.B. Phillips)

... “Any kingdom divided against itself is bound to collapse, and no town or household divided against itself can last for long. If it is Satan who is expelling Satan, then he is divided against himself—so how do you suppose that his kingdom can continue?”

Question: What does it mean for a kingdom/household to be divided amongst itself (Satan, God, Humans)?

Response:

G. [Matthew 14:44-46](#) (J.B. Phillips)

44 “Again, the kingdom of Heaven is like some treasure which has been buried in a field. A man finds it and buries it again and goes off overjoyed to sell all his possessions to buy himself that field. 45-46 “Or again, the kingdom of Heaven is like a merchant searching for fine pearls. When he has found a single pearl of great value, he goes and sells all his possessions and buys it.

CHARACTER AND NATURE OF GOD: "JESUS"

Bible Study: Lesson 003 (Character and Nature of God, Part 3)



Question: Do you see value in yourself as God sees in you (you are the treasure and pearl He sold Himself for)?

Response:

H. [Mark 4:3-8,14-20](#) (NKJV)

"Listen! Behold, a sower went out to sow. 4 And it happened, as he sowed, that some seed fell by the wayside; and the birds of the air came and devoured it. 5 Some fell on stony ground, where it did not have much earth; and immediately it sprang up because it had no depth of earth. 6 But when the sun was up it was scorched, and because it had no root it withered away. 7 And some seed fell among thorns; and the thorns grew up and choked it, and it yielded no crop. 8 But other seed fell on good ground and yielded a crop that sprang up, increased and produced: some thirtyfold, some sixty, and some a hundred."

14 The sower sows the word. 15 And these are the ones by the wayside where the word is sown. When they hear, Satan comes immediately and takes away the word that was sown in their hearts. 16 These likewise are the ones sown on stony ground who, when they hear the word, immediately receive it with gladness; 17 and they have no root in themselves, and so endure only for a time. Afterward, when tribulation or persecution arises for the word's sake, immediately they stumble. 18 Now these are the ones sown among thorns; they are the ones who hear the word, 19 and the cares of this world, the deceitfulness of riches, and the desires for other things entering in choke the word, and it becomes unfruitful. 20 But these are the ones sown on good ground, those who hear the word, accept it, and bear fruit: some thirtyfold, some sixty, and some a hundred."

Question: Look at the 4 seed examples, do you see yourself as one type; which one?

Response:

IV. FURTHER THOUGHT:

A. [Luke 5:36-39](#) (J.B. Phillips)

36 Then he gave them this illustration. "Nobody tears a piece from a new coat to patch up an old one. If he does, he ruins the new one and the new piece does not match the old. 37-39 "Nobody puts new wine into old wineskins. If he does, the new wine will burst the skins—the wine will be spilt and the skins ruined. No, new wine must be put into new wineskins. Of course, nobody who has been drinking old wine will want the new at once. He is sure to say, 'The old is a good sound wine.'"

Thoughts: The old wine being spoken of is the Old Testament and the Laws of Moses. The new wine is that of Jesus and the New Covenant we have because of Him. We mustn't mix old and new to create a doctrine, nor think that we live in the Old Testament. We should always view ourselves in the Light of Jesus and the reality that we exist post-Cross, not pre-Cross.

CHARACTER AND NATURE OF GOD: “HOLY SPIRIT”

INTENTION:

Looking back on my life, even into my childhood (before I became a believer), I can recognise the Holy Spirit with me. And even as a believer, seeing, feeling, and hearing Him as He helped guide my life. Yet, I never really “felt” like I had a close relationship with Him; or even really understood Him or His role in my life.

When we tune our ears and heart to Him, what He can bring can be so amazing and impactful—not only on our own personal lives, but the lives of anyone around you. He longs to bring the God’s Kingdom into each and every life.

Let’s open up and trust Him, letting Him fully into our lives!

CHARACTER AND NATURE OF GOD: “HOLY SPIRIT”

Bible Study: Lesson 004 (Character and Nature of God, Part 4)



I. TOPIC (PART 4 – HOLY SPIRIT):

We want to continue to look at the Character and Nature of God—this time as the “Holy Spirit”.

As we saw with Jesus as the exact representation of whom God is, we can also equate the Holy Spirit to this same nature and character (i.e. Three-In-One). The Holy Spirit is a Gift to us all; let’s recognise what He brings to us. And then also, if you want to experience this same Holy Spirit with His Fruit and Gifts.

II. READING: Receiving / Coming of the Holy Spirit:

[John 20:19-22](#) (CSB) [PoG]

19 When it was evening on that first day of the week, the disciples were gathered together with the doors locked because they feared the Jews. Jesus came, stood among them, and said to them, “Peace be with you.” 20 Having said this, he showed them his hands and his side. So the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. 21 Jesus said to them again, “Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, I also send you.” 22 After saying this, he breathed on them and said, “Receive the Holy Spirit.”

[Acts 2:1-41](#) (CSB) [PoG]

1 When the day of Pentecost had arrived, they [*a group of believers*] were all together in one place. 2 Suddenly a sound like that of a violent rushing wind came from heaven, and it filled the whole house where they were staying. 3 They saw tongues like flames of fire that separated and rested on each one of them. 4 Then they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in different tongues, as the Spirit enabled them.

5 Now there were Jews staying in Jerusalem, devout people from every nation under heaven. 6 When this sound occurred, a crowd came together and was confused because each one heard them speaking in his own language. 7 They were astounded and amazed, saying, “Look, aren’t all these who are speaking Galileans? 8 How is it that each of us can hear them in our own native language? 9 Parthians, Medes, Elamites; those who live in Mesopotamia, in Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, 10 Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya near Cyrene; visitors from Rome (both Jews and converts), 11 Cretans and Arabs—we hear them declaring the magnificent acts of God in our own tongues.” 12 They were all astounded and perplexed, saying to one another, “What does this mean?” 13 But some sneered and said, “They’re drunk on new wine.”

14 Peter stood up with the Eleven, raised his voice, and proclaimed to them, “Fellow Jews and all you residents of Jerusalem, let this be known to you, and pay attention to my words. 15 For these people are not drunk, as you suppose, since it’s only nine in the morning. 16 On the contrary, this is what was spoken through the prophet Joel:

17 And it will be in the last days, says God,
that I will pour out my Spirit on all people;
then your sons and your daughters will prophesy,
your young men will see visions,
and your old men will dream dreams.

18 I will even pour out my Spirit
on my servants in those days, both men and women
and they will prophesy.

19 I will display wonders in the heaven above
and signs on the earth below:
blood and fire and a cloud of smoke.

20 The sun will be turned to darkness and the moon to blood
before the great and glorious day of the Lord comes.

21 Then everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.

CHARACTER AND NATURE OF GOD: "HOLY SPIRIT"

Bible Study: Lesson 004 (Character and Nature of God, Part 4)



22 "Fellow Israelites, listen to these words: This Jesus of Nazareth was a man attested to you by God with miracles, wonders, and signs that God did among you through him, just as you yourselves know. 23 Though he was delivered up according to God's determined plan and foreknowledge, you used lawless people to nail him to a cross and kill him. 24 God raised him up, ending the pains of death, because it was not possible for him to be held by death. 25 For David says of him:

I saw the Lord ever before me;
because he is at my right hand,
I will not be shaken.

26 Therefore my heart is glad
and my tongue rejoices.

Moreover, my flesh will rest in hope,
27 because you will not abandon me in Hades
or allow your holy one to see decay.

28 You have revealed the paths of life to me;
you will fill me with gladness
in your presence.

29 "Brothers and sisters, I can confidently speak to you about the patriarch David: He is both dead and buried, and his tomb is with us to this day. 30 Since he was a prophet, he knew that God had sworn an oath to him to seat one of his descendants on his throne. 31 Seeing what was to come, he spoke concerning the resurrection of the Messiah: He was not abandoned in Hades, and his flesh did not experience decay.

32 "God has raised this Jesus; we are all witnesses of this. 33 Therefore, since he has been exalted to the right hand of God and has received from the Father the promised Holy Spirit, he has poured out what you both see and hear. 34 For it was not David who ascended into the heavens, but he himself says:

The Lord declared to my Lord,
'Sit at my right hand
35 until I make your enemies your footstool.'

36 "Therefore let all the house of Israel know with certainty that God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Messiah."

37 When they heard this, they were pierced to the heart and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, "Brothers, what should we do?"

38 Peter replied, "Repent and be baptized, each of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. 39 For the promise is for you and for your children, and for all who are far off, as many as the Lord our God will call." 40 With many other words he testified and strongly urged them, saying, "Be saved from this corrupt generation!" 41 So those who accepted his message were baptized [into Christ], and that day about three thousand people were added to them.

III. RELATED VERSES AND QUESTIONS:

A. [John 16:7-11](#) (PoG)

7-11 Nevertheless I (Jesus Christ) tell you the truth. It is to your advantage that I go away; for if I do not go away, the Helper (Holy Spirit) will not come to you; but if I depart, I will send Him to you. And when He has come, He will convict the world of:

- Sin, because they do not believe in Me;
- Righteousness, because I go to My Father and you see Me no more;
- Judgment, because the ruler of this world is judged.

CHARACTER AND NATURE OF GOD: "HOLY SPIRIT"

Bible Study: Lesson 004 (Character and Nature of God, Part 4)



Question: Do you ever feel the Holy Spirit (Lord) is judging you for your sins; or reminding you of them?

Response:

B. [Acts 4:29-31](#) (CSB)

And now, Lord, consider their threats, and grant that your servants may speak your word with all boldness, 30 while you stretch out your hand for healing, and signs and wonders are performed through the name of your holy servant Jesus." 31 When they had prayed, the place where they were assembled was shaken, and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak the word of God boldly.

Question: Do you know what it is to be "filled" with the Holy Spirit?

Response:

C. [Acts 8:14-17](#) (CSB)

When the apostles who were at Jerusalem heard that Samaria had received the word of God, they sent Peter and John to them. 15 After they went down there, they prayed for them so that the Samaritans might receive the Holy Spirit because he had not yet come down on any of them. 16 (They had only been baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus.) 17 Then Peter and John laid their hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit.

Question: Can someone be a believer and not yet be baptised in the Holy Spirit?

Response:

D. [Acts 19:1-6](#) (CSB)

While Apollos was in Corinth, Paul travelled through the interior regions and came to Ephesus. He found some disciples 2 and asked them, "Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you believed?" "No," they told him, "we haven't even heard that there is a Holy Spirit." 3 "Into what then were you baptized?" he asked them. "Into John's baptism," they replied. 4 Paul said, "John baptized with a baptism of repentance, telling the people that they should believe in the one who would come after him, that is, in Jesus." 5 When they heard this, they were baptized into the name of the Lord Jesus. 6 And when Paul had laid his hands on them, the Holy Spirit came on them, and they began to speak in tongues and to prophesy.

Question: Does there seem to be an importance to the disciples that someone is baptized in the Holy Spirit?

CHARACTER AND NATURE OF GOD: “HOLY SPIRIT”

Bible Study: Lesson 004 (Character and Nature of God, Part 4)



Response:

E. [1 Corinthians 3:16-17](#) (PoG)

16 Do you not know that you are the temple of God and that the Spirit of God dwells in you? 17 If anyone defiles the temple of God, God will destroy this [*defilement* ([G5126](#))]. For the temple of God is holy, which you are.

Question: Have you ever felt God is angry with you when you sin—that He may even want to destroy you?

Response:

Further reading: <http://cbadenhorst.blogspot.com/2017/05/misunderstanding-and-misinterpretation.html>

F. [Galatians 5:22-23](#) (PoG)

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering [patience, endurance, steadfastness, and perseverance over a long period of time], kindness, goodness, faith, 23 gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law.

Question: Do you feel the Holy Spirit provides these fruits for you now?

Response:

G. [1 Corinthians 12:4-11](#) (CSB)

4 Now there are different gifts, but the same Spirit. 5 There are different ministries, but the same Lord. 6 And there are different activities, but the same God works all of them in each person. 7 A manifestation of the Spirit is given to each person for the common good: 8 to one is given a message of wisdom through the Spirit, to another, a message of knowledge by the same Spirit, 9 to another, faith by the same Spirit, to another, gifts of healing by the one Spirit, 10 to another, the performing of miracles, to another, prophecy, to another, distinguishing between spirits, to another, different kinds of tongues, to another, interpretation of tongues. 11 One and the same Spirit is active in all these, distributing to each person as he wills.

Question: Did Jesus or the disciples perform these gifts? Do you think you can?

Response:

CHARACTER AND NATURE OF GOD: "HOLY SPIRIT"

Bible Study: Lesson 004 (Character and Nature of God, Part 4)



H. [Romans 12:4-8](#) (CSB)

4 Now as we have many parts in one body, and all the parts do not have the same function, 5 in the same way we who are many are one body in Christ and individually members of one another. 6 According to the grace given to us, we have different gifts: If prophecy, use it according to the proportion of one's faith; 7 if service, use it in service; if teaching, in teaching; 8 if exhorting, in exhortation; giving, with generosity; leading, with diligence; showing mercy, with cheerfulness.

Question: Do you find yourself operating in any of these gifts? Do you feel any are stronger in you than others?

Response:

I. [Romans 11:29](#) (CSB) [PoG]

God's gracious gifts and calling are irrevocable [not repented of].

Question: Do you feel you can lose the gift of the Holy Spirit, or His gifts; or that God would take them away?

Response:

IV. FURTHER THOUGHT:

A. [Acts 5:1-10](#) (KJV): <http://cbadenhorst.blogspot.com/2017/05/misunderstanding-and-misinterpretation.html>

But a certain man named Ananias, with Sapphira his wife, sold a possession, 2 and kept back part of the price, his wife also being privy to it, and brought a certain part, and laid it at the apostles' feet. 3 But Peter said, Ananias, why hath Satan filled thine heart to lie to the Holy Ghost, and to keep back part of the price of the land? 4 Whiles it remained, was it not thine own? and after it was sold, was it not in thine own power? why hast thou conceived this thing in thine heart? thou hast not lied unto men, but unto God. 5 And Ananias hearing these words fell down, and gave up the ghost: and great fear came on all them that heard these things. 6 And the young men arose, wound him up, and carried him out, and buried him.

7 And it was about the space of three hours after, when his wife, not knowing what was done, came in. 8 And Peter answered unto her, Tell me whether ye sold the land for so much? And she said, Yea, for so much. 9 Then Peter said unto her, How is it that ye have agreed together to tempt the Spirit of the Lord? behold, the feet of them which have buried thy husband are at the door, and shall carry thee out. 10 Then fell she down straightway at his feet, and yielded up the ghost: and the young men came in, and found her dead, and, carrying her forth, buried her by her husband.

Thoughts: Did God kill Ananias and Sapphira? When you read the account of Ananias and Sapphira, please note that it does not say that the Holy Spirit (nor God, nor Jesus) struck them dead. It says they "yielded up" ([G1634](#)) their spirits. They did it to themselves—their own conscience convicted them, and most likely their heart literally failed them because of their own mis-construed fear of God. A further explanation is detailed in the link above.

PEACE

INTENTION:

John Lennon's Imagine envisioned a world with peace. However, it was often a world 'without' something. Yet the Lord understands there will always be something in this world that will create conflict to try and disrupt our own peace. However, it is not the lack of conflict that brings peace, but the Lord bringing peace in the midst of conflict.

We can live a life, both at peace with God, and having a peace in this conflicting world.

I. TOPIC:

We want to look at God's Peace—firstly His peace toward us, then what it looks like in us as Christians. When you go through the following scripture reading, focus on understanding what this kind of Peace is and how it might differ from what you have thought, or what the world expects peace to be. I like this quote from Bill Johnson in this regard:

“For most people, peace is a time without war, or a time without conflict, or as simple as a time without noise. Take note that it's always the absence of something. In the Kingdom of God, peace is the presence of someone. Peace is a person. Jesus is the Prince of Peace. When the prevailing influence on our hearts and minds is the presence of Jesus, we have peace that conquers. The wonderful reality of this kind of peace is that it is not defined or controlled by its surroundings. This kind of peace changes its surroundings. Jesus slept in a storm and then released peace over that storm, and the storm stopped ([Mark 4:35-41](#)). What was in Him influenced what happened around Him.”

Furthermore, when we read of Peace in a passage, it is often the Greek word 'eirene' ([G1515](#)); its diverse meaning is:

1. a state of national tranquillity
 - a. exemption from the rage and havoc of war
2. peace between individuals, i.e. harmony, concord
3. security, safety, prosperity, felicity, (because peace and harmony make and keep things safe and prosperous)
4. of the Messiah's peace
 - a. the way that leads to peace (salvation)
5. of Christianity, the tranquil state of a soul assured of its salvation through Christ, and so fearing nothing from God and content with its earthly lot, of whatsoever sort that is
6. the blessed state of devout and upright men after death

After the reading, there are related verses that will ask some questions for you to think through and respond to.

II. READING: [Romans 5:1-21](#) (AMP)

Therefore, since we have been justified [that is, acquitted of sin, declared blameless before God] *out of* faith, [let us grasp the fact that] we have peace with God [and the joy of reconciliation with Him] through our Lord Jesus Christ (the Messiah, the Anointed). 2 Through Him we also have access by faith into this [remarkable state of] grace in which we [firmly and safely and securely] stand. Let us rejoice in our hope and the confident assurance of [experiencing and enjoying] the glory of [our great] God [the manifestation of His excellence and power]. 3 And not only this, but [with joy] let us exult in our sufferings and rejoice in our hardships, knowing that hardship (distress, pressure, trouble) produces patient endurance; 4 and endurance, proven character (spiritual maturity); and proven character, hope and confident assurance [of eternal salvation]. 5 Such hope [in God's promises] never disappoints us, because God's love has been abundantly poured out within our hearts through the Holy Spirit who was given to us. 6 While we were still helpless [powerless to provide for our salvation], at the right time Christ died [as a substitute] for the ungodly. 7 Now it is an extraordinary thing for one to willingly give his life even for an upright man, though perhaps for a good man [one who is noble and selfless and worthy] someone might even dare to die. 8 But God clearly shows and proves His own love for us, by the fact that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. 9 Therefore, since we have now been justified [declared free of the guilt of sin] by His blood, [how much more certain is it that] we will be saved from the wrath of God through Him. 10 For if while we were enemies we were reconciled to God through the death of His Son, it is much more certain, having been reconciled, that we will be saved [from the consequences of sin] by His life [that is, we will be saved because Christ lives today]. 11 Not only that, but we also rejoice in God [rejoicing in His love and perfection] through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received and enjoy our reconciliation [with God].

12 Therefore, just as sin came into the world through one man, and death through sin, so death spread to all people [no one being able to stop it or escape its power], because they all sinned. 13 Sin was [committed] in the world before the Law [was given], but sin is not charged [against anyone] when there is no law [against it]. 14 Yet death ruled [over mankind] from Adam to Moses [the Lawgiver], even over those who had not sinned as Adam did. Adam is a type of Him (Christ) who was to come [but in reverse—Adam brought destruction, Christ brought salvation].

15 But the free gift [of God] is not like the trespass [because the gift of grace overwhelms the fall of man]. For if many died by one man’s trespass [Adam’s sin], much more [abundantly] did God’s grace and the gift [that comes] by the grace of the one Man, Jesus Christ, overflow to [benefit] the many. 16 Nor is the gift [of grace] like that which came through the one who sinned. For on the one hand the judgment [following the sin] resulted from one trespass and brought condemnation, but on the other hand the free gift resulted from many trespasses and brought justification [the release from sin’s penalty for those who believe]. 17 For if by the trespass of the one (Adam), death reigned through the one (Adam), much more surely will those who receive the abundance of grace and the free gift of righteousness reign in [eternal] life through the One, Jesus Christ.

18 So then as through one trespass [Adam’s sin] there resulted condemnation for all men, even so through one act of righteousness there resulted justification of life to all men. 19 For just as through one man’s disobedience [his failure to hear, his carelessness] the many were made sinners, so through the obedience of the one Man the many will be made righteous and acceptable to God and brought into right standing with Him. 20 But the Law came to increase and expand [the awareness of] the trespass [by defining and unmasking sin]. But where sin increased, [God’s remarkable, gracious gift of] grace [His unmerited favour] has surpassed it and increased all the more, 21 so that, as sin reigned in death, so also grace would reign through righteousness which brings eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

III. RELATED VERSES AND QUESTIONS:

A. [Luke 2:8-14](#) (NKJV)

Now there were in the same country shepherds living out in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. 9 And behold, an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were greatly afraid. 10 Then the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid, for behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy which will be to all people. 11 For there is born to you this day in the city of David a Saviour, who is Christ the Lord. 12 And this will be the sign to you: You will find a Babe wrapped in swaddling cloths, lying in a manger.” 13 And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying: 14 “Glory to God in the highest, And on earth peace, goodwill toward men!”

Question: Do we see peace on earth? Who is this peace from; who is this peace to?

Response:

B. [2 John 1:3](#) (AMP)

Grace, mercy, and peace (inner calm, a sense of spiritual well-being) will be with us, from God the Father and from Jesus Christ, the Father’s Son, in truth and love.

Question: The disciples often start their letters in the Bible with this phrase; do you think it applies to you?

Response:

C. [John 14:25-28](#) (AMP)

“I have told you these things while I am still with you. 26 But the Helper (Comforter, Advocate, Intercessor—Counsellor, Strengtheners, Standby), the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name [in My place, to represent Me and act on My behalf], He will teach you all things. And He will help you remember everything that I have told you. 27 Peace I leave with you; My [perfect] peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you. Do not let your heart be troubled, nor let it be afraid. [Let My perfect peace calm you in every circumstance and give you courage and strength for every challenge.]

Question: Whom is the source of this “perfect peace”?

Response:

D. [1 Corinthians 14:33a](#) (AMP)

for God ... is not a God of confusion and disorder but of peace and order.

Question: Do you view God as peaceful? Why?

Response:

E. [2 Corinthians 13:11](#) (KJV) [PoG]

Finally, brethren, farewell. Be perfect, be of good comfort, be of one mind, live in peace; [indeed] the God of love and peace shall be with you.

Question: How do we live in peace?

Response:

F. [Galatians 5:22-23](#) (PoG)

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering [patience, endurance, steadfastness, and perseverance over a long period of time], kindness, goodness, faith, 23 gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law.

Question: How can we nurture and experience this fruit of “inner peace” in us?

Response:

G. [Ephesians 6:13-17](#) (AMP)

Therefore, put on the complete armour of God, so that you will be able to [successfully] resist and stand your ground in the evil day [of danger], and having done everything [that the crisis demands], to stand firm [in your place, fully prepared, immovable, victorious]. 14 So stand firm and hold your ground, having tightened the wide band of truth (personal integrity, moral courage) around your waist and having put on the breastplate of righteousness (an upright heart), 15 and having strapped on your feet the gospel of peace in preparation [to face the enemy with firm-footed stability and the readiness produced by the good news]. 16 Above all, lift up the [protective] shield of faith with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one. 17 And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the Word of God.

Question: What does the “gospel of peace” mean to you, and how can it help you?

Response:

H. [Philippians 4:4-7](#) (AMP)

Rejoice in the Lord always [delight, take pleasure in Him]; again I will say, rejoice! 5 Let your gentle spirit [your graciousness, unselfishness, mercy, tolerance, and patience] be known to all people. The Lord is near. 6 Do not be anxious or worried about anything, but in everything [every circumstance and situation] by prayer and petition with thanksgiving, continue to make your [specific] requests known to God. 7 And the peace of God [that peace which reassures the heart, that peace] which transcends all understanding, [that peace which] stands guard over your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus [is yours].

Question: Do you have peace in yourself if you ask God for something in your life?

Response:

I. [James 3:17-18](#) (AMP)

But the wisdom from above is first pure [morally and spiritually undefiled], then peace-loving [courteous, considerate], gentle, reasonable [and willing to listen], full of compassion and good fruits. It is unwavering, without [self-righteous] hypocrisy [and self-serving guile]. 18 And the seed whose fruit is righteousness (spiritual maturity) is sown in peace by those who make peace [by actively encouraging goodwill between individuals].

Question: God’s wisdom is always peace-loving; how does this compare to the world’s wisdom to you?

Response:

J. [2 Peter 1:2](#) (AMP)

Grace and peace [that special sense of spiritual well-being] be multiplied to you in the [true, intimate] knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord.

Question: Does knowledge of God always bring grace and peace to you?

Response:

IV. FURTHER THOUGHT:

A. [Romans 14:17](#) (NKJV) [PoG]

For the kingdom of God is not eating and drinking [*rituals and what goes into your body*], but righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit [*what Lives in and manifests out from you*].

Thoughts: Too often we focus on what happens around us or goes into us that we seek peace about. But we can experience true peace by recognising the Holy Spirit inside of us—and that we do not have to attain (work for) righteousness, nor peace or joy; it has been Gifted in us, for us. And we have free and unlimited access to this!

GRACE

INTENTION:

Grace is God's provision for our everyday lives (hence why He gave us the ministry name: Provisions of Grace).

Too often, I found myself working for God, or working to live this Christian life. However, God's Grace has eliminated the need for me to abide by the Law. And likewise, is gifting me the ability to live an Abundant Life. You and God are a team and will never abandon you to be "on your own" to live this life. And moreso, you are His literal child and sibling to Jesus Christ. That's how much He wants to care for you and help meet your every need.

To quote Arthur Meintjies: Christ did all the work, we get all the reward, God gets all the Glory.

We need to see how this applies to our life here and now, and what God has provisioned us to succeed.

I. TOPIC:

We want to look at God's Grace. When you go through the following scripture reading, focus on understanding what this Grace is from God and Jesus Christ. The reading is a continuation of the scripture from last week (starting at the end of Romans 5).

Of note about the scripture reading of Romans is that Paul is writing to non-Jews whom have an understanding of Mosaic Law (as having lived with and amongst Jews). Many Christians have this same concept, either the laws of the land or an understanding of Jewish Laws. However, unless you were a Jew before coming to Christ, the Mosaic Law is not something we should know. We as 'Greeks' (non-Jews) have never been under the Laws of Moses—NEVER! Moses gave them at a specific time period for a specific group of people; it never applied to the world as a whole. Moreso, the Law ended at the Cross; thus no one since the Cross has been under the Law. This is something I feel (directed at me too) that we must free ourselves from thinking the Law was ever applied to us (me).

Yet, we can take Paul's writing to the church in Rome in context to the Law in these verses, but not let the Law become the focus—the focus should be always on the accomplishment of God's Grace and Christ's Faith. i.e., don't focus on where it talks about 'sin' but focus on how sin has been destroyed and reduced to naught, having been (and always being) overcome by God's Grace. Sin and the Law are not the topic of Romans, Grace and Righteousness is—and our lives lived in this Grace and Righteousness! Furthermore, His Grace (provision) is overabundantly given to us for our need and the needs of others to go towards fulfilling His Will.

II. READING: [Romans 5:18-21](#) and [Romans 6:1-23](#) (GNT)

So then, as the one sin condemned all people, in the same way the one righteous act sets all people free and gives them life. 19 And just as all people were made sinners as the result of the disobedience of one man, in the same way they will all be put right with God as the result of the obedience of the one man.

20 Law was introduced in order to increase wrongdoing; but where sin increased, God's grace increased much more. 21 So then, just as sin ruled by means of death, so also God's grace rules by means of righteousness, leading us to eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

...

What shall we say, then? Should we continue to live in sin so that God's grace will increase? 2 Certainly not! We have died to sin—how then can we go on living in it? 3 For surely you know that when we were baptized into union with Christ Jesus, we were baptized into union with his death. 4 By our baptism, then, we were buried with him and shared his death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from death by the glorious power of the Father, so also we might live a new life.

5 For since we have become one with him in dying as he did, in the same way we shall be one with him by being raised to life as he was. 6 And we know that our old being has been put to death with Christ on his cross, in order that the power of the sinful self might be destroyed, so that we should no longer be the slaves of sin. 7 For when we die, we are set free from the power of sin. 8 Since we have died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him. 9 For we know that Christ has been raised from death and will never die again—death will no longer rule over him. 10 And so, because he died, sin has no power over him; and now he lives his life in fellowship with God. 11 In the same way you are to think of yourselves as dead, so far as sin is concerned, but living in fellowship with God through Christ Jesus.

12 Sin must no longer rule in your mortal bodies, so that you obey the desires of your natural self. 13 Nor must you surrender any part of yourselves to sin to be used for wicked purposes. Instead, give yourselves to God, as those who have been brought from death to life, and surrender your whole being to him to be used for righteous purposes. 14 Sin must not be your master; for you do not live under law but under God's grace.

15 What, then? Shall we sin, because we are not under law but under God's grace? By no means! 16 Surely you know that when you surrender yourselves as slaves to obey someone, you are in fact the slaves of the master you obey— either of sin, which results in death, or of obedience, which results in being put right with God. 17 But thanks be to God! For though at one time you were slaves to sin, you have obeyed with all your heart the truths found in the teaching you received. 18 You were set free from sin and became the slaves of righteousness. 19 (I use everyday language because of the weakness of your natural selves.) At one time you surrendered yourselves entirely as slaves to impurity and wickedness for wicked purposes. In the same way you must now surrender yourselves entirely as slaves of righteousness for holy purposes.

20 When you were the slaves of sin, you were free from righteousness. 21 What did you gain from doing the things that you are now ashamed of? The result of those things is death! 22 But now you have been set free from sin and are the slaves of God. Your gain is a life fully dedicated to him, and the result is eternal life. 23 For sin pays its wage— death; but God's free gift is eternal life in union with Christ Jesus our Lord.

III. RELATED VERSES AND QUESTIONS:

A. [2 Corinthians 9:6-15](#) (GNT) [NKJV]

Remember that the person who plants few seeds will have a small crop; the one who plants many seeds will have a large crop. 7 You should each give, then, as you have decided, not with regret or out of a sense of duty; for God loves the one who gives gladly. 8 And God is able to give you more than you need [able to make all grace abound toward you], so that you will always have all you need for yourselves and more than enough for every good cause. 9 As the scripture says,

["He has dispersed abroad,
He has given to the poor;
His righteousness endures forever."]

10 And God, who supplies seed for the sower and bread to eat, will also supply you with all the seed you need and will make it grow and produce a rich harvest from your generosity. 11 He will always make you rich enough to be generous at all times, so that many will thank God for your gifts which they receive from us. 12 For this service you perform not only meets the needs of God's people, but also produces an outpouring of gratitude to God. 13 And because of the proof which this service of yours brings, many will give glory to God for your loyalty to the gospel of Christ, which you profess, and for your generosity in sharing with them and everyone else. 14 And so with deep affection they will pray for you because of the extraordinary grace God has shown you. 15 Let us thank God for his priceless gift!

Question: Has there been a time in your life you found you had more than enough for yourselves and others?

Response:

B. Jesus as God's personal child to take care of:

[Luke 2:40](#)

And the Child [*Jesus*] grew and became strong in spirit, filled with wisdom; and the grace of God was upon Him.

[John 1:14-18](#) (NKJV) [PoG]

And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth. 15 John bore witness of Him and cried out, saying, "This was He of whom I said, 'He who comes after me is preferred before me, for He was before me.'" 16 And of His fullness we have all received, and grace [over] grace. 17 For the law was given [by] Moses, but grace and truth came [by] Jesus Christ. 18 No one has seen God at any time. The only begotten Son, who is in the bosom of the Father, He has declared Him.

Question: God the Father provided the means and provision for His own child Jesus. Do you feel He will do the same for you as also being His Child? Do you ever doubt that God's Grace will ever be enough?

Response:

C. [2 Corinthians 12:7-10](#) (NKJV) [PoG]

And lest I should be exalted above measure by the abundance of the revelations, a thorn in the flesh was given to me, a messenger of Satan [*a literal person—most likely "Alexander the coppersmith" (2 Timothy 4:14)*] to buffet me, lest I be exalted above measure. 8 Concerning this thing I pleaded with the Lord three times that it might depart from me. 9 And He said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for My strength is made perfect in weakness." Therefore most gladly I will rather boast in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me. 10 Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in needs, in persecutions, in distresses, for Christ's sake. For when I am weak, then I am strong.

Question: Have you ever felt weak?

Response:

D. God's Grace and Christ's Faith:

[Galatians 2:20-21](#) (NKJV) [PoG]

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 [the faith of] the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me. 21 I do not set aside the grace of God; for if righteousness comes through the law, then Christ died in vain."

[Ephesians 2:4-10](#) (GNT) [PoG]

But God's mercy is so abundant, and his love for us is so great, 5 that while we were spiritually dead in our disobedience, he brought us to life with Christ. It is by God's grace that you have been saved. 6 In our union with Christ Jesus he raised us up with him to rule with him in the heavenly world. 7 He did this to demonstrate for all time to come the extraordinary greatness of his grace in the love he showed us in Christ Jesus. 8-9 For it is by God's grace that you have been saved through [*Christ's*] faith. It is not the result of your own efforts, but God's gift, so that no one can boast about it. 10 God has made us what we are, and in our union with Christ Jesus he has created us for a life of good deeds, which he has already prepared for us to do.

Question: Have you ever tried to earn God’s favour, or make a deal with Him?

Response:

E. [Colossians 3:12-17](#) (NKJV) [PoG]

You are the people of God; he loved you and chose you for his own. So then, you must clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience. 13 Be tolerant with one another and forgive one another whenever any of you has a complaint against someone else. You must forgive one another just as the Lord has forgiven you. 14 And to all these qualities add love, which binds all things together in perfect unity. 15 The peace that Christ gives is to guide you in the decisions you make; for it is to this peace that God has called you together in the one body. And be thankful. 16 Christ's message in all its richness must live in your hearts. Teach and instruct one another with all wisdom. Sing psalms, hymns, and [spiritual] songs; sing to God with thanksgiving in your hearts. 17 Everything you do or say, then, should be done in the name of the Lord Jesus, as you give thanks through him to God the Father.

Question: Do you sing to the Lord—either in a group, with a song playing, or making up your own song? Did you know you can even sing in Tongues (“Spiritual Songs”)?

Response:

IV. FURTHER THOUGHT:

A. [Hebrews 4:14-16](#) (GNT)

Let us, then, hold firmly to the faith we profess. For we have a great High Priest who has gone into the very presence of God—Jesus, the Son of God. 15 Our High Priest is not one who cannot feel sympathy for our weaknesses. On the contrary, we have a High Priest who was tempted in every way that we are, but did not sin. 16 Let us have confidence, then, and approach God's throne, where there is grace. There we will receive mercy and find grace to help us just when we need it.

Thoughts: Approaching God’s throne is not doing so in the distant future, but in the now! *Take time to spiritually visualize this in your imagination.* We can approach Him without fear of judgement or condemnation, because it is a Throne of GRACE. So we can bring ourselves to Him in any fashion we are in; we don’t have to first make ourselves “perfect” or “clean” to come to Him; Christ made us perfect and clean, and we can be bold in approaching Him to ask for anything—or just to get a smile and a hug from our “Dad”, sitting on His lap. So, come to Him without rejecting yourself or your circumstances, for His Grace Provision will provide for us always.

FAITH & BELIEF / UNBELIEF

INTENTION:

We have to let go of the religious notion of needing “more faith” or to just “believe more”. These are misnomers. Our only requirement is to believe (not have some level of belief). Likewise, our Faith is gifted to us for use by the Holy Spirit. We don’t need “more faith”, we only need to use the faith we have—that being the Faith of Jesus. Trying to muster up more faith or belief is a futile process that leads to disappointment. Let’s learn to just use the Faith we already have been given. That’s alot easier.

I. TOPIC:

We want to look at Faith (and also belief / unbelief). When we look at Jesus's ministry, we often see Him criticising people for their "lack of faith" or "unbelief"; even giving us a minimum standard of faith: a mustard seed. No person ever had perfect faith, except for Jesus Christ Himself. And it is this Faith we have access to, having Faith gifted to us, in us. It no longer becomes a matter of our production of faith (us conjuring up our own faith), but just to believe in His completion of Faith (completed work by His Faith). We don't need a mustard seed of faith (an irrelevant portion of faith) when we, as believers, have each been given His full measure of Faith ([Romans 12:3](#))! Thus, we need to see that there is a distinction between pre-Cross and post-Cross faith—for all we have to do now is believe.

For those familiar with Hebrews 11, it is a testament to great people and events of faith—each example opening "by faith..."; an amazing list of people and events! It really seems to give us hope and a push for us to have that kind of faith. But are these verses really telling us to be men and women of great faith too? NO! Because the conclusion to this list is actually the start of Hebrews 12. All these listed were pre-Cross; but we now live post-Cross (in Christ).

It shows us that even though there is such a "great cloud of witnesses" of faith, they compared not to the Faith of Jesus, "the author and finisher of Faith". Hebrews 11 is a build-up to Christ Jesus who mastered and finished Faith once-and-for-all. Being not a requirement that we have our own faith, but a requirement that we "look unto Jesus" as our Faith—believing in that Faith. Thus, not being 'our Faith IN Christ', but 'The Faith OF Christ'! Grace and Faith are Gifts!

Further insight and reading: <http://cbadenhorst.blogspot.com/2018/07/hebrews-11-faith.html>
<http://cbadenhorst.blogspot.com/2017/05/moving-forward-to-position-of.html>

II. READING: [Hebrews 11:1-40](#) and [Hebrews 12:1-2](#) (EHV) [PoG]

Faith is being sure about what we hope for, being convinced about things we do not see. 2 For by this faith the ancients were commended in Scripture.

3 By faith we know that the universe was created by God's word, so that what is seen did not come from visible things.

4 By faith Abel offered a better sacrifice to God than Cain did. By faith he was commended in Scripture as righteous; God testified favourably about his gifts. And by faith he still speaks, even though he is dead.

5 By faith Enoch was taken up, so that he would not experience death, and he was not found because God took him away. In fact, before he was taken away, he was commended in Scripture as one who "pleased God". 6 And without faith it is impossible to please God. Indeed, it is necessary for the one who approaches God to believe that he exists and that he rewards those who seek him.

7 By faith Noah, when he was warned about things that had not been seen before, built an ark, in reverent fear, in order to save his family. By it he condemned the world and became an heir of the righteousness that is by faith.

8 By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to go to a place that he was going to receive as an inheritance, and he left without knowing where he was going.

9 By faith he lived as a stranger in the Promised Land, as if it did not belong to him, dwelling in tents along with Isaac and Jacob, who were heirs with him of the same promise. 10 For he was looking forward to the city that has foundations, whose architect and builder is God.

11 By faith Abraham also received the ability to conceive children, even though Sarah herself was barren and he was past the normal age, because he considered him faithful who made the promise. 12 And so from one man, and he as good as dead, descendants were born as numerous as the stars in the sky and as countless as the sand along the seashore.

13 One by one, all of these died in faith, without having received the things that were promised, but they saw and welcomed them from a distance. They confessed that they were strangers and pilgrims on the earth. 14 Indeed, people who say things like that make it clear that they are looking for a land of their own. 15 And if they were remembering the land they had come from, they would have had an opportunity to return. 16 Instead, they were longing for a better land—a heavenly one. For that reason, God is not ashamed to be called their God, because he prepared a city for them.

17 By faith Abraham, when he was tested, offered Isaac. This man, who received the promises, was ready to offer his only son, 18 about whom it was said, “Through Isaac your offspring will be traced.” 19 He reasoned that God also had the ability to raise him from the dead, and in a figurative sense, Abraham did receive him back from the dead.

20 By faith Isaac also blessed Jacob and Esau about things that were going to happen.

21 By faith Jacob, when he was dying, blessed each of Joseph’s sons and worshipped as he leaned on the top of his staff.

22 By faith Joseph, as he neared the end of his life, mentioned the Exodus of the sons of Israel and gave instructions about his bones.

23 By faith Moses was hidden by his parents for three months after he was born, because they saw he was a special child, and they were not afraid of the king’s order.

24 By faith Moses refused to be called the son of Pharaoh’s daughter when he grew up. 25 He chose to be mistreated with God’s people rather than enjoy sin for a little while. 26 He considered disgrace for the sake of Christ as greater wealth than the treasures of Egypt, because he was looking ahead to his reward.

27 By faith he left Egypt without fearing the king’s wrath, because he persevered as one who sees him who is invisible.

28 By faith he celebrated the Passover and the sprinkling of blood, so that the destroyer of the firstborn would not strike them down.

29 By faith they passed through the Red Sea, as if going through on dry ground. When the Egyptians tried it, they were drowned.

30 By faith the walls of Jericho fell after the people marched around them for seven days.

31 By faith Rahab the prostitute did not perish with the unbelievers, because she welcomed the spies in peace.

32 And what more should I say? There would not be enough time for me to continue to tell about Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, David, Samuel, and the prophets. 33 By faith they conquered kingdoms, carried out justice, obtained things that were promised, shut the mouths of lions, 34 quenched the power of fire, escaped the edges of the sword, were made powerful after being weak, became mighty in battle, and caused foreign armies to flee. 35 Women received back their dead by resurrection. And others who were tortured did not accept their release, so that they may take part in a better resurrection. 36 Still others experienced mocking and lashes, in addition to chains and imprisonment. 37 They were stoned; they were sawed in two; they were tempted; they were killed with the sword; they went around in sheepskins and goatskins, needy, afflicted, and mistreated. 38 The world was not worthy of them as they wandered in deserts and mountains and caves and holes in the ground.

39 All of these were commended in Scripture by faith, yet they did not receive what was promised, 40 because God had planned something better for us, namely, that they would not reach the goal apart from us.

1 Therefore [for this reason], since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us get rid of every burden and the sin that so easily ensnares us [*the Law*], and let us run with patient endurance the race that is laid out for us. 2 Let us keep our eyes fixed on Jesus, who is the author of our faith and the one who brings it to its goal. In view of the joy set before him, he endured the cross, disregarding its shame, and has taken his seat at the right hand of God’s throne.

III. RELATED VERSES AND QUESTIONS:

A. [Matthew 9:27-30a](#) (EHV)

As Jesus left that place, two blind men followed him, calling out, "Have mercy on us, Son of David!" 28 When he entered the house, the blind men came to him. Jesus said to them, "Do you believe that I am able to do this?" They told him, "Yes, Lord." 29 Then he touched their eyes and said, "According to your faith let it be done for you." 30 And their eyes were opened.

Question: Do you admit to the Lord what you are struggling with? Do you feel He will have mercy on you?

Response:

B. Having both belief and unbelief together:

[Mark 9:14-29](#) (EHV) [PoG]

When they returned to the other disciples, they saw a large crowd around them, and some experts in the law were arguing with them. 15 As soon as all the people in the crowd saw Jesus, they were very excited and ran to greet him. 16 He asked them, "What are you arguing about with them?"

17 One man from the crowd answered him, "Teacher, I brought you my son, who has a spirit that makes him unable to speak. 18 Wherever it seizes him, it throws him down, and he foams at the mouth, grinds his teeth, and becomes rigid. I asked your disciples to drive it out, but they could not."

19 "O unbelieving generation," Jesus replied. "How long will I be with you? How long will I put up with you? Bring him to me."

20 They brought the boy to Jesus. As soon as the spirit saw him, it threw the boy into a convulsion. He fell on the ground and rolled around, foaming at the mouth.

21 Jesus asked the boy's father, "How long has this been happening to him?"

"From childhood," he said. 22 "It has often thrown him into the fire and into the water to kill him. But if you can do anything, have compassion on us and help us."

23 "If you can?" Jesus said to him. "All things are possible for the one who believes."

24 The child's father immediately cried out and said with tears, "I do believe. Help me with my unbelief!"

25 When Jesus saw that a crowd was quickly gathering, he rebuked the unclean spirit. "You mute and deaf spirit," he said, "I command you to come out of him and never enter him again!"

26 The spirit screamed, shook the boy violently, and came out. The boy looked so much like a corpse that many of them said, "He's dead!" 27 But Jesus took him by the hand, raised him up, and he stood up.

28 When Jesus went into a house, his disciples asked him privately, "Why were we not able to drive it out?"

29 He said to them, "This kind [*of unbelief*] cannot be driven out, except by prayer and fasting."

[Matthew 17:19-21](#) (EHV) [PoG]

Then the disciples came to Jesus privately and said, "Why were we unable to drive it out?" 20 He said to them, "Because of your little faith [*unbelief*]. Amen I tell you: If you have faith like a mustard seed, you will tell this

mountain, 'Move from here to there,' and it will move. Nothing will be impossible for you. 21 But this kind [of *unbelief*] does not go out except by prayer and fasting."

Question: What did the father admit he needed help with? Will the Lord accept our need for help with it?

Response:

C. [Acts 3:1-8; 11-16](#) (EHV) [PoG]

Peter and John were going up to the temple at the ninth hour, an hour of prayer. 2 A certain man who was lame from birth was carried there every day and placed at the temple gate, which is called Beautiful, so that he could beg for donations from those entering the temple. 3 When he saw Peter and John about to enter the temple, he asked them for a donation.

4 Peter looked directly at him, as did John. Peter said, "Look at us." 5 So the man paid close attention to them, expecting to receive something from them.

6 But Peter said, "Silver and gold I do not have, but what I have I will give you. In the name of Jesus Christ the Nazarene, get up and walk!" 7 Peter took him by the right hand and raised him up, and immediately the man's feet and ankles were made strong. 8 Jumping up, he stood and began to walk. He entered the temple courts with them, walking, jumping, and praising God.

11 While the man held on to Peter and John, all the people came running toward them in utter amazement in the area called Solomon's Colonnade.

12 When Peter saw this, he addressed the people: "Men of Israel, why are you amazed at this? Why are you staring at us, as if by our own power or godliness we have made this man walk? 13 The God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, the God of our fathers, glorified his servant Jesus, whom you handed over and disowned in the presence of Pilate, though he had decided to release him. 14 You disowned the Holy and Righteous One and asked to have a murderer given to you. 15 You killed the Author of Life, whom God raised from the dead. We are witnesses of this. 16 And on the basis of [faith, his name], it is the name of Jesus that has strengthened this man, whom you see and know. This faith that comes through Jesus has given him this perfect health in the presence of all of you.

Question: Did the lame man or the disciples have faith?

Response:

D. Authority and instruction given:

[Mark 16:15-18](#) (EHV)

He said to them, "Go into all the world and preach the gospel to all creation. 16 Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved, but whoever does not believe will be condemned. 17 "These signs will accompany those who believe: In my name they will drive out demons. They will speak in new languages. 18 They will pick up

snakes. And if they drink any deadly poison, it will not harm them. They will lay their hands on the sick, and they will get well.”

[John 14:11-14](#) (EHV)

Believe me that I am in the Father, and the Father is in me. Or else believe because of the works themselves. 12 “Amen, Amen, I tell you: The one who believes in me will do the works that I am doing. And he will do even greater works than these, because I am going to the Father. 13 I will do whatever you ask in my name so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. 14 If you ask me for anything in my name, I will do it.

Question: Do you need faith for these signs and wonders to transpire in your life?

Response:

E. [Romans 1:16-17](#) (NKJV)

For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes, for the Jew first and also for the Greek. 17 For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith to faith; as it is written, “The just shall live by faith.”

Question: Whose faith?

Response:

F. Focusing on the unseen with Christ’s Faith:

[2 Corinthians 4:13-18](#) (EHV)

Since we have that same spirit of faith, which corresponds to what is written: “I believed; therefore, I have spoken,” we also believe, and therefore we speak. 14 For we know that the one who raised the Lord Jesus will also raise us with Jesus and bring us (together with you) into his presence. 15 In fact, all this is for your benefit, so that as grace increases, it will overflow to the glory of God, as more and more people give thanks. 16 Therefore we are not discouraged. But even if our outer self is wasting away, yet our inner self is being renewed day by day. 17 Yes, our momentary, light trouble produces for us an eternal weight of glory that is far beyond any comparison. 18 We are not focusing on what is seen, but on what is not seen. For the things that are seen are temporary, but the things that are not seen are eternal.

[Psalms 116:7-10a](#) (EHV)

Return, my soul, to your rest, for the Lord has accomplished his purpose for you. 8 Indeed, you have delivered my soul from death, my eye from weeping, my foot from stumbling, 9 so that I may walk before the Lord in the land of the living. 10 I believed. Therefore, I have spoken.

Question: We all have the same spirit of faith! What can we believe for in these verses?

Response:

G. [Galatians 5:22-23](#) (PoG)

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering [patience, endurance, steadfastness, and perseverance over a long period of time], kindness, goodness, faith, 23 gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law.

Question: The Lord cares so much for our wellbeing that He takes on the responsibility to produce all this fruit (including faith) for us. Do you believe this for yourself?

Response:

H. [Ephesians 4:4-6](#) (EHV)

There is one body and one Spirit, just as also you were called in the one hope of your calling. 5 There is one Lord, one faith, one baptism, 6 one God and Father of all, who is over all, and through all, and in us all.

Question: There are not multiple types of faith, just one. How can you accept this one faith in your life?

Response:

I. [Colossians 2:6-15](#) (EHV) [PoG]

Therefore, just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord [*by believing*], continue to walk in him, 7 by being rooted and built up in him, and strengthened in the faith just as you were taught, while you overflow in faith with thanksgiving. 8 See to it that no one takes you captive through philosophy and empty deceit, which are in accord with human tradition, namely, the basic principles of the world, but not in accord with Christ. 9 For all the fullness of God's being dwells bodily in Christ. 10 And you have been brought to fullness in him. Christ is the head over every ruler and authority. 11 You were also circumcised in him, with a circumcision not done by human hands, in the putting off of the body of the sins of the flesh, in the circumcision of Christ, 12 when you were buried with Christ in baptism. And in baptism you were also raised with him through the faith worked by the God who raised Christ from the dead. 13 Even when you were dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made you alive with Christ by forgiving us all our trespasses. 14 God erased the record of our debt brought against us by his legal demands. This record stood against us, but he took it away by nailing it to the cross. 15 After disarming the rulers and authorities, he made a public display of them by triumphing over them in Christ.

Question: We can recognise again that it is a matter of the Lord's Faith: "through the faith worked by God", not our own. Do you believe this revelation that you have been brought to fullness in Christ and God lives in you?

HEALTH AND HEALING

INTENTION:

God wants you well, and we should never second-guess that.

Christ broke the curse of sickness and disease through the Cross; let's believe this.

I. TOPIC:

We want to look at Health and Healing—not only for a believer, but for everyone. This is a matter of what Christ accomplished for us—Jesus not only demonstrated the Lord’s will regarding health and healing but took upon Himself all sickness, disease, deformities, missing body parts, birth defects, mental illness, and all.

As such, it should not be a mystery to us what God’s Will is in this matter for our own personal lives, but everyone’s life. We will see how Jesus (being the exact representation of God) healed all people, not leaving anyone unhealed; nor giving anyone a disease. Additionally, we can look at Jesus’s instructions to both His disciples and to all believers; seeing the disciples themselves performing miracles of healing both during Jesus’s ministry and after the Cross.

Furthermore, we can look at the lives of the disciples and see they never reveal to us that they suffered one bit from any sickness or disease themselves (only persecution), giving us hope and ability to do the same in our lives.

NB: Paul’s “thorn in the flesh” (2 Corinthians 12:7-10) was not sickness but persecution from a literal person sent by Satan (this being the “messenger of Satan”)—Paul shares with us separately that he was greatly harmed by the evil of “Alexander the coppersmith” (2 Timothy 4:14). This is who I believe was Paul’s “thorn in the flesh”. Neither do I believe Paul had eye problems (eye illness): <https://bornofspirit.net/was-paul-sick-when-he-met-the-galatians/>

There are numerous teachings on health and healing, but I have found these people and teachings have helped me better understand that God wants me (us) well: Andrew Wommack (www.awmi.net/healing/), Bill Johnson (www.bjm.org/core-values/healing/), Curry Blake (Divine Healing Technician Training) (www.jglm.org/videos/), and the testimonies of the late Dave Duell with the giftings of the Holy Spirit (www.faithministries.ws/).

Much of what we will discuss here in this Bible Study pertains to understanding what was discussed in the previous Bible Study on Faith & Belief / Unbelief—it doesn’t require us to have faith to experience health and healing, just believing in the Faith of Christ Jesus (i.e. believing that Jesus Christ can accomplish it because of His Faith).

We are going to start off first with understanding the Body (Bread) and Blood (Wine) of Jesus. Additionally, we will be looking into the meanings behind the original Hebrew and Greek words used in verses.

II. READING: [John 6:26-58](#) (NKJV)

Jesus answered them and said, “Most assuredly, I say to you, you seek Me, not because you saw the signs, but because you ate of the loaves and were filled. 27 Do not labour for the food which perishes, but for the food which endures to everlasting life, which the Son of Man will give you, because God the Father has set His seal on Him.”

28 Then they said to Him, “What shall we do, that we may work the works of God?”

29 Jesus answered and said to them, “This is the work of God, that you believe in Him whom He sent.”

30 Therefore they said to Him, “What sign will You perform then, that we may see it and believe You? What work will You do? 31 Our fathers ate the manna in the desert; as it is written, ‘He gave them bread from heaven to eat.’”

32 Then Jesus said to them, “Most assuredly, I say to you, Moses did not give you the bread from heaven, but My Father gives you the true bread from heaven. 33 For the bread of God is He who comes down from heaven and gives life to the world.”

34 Then they said to Him, “Lord, give us this bread always.”

35 And Jesus said to them, “I am the bread of life. He who comes to Me shall never hunger, and he who believes in Me shall never thirst. 36 But I said to you that you have seen Me and yet do not believe. 37 All that the Father gives Me will come to Me, and the one who comes to Me I will by no means cast out. 38 For I have come down from heaven, not to do My own will, but the will of Him who sent Me. 39 This is the will of the Father who sent Me, that of all He has given Me I should lose nothing, but should raise it up at the last day. 40 And this is the will of Him who sent Me, that everyone who sees the Son and believes in Him may have everlasting life; and I will raise him up at the last day.”

41 The Jews then complained about Him, because He said, “I am the bread which came down from heaven.” 42 And they said, “Is not this Jesus, the son of Joseph, whose father and mother we know? How is it then that He says, ‘I have come down from heaven’?”

43 Jesus therefore answered and said to them, “Do not murmur among yourselves. 44 No one can come to Me unless the Father who sent Me draws him; and I will raise him up at the last day. 45 It is written in the prophets, ‘And they shall all be taught by God.’ Therefore everyone who has heard and learned from the Father comes to Me. 46 Not that anyone has seen the Father, except He who is from God; He has seen the Father. 47 Most assuredly, I say to you, he who believes in Me has everlasting life. 48 I am the bread of life. 49 Your fathers ate the manna in the wilderness, and are dead. 50 This is the bread which comes down from heaven, that one may eat of it and not die. 51 I am the living bread which came down from heaven. If anyone eats of this bread, he will live forever; and the bread that I shall give is My flesh, which I shall give for the life of the world.”

52 The Jews therefore quarrelled among themselves, saying, “How can this Man give us His flesh to eat?”

53 Then Jesus said to them, “Most assuredly, I say to you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink His blood, you have no life in you. 54 Whoever eats My flesh and drinks My blood has eternal life, and I will raise him up at the last day. 55 For My flesh is food indeed, and My blood is drink indeed. 56 He who eats My flesh and drinks My blood abides in Me, and I in him. 57 As the living Father sent Me, and I live because of the Father, so he who feeds on Me will live because of Me. 58 This is the bread which came down from heaven—not as your fathers ate the manna, and are dead. He who eats this bread will live forever.”

III. RELATED VERSES AND QUESTIONS:

A. The “Lord’s Supper”:

[Matthew 26:26-28](#) (NKJV)

And as they were eating, Jesus took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to the disciples and said, “Take, eat; this is My body.” 27 Then He took the cup, and gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, “Drink from it, all of you. 28 For this is My blood of the new covenant, which is shed for many for the remission of sins.

[Mark 14:22-25](#) (NKJV)

And as they were eating, Jesus took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them and said, “Take, eat; this is My body.” 23 Then He took the cup, and when He had given thanks He gave it to them, and they all drank from it. 24 And He said to them, “This is My blood of the new covenant, which is shed for many. 25 Assuredly, I say to you, I will no longer drink of the fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it new in the kingdom of God.”

[Luke 22:14-20](#) (NKJV)

When the hour had come, He sat down, and the twelve apostles with Him. 15 Then He said to them, “With fervent desire I have desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer; 16 for I say to you, I will no longer eat of it until it is fulfilled in the kingdom of God.” 17 Then He took the cup, and gave thanks, and said, “Take this and divide it among yourselves; 18 for I say to you, I will not drink of the fruit of the vine until the kingdom of God comes.” 19 And He took bread, gave thanks and broke it, and gave it to them, saying, “This is My body which is given for you; do this in remembrance of Me.” 20 Likewise He also took the cup after supper, saying, “This cup is the new covenant in My blood, which is shed for you.

Question: What does the bread (Body) and wine (Blood) mean for you?

Response:

B. [1 Corinthians 11:23-34](#) (NKJV) [PoG]

26 For I received from the Lord that which I also delivered to you: that the Lord Jesus on the same night in which He was betrayed took bread; 24 and when He had given thanks, He broke it and said, "Take, eat; this is My body which is broken for you; do this in remembrance of Me." 25 In the same manner He also took the cup after supper, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in My blood. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me." 26 For as often as you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death till He comes.

27 Therefore whoever eats this bread or drinks this cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty of the body and blood of the Lord. 28 But let a man examine himself, and so let him eat of the bread and drink of the cup. 29 For he who eats and drinks in an unworthy manner eats and drinks judgment [condemnation] to himself, not discerning the Lord's body. 30 For this reason many are weak and sick among you, and many sleep. 31 For if we would judge ourselves, we would not be judged. 32 But when we are judged, we are [trained and instructed] by the Lord, that we may not be condemned [judged] with the world.

33 Therefore, my brethren, when you come together to eat, wait for one another. 34 But if anyone is hungry, let him eat at home, lest you come together for judgment. And the rest I will set in order when I come.

Question: How did they (do we) take "Communion" in an unworthy way?

Response:

C. [Colossians 1:13-20](#) (NKJV) [PoG]

[God the Father] has delivered us from the power of darkness and conveyed us into the kingdom of the Son of His love, 14 in whom we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins. 15 He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. 16 For by Him all things were created that are in heaven and that are on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or powers. All things were created through Him and for Him. 17 And He is before all things, and in Him all things consist. 18 And He is the head of the body, the church, who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in all things He may have the pre-eminence. 19 For it pleased the Father that in Him all the fullness should dwell, 20 and by Him to reconcile all things to Himself, by Him, whether things on earth or things in heaven, having made peace through the blood of His cross.

...

See also [Hebrews 9 & 10](#) regarding sacrificial blood: the relationship between the sacrifices done through the Law and how Jesus Christ (through the Cross) exacted that required blood-sacrifice (atonement) for sins once-and-for-all-time.

Question: What did the Blood of Jesus Christ accomplish?

Response:

D. Taking our sickness and disease (prophesised, carried-out, completed):

[Isaiah 53:4-5](#) (NKJV) [PoG]

Surely He has borne our griefs [[H2483](#): Sicknesses] And carried our sorrows [[H4341](#): Physical pain, Mental pain, Sorrow]; Yet we esteemed Him stricken, Smitten [[H5221](#): struck, hit, beaten, slayed, killed, scourged] by God, and afflicted. 5 But He was wounded [[H2490](#): defiled, polluted, desecrated, fatally wounded, pierced] for our transgressions, He was bruised [[H1792](#): crushed, broken, shattered] for our iniquities; The chastisement for our peace was upon Him, And by His stripes [[H2250](#): bruises, stripes, wounds, blows] we are healed [[H7495](#): literally healed, healthful, in order to get healed].

[Matthew 8:16-17](#) (NKJV) [PoG]

When evening had come, they brought to Him many who were demon-possessed. And He cast out the spirits with a word, and healed all who were sick, 17 that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by Isaiah the prophet, saying: "He Himself took our infirmities [[G769](#): weakness, infirmity of the body (feebleness of health or sickness) or soul (want of strength)], And bore our sicknesses [[G3554](#): disease, sickness]."

[1 Peter 2:24](#) (NKJV) [PoG]

[Christ] Himself bore our sins in His own body on the tree, that we, having died to sins, might live for righteousness—by whose stripes you were healed [[G2390](#): to cure, heal, make whole (literally or figuratively)].

Question: What did Christ Jesus do through His Body? Do you see this as literal (physical) or figurative (spiritual)?

Response:

E. Jesus tells us where sickness and disease come from:

[Matthew 12:22-28](#) (NKJV)

Then one was brought to Him who was demon-possessed, blind and mute; and He healed him, so that the blind and mute man both spoke and saw. 23 And all the multitudes were amazed and said, "Could this be the Son of David?" 24 Now when the Pharisees heard it they said, "This fellow does not cast out demons except by Beelzebub, the ruler of the demons." 25 But Jesus knew their thoughts, and said to them: "Every kingdom divided against itself is brought to desolation, and every city or house divided against itself will not stand. 26 If Satan casts out Satan, he is divided against himself. How then will his kingdom stand? 27 And if I cast out demons by Beelzebub, by whom do your sons cast them out? Therefore they shall be your judges. 28 But if I cast out demons by the Spirit of God, surely the kingdom of God has come upon you.

[Luke 13:10-17](#) (NKJV)

Now He was teaching in one of the synagogues on the Sabbath. 11 And behold, there was a woman who had a spirit of infirmity eighteen years, and was bent over and could in no way raise herself up. 12 But when Jesus saw her, He called her to Him and said to her, "Woman, you are loosed from your infirmity." 13 And He laid His hands on her, and immediately she was made straight, and glorified God. 14 But the ruler of the synagogue answered with indignation, because Jesus had healed on the Sabbath; and he said to the crowd, "There are six days on which men ought to work; therefore come and be healed on them, and not on the Sabbath day." 15 The Lord then answered him and said, "Hypocrite! Does not each one of you on the Sabbath loose his ox or donkey from the stall, and lead it away to water it? 16 So ought not this woman, being a daughter of Abraham, whom Satan has bound—

think of it—for eighteen years, be loosed from this bond on the Sabbath?” 17 And when He said these things, all His adversaries were put to shame; and all the multitude rejoiced for all the glorious things that were done by Him.

[John 9:1-7](#) (NKJV) [PoG]

Now as Jesus passed by, He saw a man who was blind from birth. 2 And His disciples asked Him, saying, “Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?” 3 Jesus answered, “Neither this man nor his parents sinned, [nevertheless] that the works of God should be revealed in him. 4 I must work the works of Him who sent Me while it is day; the night is coming when no one can work. 5 As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world.” 6 When He had said these things, He spat on the ground and made clay with the saliva; and He anointed the eyes of the blind man with the clay. 7 And He said to him, “Go, wash in the pool of Siloam” (which is translated, Sent). So he went and washed, and came back seeing.

[John 10:10](#) (NKJV)

The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy. I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly.

Question: Do you believe God is the ones whom makes people sick or have birth-defects?

Response:

F. Jesus demonstrates all kinds of healing:

[Matthew 4:23](#)

And Jesus went about all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues, preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing all kinds of sickness and all kinds of disease among the people.

[Matthew 8:16](#)

When evening had come, they brought to Him many who were demon-possessed. And He cast out the spirits with a word, and healed all who were sick.

[15:30](#) (NKJV) [PoG]

Then great multitudes came to Him, having with them the lame, blind, mute, maimed [crooked body members, injured, disabled, mutilated], and many others; and they laid them down at Jesus’ feet, and He healed them.

[Mark 6:56](#) (NKJV)

Wherever He entered, into villages, cities, or the country, they laid the sick in the marketplaces, and begged Him that they might just touch the hem of His garment. And as many as touched Him were made well.

[Luke 4:40](#) (NKJV)

When the sun was setting, all those who had any that were sick with various diseases brought them to Him; and He laid His hands on every one of them and healed them.

[Luke 6:19](#) (NKJV)

And the whole multitude sought to touch Him, for power went out from Him and healed them all.

Question: Did Jesus ever reject healing? Do you feel He wants to heal you or someone you know?

Response:

G. Unbelief and healing:

[Mark 8:22-26](#) (NKJV)

Then He came to Bethsaida; and they brought a blind man to Him, and begged Him to touch him. 23 So He took the blind man by the hand and led him out of the town. And when He had spit on his eyes and put His hands on him, He asked him if he saw anything. 24 And he looked up and said, "I see men like trees, walking." 25 Then He put His hands on his eyes again and made him look up. And he was restored and saw everyone clearly. 26 Then He sent him away to his house, saying, "Neither go into the town, nor tell anyone in the town."

[Luke 10:10-14](#) (NKJV)

But whatever city you enter, and they do not receive you, go out into its streets and say, 11 'The very dust of your city which clings to us we wipe off against you. Nevertheless know this, that the kingdom of God has come near you.' 12 But I say to you that it will be more tolerable in that Day for Sodom than for that city. 13 "Woe to you, Chorazin! Woe to you, Bethsaida! For if the mighty works which were done in you had been done in Tyre and Sidon, they would have repented long ago, sitting in sackcloth and ashes. 14 But it will be more tolerable for Tyre and Sidon at the judgment than for you.

[Mark 6:1-6](#) (NKJV)

Then He went out from there and came to His own country, and His disciples followed Him. 2 And when the Sabbath had come, He began to teach in the synagogue. And many hearing Him were astonished, saying, "Where did this Man get these things? And what wisdom is this which is given to Him, that such mighty works are performed by His hands! 3 Is this not the carpenter, the Son of Mary, and brother of James, Joses, Judas, and Simon? And are not His sisters here with us?" So they were offended at Him. 4 But Jesus said to them, "A prophet is not without honour except in his own country, among his own relatives, and in his own house." 5 Now He could do no mighty work there, except that He laid His hands on a few sick people and healed them. 6 And He marvelled because of their unbelief. Then He went about the villages in a circuit, teaching.

Question: Why did Jesus have to lead the blind man out of the city? What limited Jesus in His hometown?

Response:

H. Believers instructed:

[Matthew 10:1,7-8](#) (NKJV) [PoG]

And when He had called His twelve disciples to Him, He gave them power over unclean spirits, to cast them out, and to heal all kinds of sickness and all kinds of disease. 7 And as you go, preach, saying, 'The kingdom of heaven is at hand.' 8 Heal the sick, cleanse the lepers, raise the dead, cast out demons. Freely you have received, freely give [[Acts 3:6](#)].

[Mark 6:7,12-13](#) (NKJV)

And He called the twelve to Himself, and began to send them out two by two, and gave them power over unclean spirits. 12 So they went out and preached that people should repent. 13 And they cast out many demons, and anointed with oil many who were sick, and healed them.

[John 14:12-14](#) (NKJV)

“Most assuredly, I say to you, he who believes in Me, the works that I do he will do also; and greater works than these he will do, because I go to My Father. 13 And whatever you ask in My name, that I will do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. 14 If you ask anything in My name, I will do it.”

[Mark 16:14-18](#) (NKJV)

Later He appeared to the eleven as they sat at the table; and He rebuked their unbelief and hardness of heart, because they did not believe those who had seen Him after He had risen. 15 And He said to them, “Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature. 16 He who believes and is baptized will be saved; but he who does not believe will be condemned. 17 And these signs will follow those who believe: In My name they will cast out demons; they will speak with new tongues; 18 they will take up serpents; and if they drink anything deadly, it will by no means hurt them; they will lay hands on the sick, and they will recover.”

Question: Jesus sent His disciples out to do as He Himself did; why could they only heal “many” and not all? What instructions did Jesus give, not only to the disciples, but to all those “who believe”? Is this you?

Response:

IV. FURTHER THOUGHT:

A. [Luke 17:11-19](#) (NKJV) [PoG]

Now it happened as He went to Jerusalem that He passed through the midst of Samaria and Galilee. 12 Then as He entered a certain village, there met Him ten men who were lepers, who stood afar off. 13 And they lifted up their voices and said, “Jesus, Master, have mercy on us!” 14 So when He saw them, He said to them, “Go, show yourselves to the priests.” And so it was that as they went, they were cleansed [[G2511](#): to make clean physically (cured), morally, and Levitically]. 15 And one of them, when he saw that he was healed [[G2390](#): to cure, heal, make whole (literally or figuratively)], returned, and with a loud voice glorified God, 16 and fell down on his face at His feet, giving Him thanks. And he was a Samaritan. 17 So Jesus answered and said, “Were there not ten cleansed [[G2511](#)]? But where are the nine? 18 Were there not any found who returned to give glory to God except this foreigner?” 19 And He said to him, “Arise, go your way. Your faith has made you well [[G4982](#): to be made whole, to save/keep saved, to make well, heal, restore to health, preserve].”

Thoughts: As lepers, these 10 men were outcasts from the city; not able to interact with anyone but other lepers outside the city gates. They were considered unclean; which is why they kept their distance. Yet their desire was to be made clean (to no longer be outcasts or have leprosy)—which is why they called out to Jesus believing He could heal them. As they went to show themselves to the priests, they were cleansed (cured) of leprosy—yet one (the Samaritan) went back to praise God (not to just go get religious approval). When he did, he was made whole. As suffering from leprosy, it was common to lose fingers, toes, and other parts of the body to the disease. For him to be made whole was for these missing parts to grow back and be restored to his God-designed normalcy. (Yes, missing limbs and organs can grow back!) The other 9 were cured of their sickness, but still had

TRIALS / TEMPTATIONS / DISCIPLINE

INTENTION:

I grew up feeling that it was the Lord always bringing (or “allowing”) hardships on my life—always testing me over and over again. Of which I always seemed to fail.

But this is not the case: it is “the thief comes to kill, steal, and destroy”.

It’s not God testing you to whom you are in this world; it’s this world that is testing you to whom you are in Christ.

There is freedom knowing God is not out to test, tempt, or physically discipline you.

TRIALS / TEMPTATIONS / DISCIPLINE

Bible Study: Lesson 009



I. TOPIC:

We want to look at Trials / Temptations / Discipline. Who brings trials and temptations into our lives—is it God? And then does He also punish us through harsh discipline?

We learned in Lesson 005 about God's peace and us having peace with Him (plus all the other lessons clarifying the Character and Nature of God). If God is Good, Love, Jesus Christ, Holy Spirit, Peace, and Grace, why would we believe God is out to punish me—and even moreso, believe that He is the one testing, trying, and tempting us to fail to then justify some kind of punishment to us? We must let go that God does these things!

We will look at several scriptures following, and even correct some poor translations that can make us think God is willing and able to whip us into correction. God's wrath and anger for any and all humans was exacted onto Jesus Christ Himself—the Lord actually enjoyed doing that for our benefit: "It pleased the Lord to crush Him" ([Isaiah 53](#)). So, we need to accept that God is not the one trying, testing, tempting, nor physically disciplining us.

For additional reading, see also: <https://cbadenhorst.blogspot.com/2017/05/raising-children-as-lord-raises-us.html>
<https://cbadenhorst.blogspot.com/2016/05/trials-by-flesh-05-20-16.html>

II. READING: [James 1:1-25](#) (NLV) [PoG]

This letter is from James. I am a servant owned by God and the Lord Jesus Christ. I greet the twelve family groups of the Jewish nation living in many parts of the world.

2 My Christian brothers, you should be happy when you have all kinds of tests ([G3986](#)). 3 You know these prove ([G1383](#)) your faith. It helps you not to give up. 4 Learn well how to wait so you will be strong and complete and in need of nothing.

5 If you do not have wisdom, ask God for it. He is always ready to give it to you and will never say you are wrong for asking. 6 You must have faith as you ask Him. You must not doubt. Anyone who doubts is like a wave which is pushed around by the sea. 7 Such a man will get nothing from the Lord. 8 The man who has two ways of thinking [*belief and unbelief together* ([Mark 9:23-24](#))] changes in everything he does.

9 A Christian brother who has few riches of this world should be happy for what he has. He is great in the eyes of God. 10 But a rich man should be happy even if he loses everything. He is like a flower that will die. 11 The sun comes up with burning heat. The grass dries up and the flower falls off. It is no longer beautiful. The rich man will die also and all his riches will be gone. 12 The man who does not give up when tests ([G3986](#)) come is happy. [Because ([G3754](#)) he is accepted ([G1384](#)) and holds ([G2983](#))] the crown of life. God has promised this to those who love Him.

13 When you are tempted ([G3985](#)) to do wrong, do not say, "God is tempting ([G3985](#)) me." God cannot be tempted ([G551](#)). He will never tempt ([G3985](#)) anyone. 14 A man is tempted ([G3985](#)) to do wrong when he lets himself be led by what his bad thoughts tell him to do. 15 When he does what his bad thoughts tell him to do, he sins. When sin completes its work, it brings death.

16 My Christian brothers, do not be fooled about this. 17 Whatever is good and perfect comes to us from God. He is the One Who made all light. He does not change. No shadow is made by His turning. 18 He gave us our new lives through the truth of His Word only because He wanted to. We are the first children in His family.

19 My Christian brothers, you know everyone should listen much and speak little. He should be slow to become angry. 20 A man's anger does not allow him to be right with God. 21 Put out of your life all that is unclean and wrong. Receive with a gentle spirit the Word that was taught. It has the power to save your souls from the punishment of sin.

22 Obey the Word of God. If you hear only and do not act, you are only fooling yourself. 23 Anyone who hears the Word of God and does not obey is like a man looking at his face in a mirror. 24 After he sees himself and goes away, he forgets what he looks like. 25 But the one who keeps looking into God's perfect Law and does not forget it will do what it says and be happy as he does it. God's Word makes men free.

III. RELATED VERSES AND QUESTIONS:

A. [Matthew 4:1-11](#) (NLV)

Jesus was led by the Holy Spirit to a desert. There He was tempted by the devil. 2 Jesus went without food for forty days and forty nights. After that He was hungry. 3 The devil came tempting Him and said, "If You are the Son of God, tell these stones to be made into bread." 4 But Jesus said, "It is written, 'Man is not to live on bread only. Man is to live by every word that God speaks.'"

5 Then the devil took Jesus up to Jerusalem, the holy city. He had Jesus stand on the highest part of the house of God. 6 The devil said to Him, "If You are the Son of God, throw Yourself down. It is written, 'He has told His angels to look after You. In their hands they will hold You up. Then Your foot will not hit against a stone.'" 7 Jesus said to the devil, "It is written also, 'You must not tempt the Lord your God.'"

8 Again the devil took Jesus to a very high mountain. He had Jesus look at all the nations of the world to see how great they were. 9 He said to Jesus, "I will give You all these nations if You will get down at my feet and worship me." 10 Jesus said to the devil, "Get away, Satan. It is written, 'You must worship the Lord your God. You must obey Him only.'" 11 Then the devil went away from Jesus. Angels came and cared for Him.

Question: Did God tempt Jesus to "try His faith"?

Response:

B. [1 John 2:15-17](#) (NLV)

Do not love the world or anything in the world. If anyone loves the world, the Father's love is not in him. 16 For everything that is in the world does not come from the Father. The desires of our flesh, and the things our eyes see and want, and the pride of this life come from the world. 17 The world and all its desires will pass away. But the man who obeys God and does what He wants done will live forever.

Question: Do you recognise these three forms of temptation as what Jesus was tempted with in Matthew 4? Looking at your own life, can you see yourself being tested by these three forms of temptation?

Response:

C. [Matthew 26:36-46](#) (NLV) [PoG]

Jesus came with them to a place called Gethsemane. He said to them, "You sit here while I go over there to pray." 37 He took Peter and the two sons of Zebedee with Him. He began to have much sorrow and a heavy heart. 38 Then He said to them, "My soul is very sad. My soul is so full of sorrow I am ready to die. You stay here and watch with Me."

39 He went on a little farther and got down with His face on the ground. He prayed, "My Father, if it can be done, take away what is before Me. Even so, not what I want but what You want."

40 Then He came to the followers and found them sleeping. He said to Peter, “Were you not able to watch with Me one hour? 41 Watch and pray so that you will not be tempted. Man’s spirit is willing, but the body does not have the power to do it [the flesh is weak].”

42 He went away again the second time. He prayed, saying, “My Father, if this must happen to Me, may whatever You want be done.” 43 He came and found them asleep again. Their eyes were heavy. 44 He went away from them the third time and prayed the same prayer.

45 Then He came to His followers and asked them, “Are you still sleeping and getting your rest? As I speak, the time has come when the Son of Man will be handed over to sinners. 46 Get up and let us go. See! The man who will hand Me over is near.”

Question: What were the disciples being tempted to do? What was Jesus battling?

Response:

D. [Galatians 5:16-24](#) (NLV) [PoG]

I say this to you: Let the Holy Spirit lead you in each step. Then you will not please your sinful old selves [the flesh]. 17 The things our old selves [the flesh] want to do are against what the Holy Spirit wants. The Holy Spirit does not agree with what our sinful old selves [the flesh] want. These two are against each other. So you cannot do what you want to do. 18 If you let the Holy Spirit lead you, the Law no longer has power over you. 19 The things your sinful old self [the flesh] wants to do are: sex sins, sinful desires, wild living, 20 worshiping false gods, witchcraft, hating, fighting, being jealous, being angry, arguing, dividing into little groups and thinking the other groups are wrong, false teaching, 21 wanting something someone else has, killing other people, using strong drink, wild parties, and all things like these. I told you before and I am telling you again that those who do these things [will not inherit the Kingdom of God]. 22 But the fruit that comes from having the Holy Spirit in our lives is: love, joy, peace, not giving up, being kind, being good, having faith, 23 being gentle, and being the boss over our own desires. The Law is not against these things. 24 Those of us who belong to Christ have nailed our sinful old selves [the flesh] on His cross. Our sinful desires are now dead.

Question: Do you ever feel the conflict in you between the flesh and the Holy Spirit?

Response:

E. [1 Peter 1:3-9](#) (NLV) [PoG]

Let us thank the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. It was through His loving-kindness that we were born again to a new life and have a hope that never dies. This hope is ours because Jesus was raised from the dead. 4 We will receive the great things that we have been promised. They are being kept safe in heaven for us. They are pure and will not pass away. They will never be lost. 5 You are being kept by the power of God because you put your trust in Him and you will be saved from the punishment of sin at the end of the world.

6 With this hope you can be happy even if you need to have sorrow and all kinds of tests for awhile. 7 These tests have come to prove your faith and to show that it is good. Gold, which can be destroyed, is tested by fire. Your faith is worth much more than gold and it must be tested also. Then your faith will bring thanks and shining-greatness and honour to Jesus Christ when He comes again. 8 You have never seen Him but you love Him. You cannot see Him now but you are putting your trust in Him. And you have joy so great that words cannot tell about it. 9 [You will be receiving the end of your faith: the salvation of your soul].

Question: Whose testing your faith?

Response:

F. [1 Corinthians 10:13](#) (NLV)

You have never been tempted to sin in any different way than other people. God is faithful. He will not allow you to be tempted more than you can take. But when you are tempted, He will make a way for you to keep from falling into sin.

Question: Do we have the ability to make choices when being tempted?

Response:

G. [2 Corinthians 4:7-12;16-18](#) (NLV)

We have this light from God in our human bodies. This shows that the power is from God. It is not from ourselves. 8 We are pressed on every side, but we still have room to move. We are often in much trouble, but we never give up. 9 People make it hard for us, but we are not left alone. We are knocked down, but we are not destroyed. 10 We carry marks on our bodies that show the death of Jesus. This is how Jesus makes His life seen in our bodies. 11 Every day of our life we face death because of Jesus. In this way, His life is seen in our bodies. 12 Death is working in us because we work for the Lord, but His life is working in you.

16 This is the reason we do not give up. Our human body is wearing out. But our spirits are getting stronger every day. 17 The little troubles we suffer now for a short time are making us ready for the great things God is going to give us forever. 18 We do not look at the things that can be seen. We look at the things that cannot be seen. The things that can be seen will come to an end. But the things that cannot be seen will last forever.

Question: Do you ever feel the troubles and trials you experience makes you want to give up in life or the Lord? Do you ever feel like you are being punished for your faith?

Response:

TRIALS / TEMPTATIONS / DISCIPLINE

Bible Study: Lesson 009



H. [Hebrews 12:5-11](#) (NLV) [PoG]

5 Do you remember what God said to you when He called you His sons? “My son, listen when the Lord ~~punishes~~ [trains and educates you ([G3809](#))]. Do not give up when He tells you what you must do. 6 The Lord ~~punishes~~ [trains and instructs you as children He loves ([G3811](#))]. He ~~whips~~ [corrects ([Proverbs 3:12](#)) ([H3198](#): to make clear, to demonstrate, to prove)] every son He receives.” 7 Do not give up when you are ~~punished~~ [trained and educated by God ([G3809](#))]. Be willing to take it, knowing that God is teaching you as a son. Is there a father who does not ~~punish~~ [train and instruct his son sometimes ([G3811](#))]? 8 If you are not ~~punished~~ [trained and educated as all sons are ([G3809](#))], it means that you are not a true son of God. You are not a part of His family and He is not your Father. 9 Remember that our fathers on earth ~~punished~~ [corrected us as teachers and instructors ([G3810](#))]. We had respect for them. How much more should we obey our Father in heaven and live? 10 For a little while our fathers on earth ~~punished~~ [trained and instructed us when they thought they should ([G3811](#))]. But God [does so] for our good so we will be holy as He is holy. 11 There is no joy while we are being ~~punished~~ [trained and educated ([G3809](#))]. It is hard to take, but later we can see that good came from it. And it gives us the peace of being right with God.

Question: Does the corrected translation change how you see God as your Father?

Response:

I. With His Word:

[2 Timothy 3:16-17](#) (NKJV) [PoG]

All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction [training, discipline] in righteousness, 17 that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.

[Hebrews 4:12](#) (NLV)

God’s Word is living and powerful. It is sharper than a sword that cuts both ways. It cuts straight into where the soul and spirit meet and it divides them. It cuts into the joints and bones. It tells what the heart is thinking about and what it wants to do.

[John 15:1-5](#) (NLV) [PoG]

“I am the true Vine. My Father is the One Who cares for the Vine. 2 He [raises, elevates, and lifts up ([G142](#))] any branch in Me that does not give fruit. Any branch that gives fruit, He [cleanses it from filth impurities ([G2508](#))] so it will give more fruit. 3 You are made clean by the words I have spoken to you. 4 Get your life from Me and I will live in you. No branch can give fruit by itself. It has to get life from the vine. You are able to give fruit only when you have life from Me. 5 I am the Vine and you are the branches. Get your life from Me. Then I will live in you and you will give much fruit. You can do nothing without Me.

Question: How does God our Father educate, instruct, and discipline us? How did Jesus do so with His Disciples?

Response:

J. Peace and access to God:

[Romans 5:1-5](#) (NLV)

Now that we have been made right with God by putting our trust in Him, we have peace with Him. It is because of what our Lord Jesus Christ did for us. 2 By putting our trust in God, He has given us His loving-favour and has received us. We are happy for the hope we have of sharing the shining-greatness of God. 3 We are glad for our troubles also. We know that troubles help us learn not to give up. 4 When we have learned not to give up, it shows we have stood the test. When we have stood the test, it gives us hope. 5 Hope never makes us ashamed because the love of God has come into our hearts through the Holy Spirit Who was given to us.

[Hebrews 10:19-24](#) (NLV)

Christian brothers, now we know we can go into the Holiest Place of All because the blood of Jesus was given. 20 We now come to God by the new and living way. Christ made this way for us. He opened the curtain, which was His own body. 21 We have a great Religious Leader over the house of God. 22 And so let us come near to God with a true heart full of faith. Our hearts must be made clean from guilty feelings and our bodies washed with pure water. 23 Let us hold on to the hope we say we have and not be changed. We can trust God that He will do what He promised. 24 Let us help each other to love others and to do good.

Question: Since we have peace with God and can freely come to Him, does it make sense that He punishes us?

Response:

IV. FURTHER THOUGHT:

A. [Hebrews 3:7-9a](#) (NLV)

The Holy Spirit says, “If you hear His voice today, 8 do not let your hearts become hard as your early fathers did when they turned against Me. It was at that time in the desert when they put Me to the test ([G3986](#)). 9 Your early fathers tempted ([G3985](#)) Me and tried ([G1381](#)) Me.”

Thoughts: It was not God tempting and trying the people of Israel, it was the people of Israel trying and tempting God. Their hearts were hardened by their own unbelief—they saw the miracles yet doubted God, unbelieving (believing falsely) that He just brought them out of Egypt to die (that God would just kill them). Feel free to read through the scriptures that share how they tested God: [Deuteronomy 6](#), [Psalm 78](#), [Psalms 95](#), and [Psalms 106](#).

B. Take time to study and look into the original Hebrew for “God’s thoughts of peace (*shalom*) toward you” ([Jeremiah 29:11](#) and [Isaiah 55:12](#)). God has “shalom” upon/toward you, and it encompasses much depth and meaning to our lives; including positive variations of peace, as well as health and prosperity. One resource for looking into the original Hebrew or Greek (as these last links to those go to) is: www.BlueLetterBible.org

And we can be assured of His “shalom” to us without doubt because of what Jesus Christ accomplished for us!

SATAN DEFEATED! WE HAVE AUTHORITY

INTENTION:

Most of my life existed as a defeated Christian. I pinballed around in life just taking what came my way and resisted to live another day to face the same: “Que Será, Será”.

Then I came to realize that my life as a Christian had power and authority—both my own and through the Lord. Christ defeated Satan and he is beneath me (beneath all humans). And when I became a believer, I inherited that same authority that Jesus Christ Himself has.

Let’s discover the authority we have to overcome any and all challenges that come our way.

SATAN DEFEATED! WE HAVE AUTHORITY

Bible Study: Lesson 010



I. TOPIC:

We want to look at Satan's defeat and our authority; both accomplished through the completed work of Jesus Christ. The Lord created humans with authoritative dominion through Adam ([Genesis 1:28](#)), whom, in-turn gave it to Satan ([Genesis 3](#)). However, Jesus, as a human, not only took back what Adam gave away, we have been given even more than what Adam ever had: Christ's authority. Jesus defeated the Devil and Satan, giving us authority over him too.

NB: In the following scripture verses used, we will read about both the Devil and Satan. These are not directly one-of-the-same, but different Greek words representing two distinct meanings, yet relatable. Take into consideration these expanded meanings, especially when discussing the Devil:

Devil: *diabolos* ([G1228](#))

1. prone to slander, slanderous, accusing falsely.
 - a. a calumniator, false accuser, slanderer.
2. metaph. applied to a man who, by opposing the cause of God, may be said to act the part of the devil or to side with him.

calumniator:
1. to utter maliciously false statements, charges, or imputations about.
2. to injure the reputation of by calumny.

calumny:
1. a misrepresentation intended to harm another's reputation.
2. the act of uttering false charges or misrepresentations maliciously calculated to harm another's reputation.

Satan: *satanas* ([G4567](#))

1. adversary (one who opposes another in purpose or act), the name given to
 - a. the prince of evil spirits, the inveterate adversary of God and Christ
 - b. a Satan-like man

II. READING: [Ephesians 1:1-23](#) (CEB)

From Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by God's will. To the holy and faithful people in Christ Jesus in Ephesus. 2 Grace and peace to you from God our Father and our Lord Jesus Christ.

3 Bless the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! He has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing that comes from heaven. 4 God chose us in Christ to be holy and blameless in God's presence before the creation of the world. 5 God destined us to be his adopted children through Jesus Christ because of his love. This was according to his goodwill and plan 6 and to honour his glorious grace that he has given to us freely through the Son whom he loves. 7 We have been ransomed through his Son's blood, and we have forgiveness for our failures based on his overflowing grace, 8 which he poured over us with wisdom and understanding. 9 God revealed his hidden design to us, which is according to his goodwill and the plan that he intended to accomplish through his Son. 10 This is what God planned for the climax of all times: to bring all things together in Christ, the things in heaven along with the things on earth. 11 We have also received an inheritance in Christ. We were destined by the plan of God, who accomplishes everything according to his design. 12 We are called to be an honour to God's glory because we were the first to hope in Christ. 13 You too heard the word of truth in Christ, which is the good news of your salvation. You were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit because you believed in Christ. 14 The Holy Spirit is the down payment on our inheritance, which is applied toward our redemption as God's own people, resulting in the honour of God's glory.

15 Since I heard about your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love for all God's people, this is the reason that 16 I don't stop giving thanks to God for you when I remember you in my prayers. 17 I pray that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, will give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation that makes God known to you. 18 I pray that the eyes of your heart will have enough light to see what is the hope of God's call, what is the richness of God's glorious inheritance among believers, 19 and what is the overwhelming greatness of God's power that is working

SATAN DEFEATED! WE HAVE AUTHORITY

Bible Study: Lesson 010



among us believers. This power is conferred by the energy of God’s powerful strength. 20 God’s power was at work in Christ when God raised him from the dead and sat him at God’s right side in the heavens, 21 far above every ruler and authority and power and angelic power, any power that might be named not only now but in the future. 22 God put everything under Christ’s feet and made him head of everything in the church, 23 which is his body. His body, the church, is the fullness of Christ, who fills everything in every way.

III. RELATED VERSES AND QUESTIONS:

A. [Revelations 12:7-12](#) (CEB)

7 Then there was war in heaven: Michael and his angels fought the dragon. The dragon and his angels fought back, 8 but they did not prevail, and there was no longer any place for them in heaven. 9 So the great dragon was thrown down. The old snake, who is called the Devil and Satan, the deceiver of the whole world, was thrown down to the earth; and his angels were thrown down with him. 10 Then I heard a loud voice in heaven say, “Now the salvation and power and kingdom of our God, and the authority of his Christ have come. The accuser of our brothers and sisters, who accuses them day and night before our God, has been thrown down. 11 They gained the victory over him on account of the blood of the Lamb and the word of their witness. Love for their own lives didn’t make them afraid to die. 12 Therefore, rejoice, you heavens and you who dwell in them. But oh! The horror for the earth and sea! The devil has come down to you with great rage, for he knows that he only has a short time.”

Question: We can see that both Satan and the Devil have been against the Lord’s creation—what did the Devil and Satan lose here? What is he up to now—what do you think his purpose is?

Response:

B. [Luke 10:9;17-22](#) (CEB) [PoG]

9 Heal the sick who are there, and say to them, ‘God’s kingdom has come upon you.’

17 The seventy-two returned joyously, saying, “Lord, even the demons submit themselves to us in your name.”

18 Jesus replied, “I saw Satan fall from heaven like lightning. 19 Look, I have given you authority to crush snakes and scorpions underfoot. I have given you authority over all the power of the enemy. Nothing will harm you [[Mark 16:15-18](#)]. 20 Nevertheless, don’t rejoice because the spirits submit to you. Rejoice instead that your names are written in heaven.”

21 At that very moment, Jesus overflowed with joy from the Holy Spirit and said, “I praise you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you’ve hidden these things from the wise and intelligent and shown them to babies. Indeed, Father, this brings you happiness. 22 My Father has handed all things over to me. No one knows who the Son is except the Father, or who the Father is except the Son and anyone to whom the Son wants to reveal him.”

Question: What authority did Jesus give?

Response:

SATAN DEFEATED! WE HAVE AUTHORITY

Bible Study: Lesson 010



C. [Matthew 11:11-15](#) (CEB) [PoG]

“I assure you that no one who has ever been born is greater than John the Baptist. Yet whoever is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he. 12 From the days of John the Baptist until now the kingdom of heaven is violently attacked as violent people seize it [*because violent people (beings) try to take things for themselves through violence*]. 13 All the Prophets and the Law prophesied until John came. 14 If you are willing to accept it, he is Elijah who is to come. 15 Let the person who has ears, hear.

Question: The Kingdom of Heaven is righteousness, peace, and joy in the Holy Spirit ([Romans 14:17](#))—very opposite from violence. Look back at [Revelations 12:10](#) and [Luke 10:18](#) above with this verse; whom do you think is violently attacking the Kingdom of Heaven / Kingdom of God?

Response:

D. [Job 1:6-12](#) (CEB) [PoG] and [Job 2:1-7](#) (CEB) [PoG]

6 One day the divine beings [Sons of Man] came to present themselves before the Lord, and the Adversary also came among them. 7 The Lord said to the Adversary, “Where did you come from?” The Adversary answered the Lord, “From wandering throughout the earth.” 8 The Lord said to the Adversary, “Have you thought about my servant Job; surely there is no one like him on earth, a man who is honest, who is of absolute integrity, who reveres God and avoids evil?” 9 The Adversary answered the Lord, “Does Job revere God for nothing? 10 Haven’t you fenced him in—his house and all he has—and blessed the work of his hands so that his possessions extend throughout the earth? 11 But stretch out your hand and strike all he has. He will certainly curse you to your face.” 12 The Lord said to the Adversary, “Look, all he has is within your power; only don’t stretch out your hand against him.” So the Adversary left the Lord’s presence.

2 One day the divine beings [Sons of Man] came to present themselves before the Lord. The Adversary also came among them to present himself before the Lord. 2 The Lord said to the Adversary, “Where have you come from?” The Adversary answered the Lord, “From wandering throughout the earth.” 3 The Lord said to the Adversary, “Have you thought about my servant Job, for there is no one like him on earth, a man who is honest, who is of absolute integrity, who reveres God and avoids evil? He still holds on to his integrity, even though you incited me to ruin him for no reason.” 4 The Adversary responded to the Lord, “Skin for skin—people will give up everything they have in exchange for their lives. 5 But stretch out your hand and strike his bones and flesh. Then he will definitely curse [bless] you to your face.” 6 The Lord answered the Adversary, “There he is—within your power; only preserve his life.” 7 The Adversary departed from the Lord’s presence and struck Job with severe sores from the sole of his foot to the top of his head.

Question: What was Satan doing when he spoke with God (read [Revelations 12:10](#) above)? Did God bring the calamity to Job and his entire family/domain? Can Satan do the same thing to us that he did to Job—why?

Response:

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E. [John 16:7-11](#) (PoG)

7-11 Nevertheless I (Jesus Christ) tell you the truth. It is to your advantage that I go away; for if I do not go away, the Helper (Holy Spirit) will not come to you; but if I depart, I will send Him to you. And when He has come, He will convict the world of:

- Sin, because they do not believe in Me;
- Righteousness, because I go to My Father and you see Me no more;
- Judgment, because the ruler of this world is judged.

Question: What does it mean to you that the Holy Spirit is reminding the world of Satan already being judged?

Response:

F. [Colossians 2:6-15](#) (CEB)

So live in Christ Jesus the Lord in the same way as you received him. 7 Be rooted and built up in him, be established in faith, and overflow with thanksgiving just as you were taught. 8 See to it that nobody enslaves you with philosophy and foolish deception, which conform to human traditions and the way the world thinks and acts rather than Christ. 9 All the fullness of deity lives in Christ's body. 10 And you have been filled by him, who is the head of every ruler and authority. 11 In him you were also circumcised with a circumcision not administered by human hands. The circumcision of Christ is realized in the stripping away of the whole self dominated by sin. 12 You were buried with him through baptism and raised with him through faith in the power of God, who raised him from the dead. 13 When you were dead because of the things you had done wrong and because your body wasn't circumcised, God made you alive with Christ and forgave all the things you had done wrong. 14 He destroyed the record of the debt we owed, with its requirements that worked against us. He cancelled it by nailing it to the cross. 15 When he disarmed the rulers and authorities, he exposed them to public disgrace by leading them in a triumphal parade.

Question: What are ways we re-arm rulers and authorities that try and stand against us?

Response:

G. [1 Corinthians 15:20-28; 45-49](#) (CEB)

But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead. He's the first crop of the harvest of those who have died. 21 Since death came through a human being, the resurrection of the dead came through one too. 22 In the same way that everyone dies in Adam, so also everyone will be given life in Christ. 23 Each event will happen in the right order: Christ, the first crop of the harvest, then those who belong to Christ at his coming, 24 and then the end, when Christ hands over the kingdom to God the Father, when he brings every form of rule, every authority and power to an end. 25 It is necessary for him to rule until he puts all enemies under his feet. 26 Death is the last enemy to be brought to an end, 27 since he has brought everything under control under his feet. When it says that everything has been brought under his control, this clearly means everything except for the one who placed

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everything under his control. 28 But when all things have been brought under his control, then the Son himself will also be under the control of the one who gave him control over everything so that God may be all in all.

So it is also written, The first human, Adam, became a living person, and the last Adam became a spirit that gives life. 46 But the physical body comes first, not the spiritual one—the spiritual body comes afterward. 47 The first human was from the earth made from dust; the second human is from heaven. 48 The nature of the person made of dust is shared by people who are made of dust, and the nature of the heavenly person is shared by heavenly people. 49 We will look like the heavenly person in the same way as we have looked like the person made from dust.

Question: Which do you feel has more authority in life: the physical body or the spiritual?

Response:

H. [Ephesians 6:10-18](#) (CEB)

Finally, be strengthened by the Lord and his powerful strength. 11 Put on God’s armour so that you can make a stand against the tricks of the devil. 12 We aren’t fighting against human enemies but against rulers, authorities, forces of cosmic darkness, and spiritual powers of evil in the heavens. 13 Therefore, pick up the full armour of God so that you can stand your ground on the evil day and after you have done everything possible to still stand. 14 So stand with the belt of truth around your waist, justice as your breastplate, 15 and put shoes on your feet so that you are ready to spread the good news of peace. 16 Above all, carry the shield of faith so that you can extinguish the flaming arrows of the evil one. 17 Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is God’s word. 18 Offer prayers and petitions in the Spirit all the time. Stay alert by hanging in there and praying for all believers.

Question: What are we fighting? Do you feel you have the full armour of God already?

Response:

I. Devil is trying to deceive us:

[1 Peter 5:8](#) (CEB)

Be clearheaded. Keep alert. Your accuser, the devil, is on the prowl like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour.

[James 4:7](#) (CEB)

Therefore, submit to God. Resist the devil, and he will run away from you.

Question: What are we to resist (see the Greek above)? Do you feel you have the power / authority to resist?

Response:

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J. Our position:

[Philippians 2:7b-11](#) (CEB) [PoG]

When he [*Jesus*] found himself in the form of a human, 8 he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. 9 Therefore, God highly honoured him and gave him a name above all names, 10 so that at the name of Jesus everyone in heaven, on earth, and under the earth might bow 11 and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

[Ephesians 2:6](#) (CEB)

And God raised us up and seated us in the heavens with Christ Jesus.

[1 Corinthians 12:27](#) (CEB)

You are the body of Christ and parts of each other.

[1 John 4:17b](#) (NKJV)

as He is, so are we in this world.

Question: Does anything have authority over Jesus? What is our position? If we are exactly as Christ Jesus is (right now on this earth), should we doubt we have His authority?

Response:

IV. FURTHER THOUGHT:

A. Christ is our reminder:

[Romans 8:31-34](#) (CEB)

So what are we going to say about these things? If God is for us, who is against us? 32 He didn't spare his own Son but gave him up for us all. Won't he also freely give us all things with him? 33 Who will bring a charge against God's elect people? It is God who acquits them. 34 Who is going to convict them? It is Christ Jesus who died, even more, who was raised, and who also is at God's right side. It is Christ Jesus who also pleads our case for us.

[1 John 2:1-2](#) (CEB)

My little children, I'm writing these things to you so that you don't sin. But if you do sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous one. 2 He is God's way of dealing with our sins, not only ours but the sins of the whole world.

Thoughts: If the Devil or Satan ever had the ability to go before God again like we read in Job (which he cannot), Jesus is standing between God and the Devil / Satan as our intercessor (court-appointed attorney). Likewise, if we ourselves condemn ourselves for our actions or inactions (sins), we are in essence doing what the Devil / Satan was doing—he was cast out of heaven, but somehow we decide to take over for him what was taken from him, and literally accuse ourselves in front of God. Yet Jesus is our intercessor as well. And even more than interceding on our behalf, He in turn reminds us that He took care of all our sins at the Cross, that anything we try to bring to God as our own offense can never have any legal hold on us: WE HAVE BEEN MADE FREE! Remember this always.

B. Ben Daily: The Holy But. Living in the Spiritual. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mT87VuGjzwl&t=158s>

IDENTITY

INTENTION:

Whom we are is more than what we see in the mirror. When we are Born-Again, we are instantly changed from being of this world to being of our Father God. Our identity becomes that of our Father in Heaven, and just like our sibling Jesus Christ. How fantastic is that!

How you see yourself can affect your everyday life. Let's know we are Born of God!

I. TOPIC:

We want to look at Identity—our identity as humans in relation to Christ Jesus (also a human).

Back at Lesson 001, we looked at God's original Creation (which He proclaimed as “good”). It was at Creation that He set into motion a governing Law of Design. Firstly, He Himself created every plant, every animal, and every human at the beginning. From the 7th Day of creation, He has been resting, no longer creating anything more. Having, from those days instructed each plant, each animal, and each human to "reproduce after its own kind" ([Genesis 1](#)).

So, as human, we are the by-product (offspring) of the first humans: Adam (that is both male and female). And from that beginning, all mankind are offspring of them: the resulting product (child) reproduced after its own kind (their parents). And we can see this result in the appearance of the child representing a merger of both the male and the female parent whom created the child—the child thus bearing the image of their creator (their parents).

Genetics, biology, and science has confirmed this Law of God's Creation. Trees reproduce trees, cats reproduce cats, dogs reproduce dogs, fish reproduce fish, birds reproduce birds, etc. And humans reproduce humans. Quite simple.

Because we are, in this way, created by our parents, we identify ourselves with them. Even the nature vs nurture upbringing defines that identity: engraining positive/negative nurturing and positive/negative DNA; and instilling habits, iniquities, beliefs, physical characteristics, and more, from parent to child. We, in that sense, become our parents (we can see an in-grained relation of the child to the parents).

But here is where we confuse our identity and are often deceived in it, both as children and as parents. Our identity is not who bore us or who raised us, our identity is and should always be the Lord! For it is the Lord (Father, Son, and Holy Ghost) that said at Creation that we humans are, "made in THEIR Image". This is something we have lost in those thousands of years since Adam. However, since then, we have experienced the completed work of Jesus Christ for humanity (as a human, and God)!

As such, whether we are male or female, we need to see our identity as being Christ Jesus—renewing our minds and hearts to this revelation...even if it means rejecting our own natural heritage!

For additional reading, see also: <https://cbadenhorst.blogspot.com/2018/08/heart-of-god-part-1.html>
<https://cbadenhorst.blogspot.com/2019/02/heart-of-god-part-ii.html>

II. READING: [2 Corinthians 5:1-21](#) (ESV) [PoG]

For we know that if the tent [tabernacle] that is our earthly home is destroyed, we have a building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens. 2 For in this tent we groan, longing to put on our heavenly dwelling, 3 if indeed by putting it on we may not be found naked. 4 For while we are still in this tent [tabernacle], we groan, being burdened—not that we would be unclothed, but that we would be further clothed, so that what is mortal may be swallowed up by life. 5 He who has prepared us for this very thing is God, who has given us the Spirit as a guarantee.

6 So we are always of good courage. We know that while we are at home in the body we are away from the Lord, 7 for we walk by faith, not by sight. 8 Yes, we are of good courage, and we would rather be away from the body and at home with the Lord. 9 So whether we are at home or away, we [are accepted by Him]. 10 For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ [[1 John 4:17](#)], so that each one may receive what is due for what he has done in the body, whether good or evil [*to believe or to not believe*].

11 Therefore, knowing the fear [reverence] of the Lord, we persuade others. But what we are is known to God, and I hope it is known also to your conscience. 12 We are not commending ourselves to you again but giving you cause to boast about us, so that you may be able to answer those who boast about outward appearance and not about what is in the heart. 13 For if we are beside ourselves, it is for God; if we are in our right mind, it is for you. 14 For the love of Christ controls us, because we have concluded this: that one has died for all, therefore all have died; 15 and he died for all, that those who live might no longer live for themselves but for him who for their sake died and was raised.

IDENTITY

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16 From now on, therefore, we regard no one according to the flesh. Even though we once regarded Christ according to the flesh, we regard him thus no longer. 17 Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he [*that person*] is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come. 18 All this is from God, who through Christ reconciled us to himself and gave us the ministry of reconciliation; 19 that is, in Christ, God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting to us the message of reconciliation. 20 Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, God making his appeal through us. We implore you on behalf of Christ, [you are reconciled with God]. 21 For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

III. RELATED VERSES AND QUESTIONS:

A. [Galatians 3:25-28](#) (ESV) [PoG]

But now that faith has come, we are no longer under a guardian [*the Law*], 26 for in Christ Jesus you are all sons of God, through faith. 27 For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ. 28 There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is no male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus.

Question: What do you feel God was saying (or what He was eliminating) by saying this?

Response:

B. No partiality:

[Acts 10:34-38,44-46a](#) (ESV)

So Peter opened his mouth and said: “Truly I understand that God shows no partiality, 35 but in every nation anyone who fears him and does what is right is acceptable to him. 36 As for the word that he sent to Israel, preaching good news of peace through Jesus Christ (he is Lord of all), 37 you yourselves know what happened throughout all Judea, beginning from Galilee after the baptism that John proclaimed: 38 how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power. He went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him.

While Peter was still saying these things, the Holy Spirit fell on all who heard the word. 45 And the believers from among the circumcised who had come with Peter were amazed, because the gift of the Holy Spirit was poured out even on the Gentiles. 46 For they were hearing them speaking in tongues and extolling God.

[Romans 2:11](#) (ESV)

For God shows no partiality.

[James 2:1](#) (ESV)

My brothers, show no partiality as you hold the faith in our Lord Jesus Christ, the Lord of glory.

Question: What does it mean to you that “God shows no partiality”—and that we shouldn’t either?

Response:

[Hebrews 10:9-10,12,16-23](#) (ESV) [PoG]

then he added, "Behold, I have come to do your will." He does away with the first in order to establish the second. 10 And by that will we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.

But when Christ had offered for all time a single sacrifice for sins, he sat down at the right hand of God.

"This is the covenant that I will make with them after those days, declares the Lord: I will put my laws [*the Law of believing and Loving* ([1 John 3:23](#))] on their hearts, and write them on their minds," 17 then he adds, "I will remember their sins and their lawless deeds no more." 18 Where there is forgiveness of these, there is no longer any offering for sin. 19 Therefore, brothers, since we have confidence to enter the holy places by the blood of Jesus, 20 by the new and living way that he opened for us through the curtain, that is, through his flesh, 21 and since we have a great priest over the house of God, 22 let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, with our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience [*sin conscience*] and our bodies washed with pure water. 23 Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who promised is faithful.

Question: Do you identify with your sins or your righteousness?

Response:

C. [Romans 7:15-25 & 8:1-11](#) (ESV)

For I do not understand my own actions. For I do not do what I want, but I do the very thing I hate. 16 Now if I do what I do not want, I agree with the law, that it is good. 17 So now it is no longer I who do it, but sin that dwells within me. 18 For I know that nothing good dwells in me, that is, in my flesh. For I have the desire to do what is right, but not the ability to carry it out. 19 For I do not do the good I want, but the evil I do not want is what I keep on doing. 20 Now if I do what I do not want, it is no longer I who do it, but sin that dwells within me. 21 So I find it to be a law that when I want to do right, evil lies close at hand. 22 For I delight in the law of God, in my inner being, 23 but I see in my members another law waging war against the law of my mind and making me captive to the law of sin that dwells in my members. 24 Wretched man that I am! Who will deliver me from this body of death? 25 Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord! So then, I myself serve the law of God with my mind, but with my flesh I serve the law of sin.

There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. 2 For the law of the Spirit of life has set you free in Christ Jesus from the law of sin and death. 3 For God has done what the law, weakened by the flesh, could not do. By sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh and for sin, he condemned sin in the flesh, 4 in order that the righteous requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not according to the flesh but according to the Spirit. 5 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 set their minds on the things of the Spirit. 6 For to set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace. 7 For the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God, for it does not submit to God's law; indeed, it cannot. 8 Those who are in the flesh cannot please God. 9 You, however, are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if in fact the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him. 10 But if Christ is in you, although the body is dead because of sin, the Spirit is life because of righteousness. 11 If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through his Spirit who dwells in you.

Question: Can you feel the “dual-personality” that seems to be your own fight between your flesh-identity and spirit-identity?

Response:

D. Our inner battle:

[Ephesians 4:22-24](#) (ESV)

to put off your old self, which belongs to your former manner of life and is corrupt through deceitful desires, 23 and to be renewed in the spirit of your minds, 24 and to put on the new self, created after the likeness of God in true righteousness and holiness.

[Colossians 3:1-14](#) (ESV)

If then you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. 2 Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth. 3 For you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. 4 When Christ who is your life appears, then you also will appear with him in glory. 5 Put to death therefore what is earthly in you: sexual immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry. 6 On account of these the wrath of God is coming. 7 In these you too once walked, when you were living in them. 8 But now you must put them all away: anger, wrath, malice, slander, and obscene talk from your mouth. 9 Do not lie to one another, seeing that you have put off the old self with its practices 10 and have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge after the image of its creator. 11 Here there is not Greek and Jew, circumcised and uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave, free; but Christ is all, and in all. 12 Put on then, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassionate hearts, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience, 13 bearing with one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. 14 And above all these put on love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony.

[Galatians 5:11-25](#) (ESV)

But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh. 17 For the desires of the flesh are against the Spirit, and the desires of the Spirit are against the flesh, for these are opposed to each other, to keep you from doing the things you want to do. 18 But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law. 19 Now the works of the flesh are evident: sexual immorality, impurity, sensuality, 20 idolatry, sorcery, enmity, strife, jealousy, fits of anger, rivalries, dissensions, divisions, 21 envy, drunkenness, orgies, and things like these. I warn you, as I warned you before, that those who do such things will not inherit the kingdom of God. 22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, 23 gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law. 24 And those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. 25 If we live by the Spirit, let us also keep in step with the Spirit.

Question: How do we identify what is of the flesh and what is of the Spirit? Where is the battle between our old self and our new self?

Response:

IV. FURTHER THOUGHT:

A. [Romans 10:9-13](#) (ESV)

because, if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. 10 For with the heart one believes and is justified, and with the mouth one confesses and is saved. 11 For the Scripture says, “Everyone who believes in him will not be put to shame.” 12 For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek; for the same Lord is Lord of all, bestowing his riches on all who call on him. 13 For “everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved”.

Thoughts: Paul quotes a scripture ([Joel 2:32](#)) that talks about our salvation. The words "call upon" speak of making our identity as His (Christ's). The Greek is *epikaleō* ([G1941](#)) which translates as:

1. to put a name upon, to surname
 - a. to permit one's self to be surnamed
2. to be named after someone

It's as if we are changing our surname to His—our identity no longer whom we think we are (our core identity), to whom we really are (our ideal identity). We truly become adopted by the Father, as His child, into His family, with HIS NAME! We share the same name as Jesus Christ.

B. Read through the Parable of the Prodigal Son: [Luke 15:11-32](#) (ESV).

We can see that both sons did not understand their inheritance or value. The prodigal (younger son) didn't expect to be welcomed home, thinking he was a nobody; yet was never accused by his father of losing his value or “sonship”. For the older son that stayed home, he saw his identity as a servant and not a son, working for the inheritance—this led to bitterness and anger that his younger brother received praise from the father when he didn't do any work for that reward.

NB: This is also a representation of the Jews and the Greeks: the Greeks did not expect an inheritance and the Jews felt they had worked for that inheritance. Yet God's gifts not on our merits, but on His Grace.

The father accused the older son of not understanding this, having been given the inheritance (rights) to claim all the father had as his own—this being the same inheritance the younger son was given as well. This is what the father showed the younger when he returned, throwing a feast.

We should then view ourselves, not as either son did of themselves, but as the father saw each son: as a son worthy of everything the father has. Which is exactly as our Father in Heaven sees us—so, whether you are someone whose tried to work for God's goodness, or one that feels unworthy to be called a son, the Lord will receive you into His family as His own—remember you have been legally given His surname and identity!

C. What do you call yourself?

Because often our thoughts and our words define who we are, creating our own identities: “ugly, fat, thin, bald, afraid, shy, timid, stupid, blind, crippled, sick, having allergies, worthless, a whore, a paedophile, a gangster, a specific race, a specific nationality, a personality type, religious denomination, and more”. When we use these terms for ourselves (or others), we limit whom we really are, instead of believing whom God says we are. And when we hold onto these “anti-identities”, we create conflict in us as these relate to the flesh when we are spiritual beings ([Galatians 5:16-24](#) and [1 Corinthians 6:9-11](#)). And this conflict of identity keeps us from truly experiencing the “righteousness, peace, and joy in the Holy Spirit” that is the Kingdom of God ([Romans 14:17](#)).

Take heart though, if you struggle with an anti-identity, there is no need to fear any reprisal from the Lord; for He will meet you where you are and will not hold back from gifting you all He has, and always loving you!

IDENTITY

Bible Study: Lesson 011



D. Arthur Meintjes: Adoption. Loved and accepted. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=My62eVLmAHE>

E. Carlie Terradez: Who Do You Think You Are? <https://carlieterradez.wordpress.com/who-do-you-think-you-are/>

Change your confession, change your life. Start speaking out who God says you are today!

I am _____ (your name)

I am a party waiting to happen, **1 Peter 1:8**! Angels rejoice over me, demons flee from me, **James 4:7**, and God himself dances over me with singing, **Zephaniah 3:17**. I am the bearer of good news, **Isaiah 52:7**, a minister of reconciliation, **2 Corinthians 5:18**, the carrier of the King of Glory, **Colossians 1:27**. I am the righteousness of Christ, **2 Corinthians 5:21** and a temple of the Holy Spirit, **1 Corinthians 6:19**. I have an unction from the Holy one and I know all things, **1 John 2:20** I have the mind of Christ, **1 Corinthians 2:16**, I am anointed by God, **1 John 2:27**, And I was created by Him for good works, **Ephesians 2:10**! I have favour with God, favour with man and a good understanding, **Luke 2:52**. I am chosen by God, **John 15:16**, **Ephesians 1:4**, I have been sanctified, **1 Corinthians 6:11**, and made truly Holy. As Jesus is, so am I in this world, **1 John 4:17**! I am always on God's mind, He thinks about me constantly, **Psalms 139:17-18**. Even before the creation of the world, I was planned, **Ephesians 1:4**. I am a child of the King, adopted into his family, **Ephesians 1:5**, An heir in Christ, **Romans 8:17**, Accepted in the Beloved, **Ephesians 1:6**. I am blessed with every spiritual blessing in heavenly places, **Ephesians 1:3**. I lack no good thing, **Psalms 34:10**. I have an abundance for every good work. **2 Corinthians 9:8**. I was predestined by God for success, **Romans 8:28-30**. I am placed and seated with Him, a king and priest, part of a chosen generation, a peculiar people, **1 Peter 2:9**. I am blessed coming in and going out, **Deuteronomy 28:6**. My family is blessed, my flocks are blessed, **Deuteronomy 28:4**, and everything I touch prospers, **Deuteronomy 28:8**. I am the head and not the tail, above the circumstances and not beneath them, **Deuteronomy 28:13**. No weapon formed against me can prosper, **Isaiah 54:17**, no plague can come near my dwelling-my house or my body, **Psalms 91:10**! And nothing can separate me from the love of God—not angels or demons, not principalities or powers, nothing in this world or out of it, **Romans 8:38-39**! I am equipped with the full Armor of God, **Ephesians 6:13**, packed full of the Holy Spirit, with more than enough power inside of me to raise the dead, **Romans 8:11**, heal the sick and cast out devils, **Matthew 10:1**. My faith can move mountains, **Mark 11:23**, my words contain life and death, **Proverbs 18:21**, my life was bought at a price-Jesus covered it, **1 Corinthians 6:20**. My days are appointed, **Psalms 139:16** my life is protected, **Mark 16:18** angels encamp around me, **Psalms 34:7**, and the blessings of God encircle me, **Psalms 103:4**, go before me and overtake me, **Deuteronomy 28:2**. The creator of the universe, my Dad, loves me with an everlasting love, **Jeremiah 31:3**. He is with me always, **Hebrews 13:5**, He thinks about me constantly, **Psalms 139:17**. He knows everything about me, even the number of hairs on my head, **Matthew 10:30**. His love for me is inescapable, insurmountable and irrefutable. I am all round awesome, just ask my Dad!

TABERNACLE: BODY, MIND, SOUL, HEART, SPIRIT (OVERVIEW)

INTENTION:

Our makeup as human beings plays a role in how we engage with the world around us; and the Lord as well. We are the Lord's creation, made in a very specific way—a way that replicates the Tabernacle design He gave to Moses.

Knowing the different parts of our beings gives us insight into the various ways our life is impacted.

I have found that the world around us works on our being from the outside-in; while the Spirit in our core being works from the inside-out. We can then see how each part of our being then is affected by the world or the Spirit.

We will learn how each part of the Moses Tabernacle represents our own parts of our being.

TABERNACLE: BODY, MIND, SOUL, HEART, SPIRIT

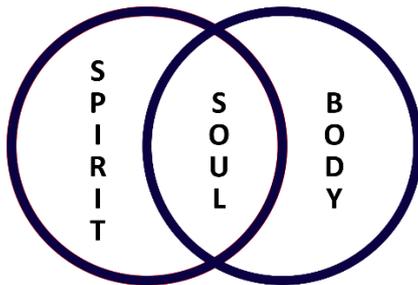
Bible Study: Lessons 012 – 017

PREFACE – TABERNACLE: BODY, MIND, SOUL, HEART, SPIRIT (PARTS 1 – 6):

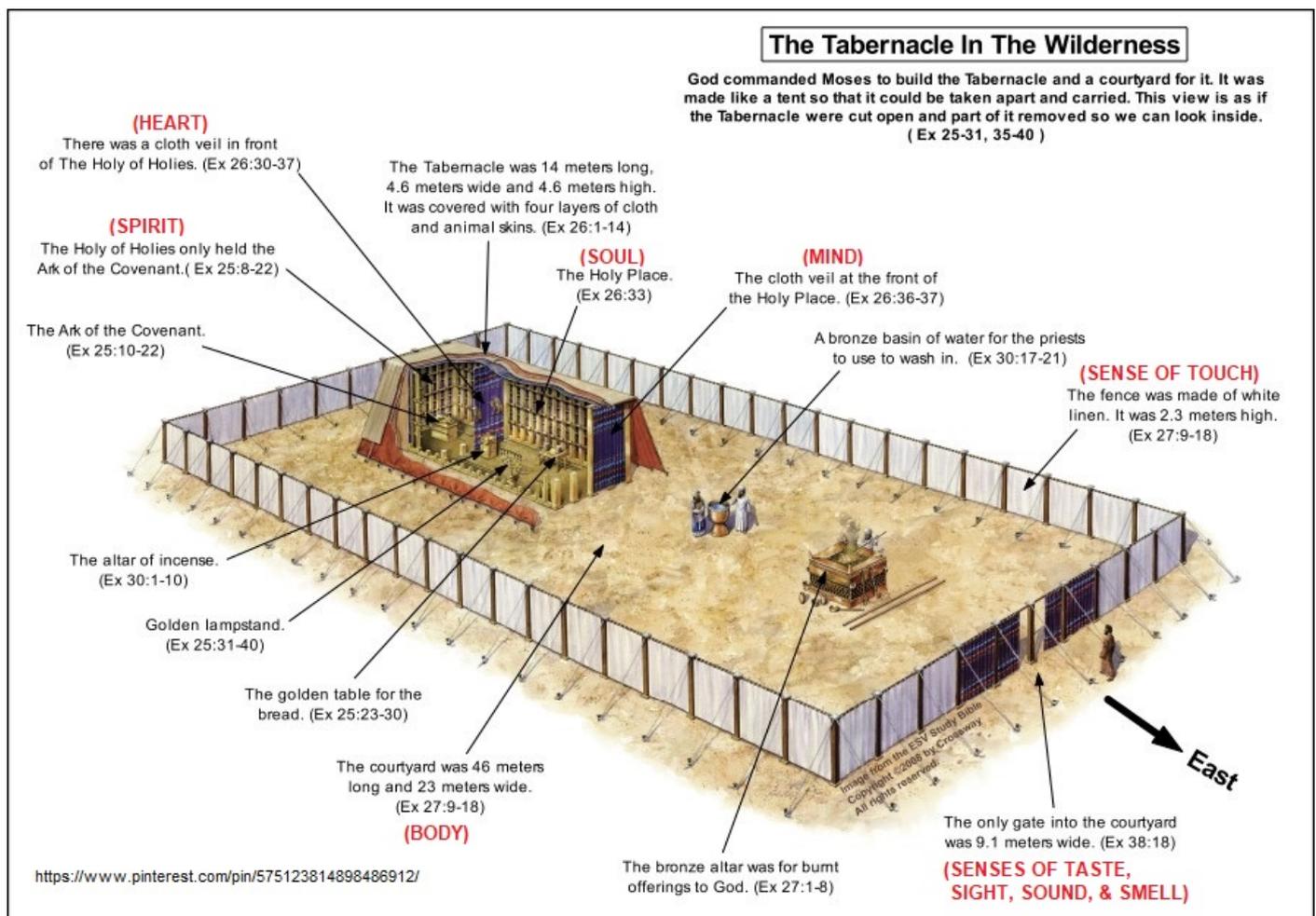
This 6-part series will delve into what we are as human beings in relation to our being as a “Tabernacle” (Temple).

One of the things I have focused on over the years with the Lord is an understanding of “Spirit, Soul, & Body”. I didn’t come to study this until I was in my first year of Bible College. What I learned helped me in my understanding of who I am as a created being; including where struggles and life occur. But what I learned didn’t quite sit well, nor fulfilled my Spirit. Thus, I proceeded to seek guidance from the Lord and with scripture.

The “architect” in me (the creative and visual side of me) longed for a better diagram to understand the relationship of Spirit, Soul, & Body. What I had been presented in Bible College was something on the lines of this:



I tried to improve it with circles, squares, triangles, overlaps, adjacencies, etc. All to no avail. But as I find with the Lord in my personal studies, is that I keep pushing into an understanding, and He took me all over in scripture and revelation—even to things I felt weren’t even connected. He also connected Heart, Mind, & Will in this understanding as well. Then, after several years with this plethora of information germinating in me, He showed me, not a new diagram to draw to tie it all together, but showed me a diagram He already designed that was what I was after: His designed Tabernacle given to Moses...



This is now so obvious to me, because we ARE the Temple (Tabernacle) of God. And for God, there is only one kind of “Tabernacle” (Temple) design; thus, it makes sense that the design He gave Moses was the same design He used in creating us. It is this comparative that we will investigate during this series.

See also: <https://cbadenhorst.blogspot.com/2019/05/tabernacle-spirit-soul-body-mind-heart.html>

TABERNACLE: BODY, MIND, SOUL, HEART, SPIRIT

Bible Study: Lesson 012



I. TOPIC (PART 1 – TABERNACLE / TEMPLE OVERVIEW):

We will begin this series by looking at an understanding of what it means that we are a “Tabernacle” (Temple)—and what that consists of. The Lord’s goal has always been to live in us through the completed work of Jesus Christ; however, before Jesus, the Lord did the next-best-thing, He chose to live among mankind.

To do this, the Lord instructed Moses to specifically build a Tabernacle (movable tent-structure) in a very precise, detailed way. This was, of course, a “shadow” of things to come; of which the design of this Moses Tabernacle (and following Temples) shows us an exact representation of what we are as a Tabernacle / Temple—of which He wants to dwell in. The Lord is so exact that He shows us our makeup through the design of the Moses Tabernacle. And for the Lord, there is only one kind of Tabernacle / Temple design; thus, it makes sense that the design He gave Moses was the same design He used in creating us.

We are made in THEIR Image ([Genesis 1:26-27](#)). They are a unified triune being (God the Father, Jesus Christ the Son, and Holy Spirit/Ghost), making up a Tabernacle themselves:

- God the Father = Spirit ([John 4:24](#)).
- Christ Jesus (Son of Man / Human) = Body ([John 1:14](#)).
- Holy Ghost = Soul ([John 14:26](#)).

We too are triune beings. And in gist, when looking at the Tabernacle, we see each section in likeness as Them:

- Spirit = the Most Holy of Holies.
 - The Heart being the doorway between the Spirit and Soul.
- Soul = the Holy Place.
 - The Mind being the doorway between the Soul and Body.
- Body = Courtyard.
 - Gate and fence representing our 5 senses (our connection to the world around us).

We will detail each of these areas and see how they pertain to our reality here on earth (each given a specific word in the original Greek): Spirit, Soul, Body, Heart, Heart, Mind, and even Flesh (which we already covered in the previous Bible Study lesson regarding our Identity—being our unrenewed “old” self). With this, we can then research and identify each part and address that specific part as needed for growth, healing, emotional wellbeing, unbelief, etc. to help us in this life here on earth—ideally, living from the inside-out (outwardly from the Spirit).

We too must understand that it is not just our spirit that is made Holy (into a Holy Spirit) when we are Born-Again; it is our whole being (Spirit, Heart, Soul, Mind, and Body) that are made Holy—being made into the Temple of the Holy Spirit. And nothing we do or don’t do will change that reality.

For further research you can do yourself regarding each element is using www.BlueLetterBible.org to do key-word searches, as well as Greek word search. Here are some examples to assist you (New Testament searches):

- **Spirit:** occurs 261 times in 234 verses in your custom selection ' in 'The New Testament' in the KJV.
- **Heart:** occurs 105 times in 98 verses in your custom selection ' in 'The New Testament' in the KJV.
- **Soul:** occurs 39 times in 36 verses in your custom selection ' in 'The New Testament' in the KJV.
- **Mind:** occurs 56 times in 54 verses in your custom selection ' in 'The New Testament' in the KJV.
- **Body:** occurs 135 times in 112 verses in your custom selection ' in 'The New Testament' in the KJV.
- **Flesh:** occurs 149 times in 128 verses in your custom selection ' in 'The New Testament' in the KJV.

I find it very interesting when you pull out each search to see how the verses start to parallel or build on each other. Additionally, one can even dig into the Greek word meanings for each to give depth to the words used that do not always show up in the various translations.

Our first reading will start by a summary of Israel as given by Stephen—starting with him being “accused” of saying that Jesus will destroy the Temple; then ending with him sharing how we have become the Temple!

TABERNACLE: BODY, MIND, SOUL, HEART, SPIRIT

Bible Study: Lesson 012



II. **READING:** [Acts 6:8-15 & 7:1-60](#) (TPT) [PoG]

Stephen, who was a man full of grace and supernatural power, performed many astonishing signs and wonders and mighty miracles among the people. 9 This upset some men belonging to a sect who called themselves the 'Men Set Free'. They were Libyans, Egyptians, and Turks.

They all confronted Stephen to argue with him. 10 But the Holy Spirit gave Stephen remarkable wisdom to answer them. His words were prompted by the Holy Spirit, and they could not refute what he said. 11 So the 'Men Set Free' conspired in secret to find those who would bring false accusations against Stephen and lie about him by saying, "We heard this man speak blasphemy against Moses and God."

12 The 'Men Set Free' agitated the crowd, the elders, and the religious scholars, then seized Stephen and forcefully took him before the supreme council. 13 One after another, false witnesses stepped forward and accused Stephen, saying, "This man never stops denigrating our temple and our Jewish law. 14 For we have heard him teach that Jesus of Nazareth will destroy the temple and change the traditions and customs that Moses handed down to us."

15 Every member of the supreme council focused his gaze on Stephen, for right in front of their eyes, while being falsely accused, his face glowed as though he had the face of an angel!

1 The high priest asked, "Are these accusations true?"

2 Stephen replied, "My fellow Jews and fathers, listen to me. The God of glory appeared to our ancestor Abraham while he was living in Iraq and before he moved to Haran in Syria. 3 God said to him, 'Go! Leave behind your country and your relatives. Begin your journey and come to the land that I will show you.'

4 "So Abraham left south-eastern Iraq and began his journey. He settled in Haran in Syria and stayed there until his father passed away. Then God had him move to the land of Israel with only a promise. 5 Although God gave him no parcel of land he could call his own, not even a footprint, yet he promised Abraham that he and his descendants would one day have it all. And even though as yet Abraham had no child, 6 God spoke with him and gave him this promise:

'Your descendants will live in a foreign land with a people who will make slaves of them and oppress them for four hundred years. 7 But I will judge the nation that enslaves them, and your descendants will be set free to return to this land to serve and worship me.'

8 "Then God entered into covenant with Abraham, which included the requirement of circumcision. So when he became the father of Isaac, he circumcised him eight days after his birth.

9 "Isaac then became the father of Jacob, who was the father of our twelve patriarchs. Jacob's sons became jealous of their brother Joseph and sold him to be a slave in Egypt. But God's favour and blessing rested upon Joseph, and in time, 10 God rescued him from all his oppression and granted him extraordinary favour before Pharaoh, the king of Egypt. Pharaoh appointed him as the overseer of his nation and even of his own palace.

11 "Then a devastating famine came over all of Egypt and Canaan, bringing great misery to the people, including our ancestors, who couldn't find food. 12 But when Jacob learned that there was food in Egypt, he sent his sons, our ancestors, on their first trip to purchase grain for their family. 13 On their second trip to Egypt, Joseph revealed his identity to his brothers, and because of this, Pharaoh learned about Joseph's family and where he came from.

14 "Joseph sent for his father, Jacob, and his entire family, a total of seventy-five people, to come and reside in Egypt. 15 Eventually, Jacob died there, along with all of his sons, our forefathers. 16 Their bones were later carried back to the promised land and buried in Shechem, in the tomb Abraham had purchased for a sum of money from the sons of Hamor.

17 "The time drew near for God to fulfil the prophetic promise he had made to Abraham. Our Jewish people had increased greatly in number, multiplying many times over while in Egypt.

TABERNACLE: BODY, MIND, SOUL, HEART, SPIRIT

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18 “Another king, who had forgotten how Joseph had made their nation great, arose to rule over Egypt. 19 He was an abusive king who exploited our people with his smooth talk. With cruelty he forced our ancestors to give up their little boys as he committed infanticide!

20 “Then Moses came on the scene—a child of divine beauty. His parents hid him from Pharaoh as long as they could to spare his life. After three months they could conceal him no longer, 21 so they had to abandon him to his fate. But God arranged that Pharaoh’s daughter would find him, take him home, and raise him as her own son. 22 So Moses was fully trained in the royal courts and educated in the highest wisdom Egypt had to offer, until he arose as a powerful prince and an eloquent orator.

23 “When Moses turned forty, his heart was stirred for his people, the Israelites. 24 One day he saw one of our people being violently mistreated, so he came to his rescue, and with his own hands Moses murdered the abusive Egyptian. 25 Moses hoped that when the people realized how he had rescued one of their own, they would recognize him as their deliverer. How wrong he was! 26 The next day he came upon two of our people engaged in a fist fight, and he tried to break it up by saying, ‘Men, you are brothers! Why would you want to hurt each other?’

27 “But the perpetrator pushed Moses aside and said, ‘Who do you think you are? Who appointed you to be our ruler and judge? 28 Are you going to kill me like you did the Egyptian yesterday?’

29 “Shaken by this, Moses fled Egypt and lived as an exile in the land of Midian, where he became the father of two sons. 30 After forty years had passed, while he was in the desert near Mount Sinai, the Messenger of Yahweh appeared to him in the midst of a flaming thorn bush. 31 Moses was astonished and stunned by what he was seeing, so he drew closer to observe this marvel. Then the Lord Yahweh spoke to him out of the flames:

32 ‘I am the living God, the God of your ancestors. I am the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.’

“Trembling in God’s presence and overwhelmed with awe, Moses didn’t even dare to look into the fire. 33 “Out of the flames the Lord Yahweh said to him:

‘Take the sandals off your feet, for you are standing in the realm of holiness. 34 I have watched and seen how my people have been mistreated in Egypt. I have heard their painful groaning, and now I have come down to set them free. So come to me, Moses, for I am sending you to Egypt to represent me.’

35 “So God sent back to Egypt the man our people rejected and refused to recognize by saying, ‘Who appointed you to be our ruler and judge?’ God sent this man back to be their ruler and deliverer, commissioned with the power of the messenger who appeared to him in the flaming thorn bush. 36 This man brought the people out from their Egyptian bondage with many astonishing wonders and miracle signs—miracles in Egypt, miracles at the Red Sea, and miracles during their forty-year journey through the wilderness. 37 This is the same Moses who said to our ancestors, ‘The Lord God will raise up one from among you who will be a prophet to you, like I have been. Listen to everything he will say!’

38 “Moses led the congregation in the wilderness and he spoke face-to-face with the angel who spoke with him on the top of Mount Sinai. Along with our ancestors, he received the living oracles of God that were passed down to us. 39 But our forefathers refused to obey. They pushed him away, and their hearts longed to return to Egypt.

40 “While Moses was on the mountain, our forefathers said to Aaron, ‘Make us gods to lead us, because we don’t know what has become of this Moses who brought us out of Egypt.’

41 “So they made a god, an idol in the form of a bull calf. They offered sacrifices to it and celebrated with delight what their own hands had made.

42 “When God saw what they had done, he turned away from them and handed them over to the worship of the stars of heaven, as recorded in the prophetic writings:

‘People of Israel, you failed to worship me when you offered animal sacrifices for forty years in the wilderness. 43 Instead you worshiped the god Moloch, and you carried his tabernacle, not mine. You

TABERNACLE: BODY, MIND, SOUL, HEART, SPIRIT

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worshiped your star-god, Rephan. You made idols with your hands and worshiped them instead of me. So now I will cast you into exile beyond Babylon.'

44 "God gave Moses the revelation of the pattern of the tabernacle of the testimony. By God's command, he made it exactly according to the specifications given to him for our ancestors in the wilderness. 45 The next generation received possession of it, and under Joshua's leadership they took possession of the land of the nations, which God drove out in front of them. The tabernacle was carried about until 46 David found loving favour with God and prayed for a dwelling place for the God of Jacob, 47 but it was Solomon who built him a house.

48 "However, the Most High God does not live in temples made by human hands, as the prophet said:

49 'Heaven is my throne room and the earth is but a footstool for my feet. How could you possibly build a house that could contain me?' says the Lord Yahweh. 'And where could you find a place where I could live?

50 Don't you know that it is my hands that have built my house, not yours?'

51 ["You are stiff-necked and uncircumcised in heart and ears!] You are always opposing the Holy Spirit, just like your forefathers! 52 Which prophet was not persecuted and murdered by your ancestors? Name just one! They killed them all [[Luke 11:47-51](#)]
—even the ones who prophesied long ago of the coming of the Righteous One! Now you follow in their steps and have become His betrayers and murderers. 53 You have been given the law by the visitation of angels, but you have not obeyed it."

54 When they heard these things, they were overtaken with violent rage [cut to the heart], and they gnashed their teeth at him. 55 But Stephen [being full of the Holy Spirit,] fixed his gaze into the heavenly realm and saw the glory and splendour of God—and Jesus, who stood up at the right hand of God.

56 "Look!" Stephen said. "I can see the heavens opening and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God to welcome me home!"

57 His accusers covered their ears with their hands and screamed at the top of their lungs to drown out his voice. 58 Then they pounced on him and threw him outside the city walls to stone him. His accusers, one by one, placed their outer garments at the feet of a young man named Saul of Tarsus.

59 As they hurled stone after stone at him, Stephen prayed, "Our Lord Jesus, accept my spirit into your presence." 60 He crumpled to his knees and shouted in a loud voice, "Our Lord, don't hold this sin against them." And then he died.

III. RELATED VERSES AND QUESTIONS:

A. Physically built Temple (destroyed), Jesus's Temple, and us as a Temple:

[John 2:19-22](#) (TPT)

Jesus answered, "After you've destroyed this temple, I will raise it up again in three days." 20 Then the Jewish leaders sneered, "This temple took forty-six years to build, and you mean to tell us that you will raise it up in three days?" 21 But they didn't understand that Jesus was speaking of the "temple" of his body. 22 But the disciples remembered his prophecy after Jesus rose from the dead, and believed both the Scripture and what Jesus had said.

[Matthew 27:50-51](#) (TPT)

Jesus passionately cried out, took his last breath, and gave up his spirit. 51 At that moment the veil in the Holy of Holies was torn in two from the top to the bottom. The earth shook violently, rocks were split apart...

[2 Corinthians 2:16b](#) (TPT)

For indeed, we are the temple of the living God, just as God has said: I will make my home in them and walk among them. I will be their God, and they will be my people.

Question: What happened with the physically-built Temple—did it still serve a purpose after the Cross?

Response:

B. Temple sacrifices and forgiveness of sin—Jesus our permanent sacrifice:

[Hebrews 9:1-11](#) (TPT)

Now in the first covenant there were specific rules for worship including a sanctuary on earth to worship in. 2 When you entered the tabernacle you would first come into the holy chamber where you would find the lampstand and the bread of his presence on the fellowship table. 3 Then as you pass through the next curtain you would enter the innermost chamber called, the holiest sanctuary of all. 4 It contained the golden altar of incense and the ark of covenant mercy, which was a wooden box covered entirely with gold. And placed inside the ark of covenant mercy was the golden jar with mystery-manna inside Aaron's resurrection rod, which had sprouted, and the stone tablets engraved with the covenant laws. 5 On top of the lid of the ark were two cherubim, angels of splendour, with outstretched wings overshadowing the throne of mercy. But now is not the time to discuss further the significant details of these things.

6 So with this prescribed pattern of worship the priests would routinely go in and out of the first chamber to perform their religious duties. 7 And the high priest was permitted to enter into the Holiest Sanctuary of All only once a year and he could never enter without first offering sacrificial blood for both his own sins and for the sins of the people.

8 Now the Holy Spirit uses the symbols of this pattern of worship to reveal that the perfect way of holiness had not yet been unveiled. For as long as the tabernacle stood 9 it was an illustration that pointed to our present time of fulfilment, demonstrating that offerings and animal sacrifices had failed to perfectly cleanse the conscience of the worshiper. 10 For this old pattern of worship was a matter of external rules and rituals concerning food and drink and ceremonial washings which was imposed upon us until the appointed time of heart-restoration had arrived.

11 But now the Anointed One has become the King-Priest of every wonderful thing that has come. For he serves in a greater, more perfect heavenly tabernacle not made by men. 12 And he has entered once and forever into the Holiest Sanctuary of All, not with the blood of animal sacrifices, but the sacred blood of his own sacrifice. And he alone has made our salvation secure forever!

[Romans 3:24-26](#) (TPT)

Yet through his powerful declaration of acquittal, God freely gives away his righteousness. His gift of love and favour now cascades over us, all because Jesus, the Anointed One, has liberated us from the guilt, punishment, and power of sin!

25 Jesus' God-given destiny was to be the sacrifice to take away sins, and now he is our mercy seat because of his death on the cross. We come to him for mercy, for God has made a provision for us to be forgiven by faith in the sacred blood of Jesus. This is the perfect demonstration of God's justice, because until now, he had been so patient—holding back his justice out of his tolerance for us. So he covered over the sins of those who lived prior to Jesus' sacrifice. 26 And when the season of tolerance came to an end, there was only one possible way for God to give away his righteousness and still be true to both his justice and his mercy—to offer up his own Son. So now, because we stand on the faithfulness of Jesus, God declares us righteous in his eyes!

TABERNACLE: BODY, MIND, SOUL, HEART, SPIRIT

Bible Study: Lesson 012



Question: Read also the remainder of [Hebrews 9 & 10](#) to understand the former customs and regulations of the Temple and sacrifices. Do we have to do the same offering of sacrifices (ask for forgiveness) for our sins now?

Response:

C. Our distinct and interconnected parts of our Tabernacle / Temple (Body, Mind, Soul, Heart, Spirit):

[1 Thessalonians 5:23](#) (TPT)

Now, may the God of peace and harmony set you apart, making you completely holy. And may your entire being—spirit, soul, and body—be kept completely flawless in the appearing of our Lord Jesus, the Anointed One.

[3 John 2](#) (TPT)

Beloved friend, I pray that you are prospering in every way and that you continually enjoy good health, just as your soul is prospering.

[Hebrews 4:12](#) (TPT)

For we have the living Word of God, which is full of energy, and it pierces more sharply than a two-edged sword. It will even penetrate to the very core of our being where soul and spirit, bone and marrow meet! It interprets and reveals the true thoughts and secret motives of our hearts.

[Hebrews 10:22](#) (TPT)

we come closer to God and approach him with an open heart, fully convinced by faith that nothing will keep us at a distance from him. For our hearts have been sprinkled with blood to remove impurity and we have been freed from an accusing conscience and now we are clean, unstained, and presentable to God inside and out!

[Galatians 4:6](#) (TPT)

And so that we would know for sure that we are his true children, God released the Spirit of Sonship into our hearts—moving us to cry out intimately, “My Father! You’re our true Father!”

[Matthew 22:37b](#) (NKJV)

“You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind.”

Question: Can you start seeing that there are specific roles and means for each part of our being?

Response:

IV. FURTHER THOUGHT:

- A. Review the scriptures associated with the different parts of the Moses Tabernacle and then also the scriptures that define our different parts of Body (and Flesh), Mind, Soul, Heart, and Spirit. Take time to familiarize yourself with the different parts and take notes as to what you feel speaks to you. This diagram shows relevant scriptures and topics:



Mind

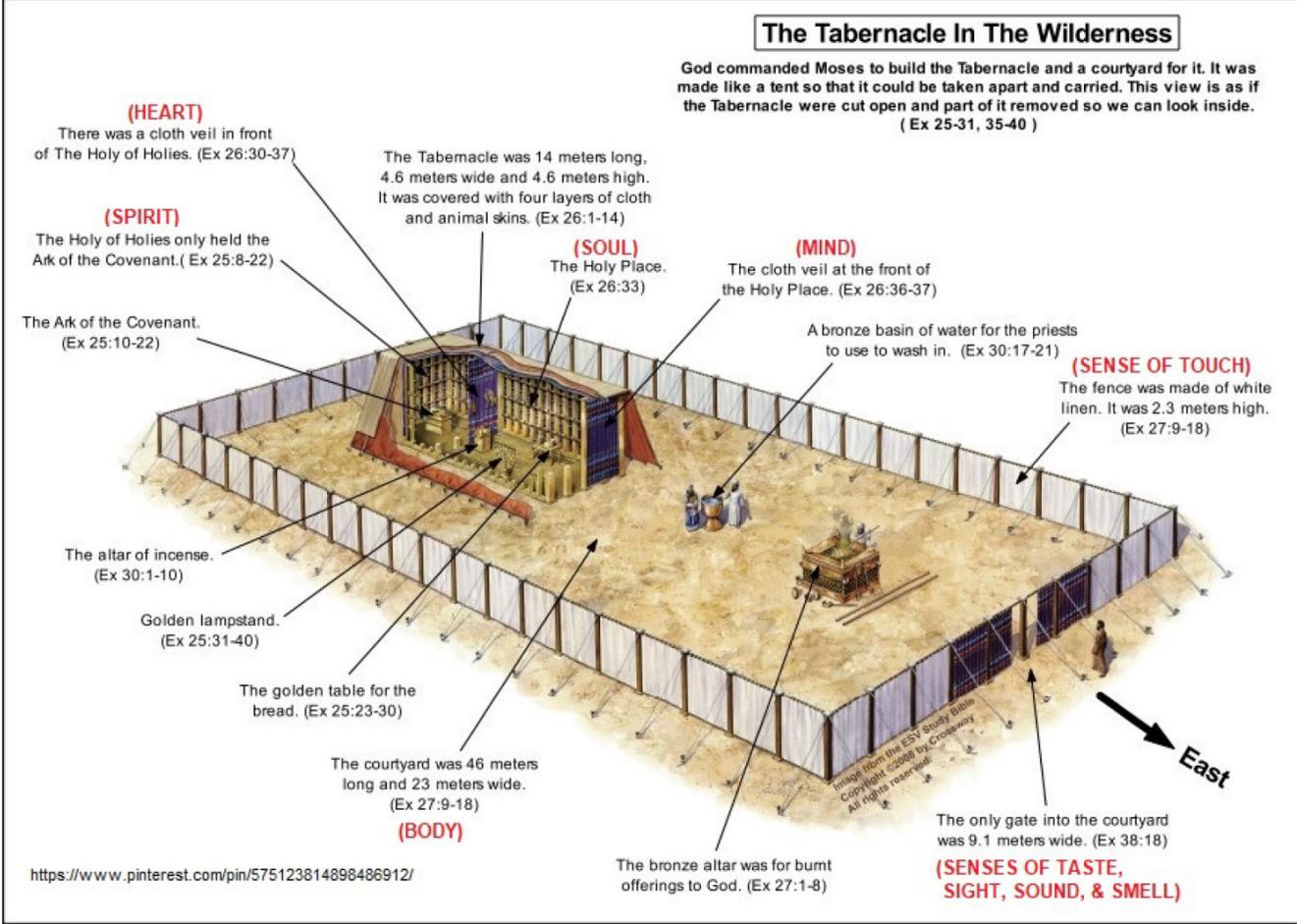
- Philippians 4:4-9
(Heart, Mind, Thinking)
- Romans 7:21-25 & 8:1-7
(Conflict, Flesh, Carnally Minded, Spirit)
- Romans 12:1-2
(Renewing of Mind)
- 2 Corinthians 3:12-16
(Vail on Heart & Mind)
- James 1:5-8
(Wisdom, Double-Minded)
- 2 Corinthians 4:3-4
(Blinded Minds)
- 2 Corinthians 11:3
(Minds Corrupted)
- Ephesians 4:17-19
(Vanity of the Mind, Ignorance)
- 2 Corinthians 10:3-5
(Strongholds, Imaginations)
- Ephesians 4:20-24
(Renewed in the Spirit of Your Mind)

Body & Flesh

- 1 Corinthians 6:19b-20
(Body is the Temple of H.G.)
- Romans 6:6-12
(Body & Sin)
- Romans 8:9-13
(Flesh, Body, Sin)
- Romans 12:1-2
(Bodies as Living Sacrifice)

Temple (Tabernacle) of God

- 2 Corinthians 6:16b *(Temple of the Living God)*
- John 2:19-20 *(Jesus as the Temple)*
- Hebrews 9:1-11 *(Moses Tabernacle, More Perfect Tabernacle)*
- 1 Corinthians 3:10-17 *(Holy Temple & Defilement)*



Triune Beings and Makeup

- 1 Thessalonians 5:23 *(Spirit, Soul, & Body)* - Hebrews 8:10 *(Mind & Heart)*
- 3 John 2 *(Soul & Health)* - Hebrews 10:22 *(Heart, Conscience, Body)*
- Galatians 4:6 *(Spirit into our heart)* - Romans 8:5-8 *(Flesh, Spirit, Mind)*
- Hebrews 3:7-8, 12-13 *(Heart & Unbelief)* - Romans 12:1-2 *(Bodies, Living Sacrifice, Holy, Mind)*
- Hebrews 4:12 *(Soul, Spirit, Heart)*

Heart

- Mark 4:14-20
(Seed Sown on Heart)
- Acts 8:36-38
(Belief by Heart)
- Romans 10:9
(Belief in Heart)
- Matthew 9:4-7
(Mind of Heart)
- Luke 9:46-48
(Thought of Heart)
- John 14:27
(Troubled Heart)
- John 16:6, 22
(Sorrowful Heart)
- Matthew 13:15
(Heart Waxing Gross)
- Hebrews 3:7-19
(Hardened Heart)
- Mark 6:49-52
(Hardened Heart)
- Mark 16:14
(Unbelief, Hard Heart)
- 1 John 3:19-24
(Heart Condemns)
- Hebrews 10:16-22
(Conscience & Heart)
- Acts 24:16
(Conscience)
- 1 Timothy 1:5
(Pure Heart)

Spirit

- Romans 8:16 *(Spirit & Our Spirit)*
- 1 Corinthians 2:11-12 *(Spirits)*
- 1 Corinthians 6:17 *(Joined Spirit)*
- Romans 8:9-11 *(In the Spirit)*
- Galatians 4:6-7 *(Spirit of His Son)*
- 1 Corinthians 15:45-53 *(Adam = Soul / Christ = Spirit)*
- Matthew 18:18 *(Will / Bind & Loose)*
- Mark 16:15-18 *(Will / Go Into All World)*
- 1 Corinthians 12:4-7 *(Gifts of the Spirit)*
- Galatians 5:22-23a *(Fruits of the Spirit)*
- John 15:1-5 *(Vine & Fruit)*

Soul

- Matthew 11:28-30 *(Rest in our Soul)*
- Matthew 22:37 *(Love the Lord with all Heart, Soul, Mind)*
- Mark 8:34-37 *(Loses Soul)*
- 1 Peter 2:11-12 *(War Against the Soul)*

- James 5:19-20 *(Saving a Soul)*
- 2 Peter 2:7-8 *(Tormented Soul)*
- 1 Thessalonians 5:23 *(Soul Preserved)*
- 3 John 2 *(Soul Prospers)*

TABERNACLE: BODY

INTENTION:

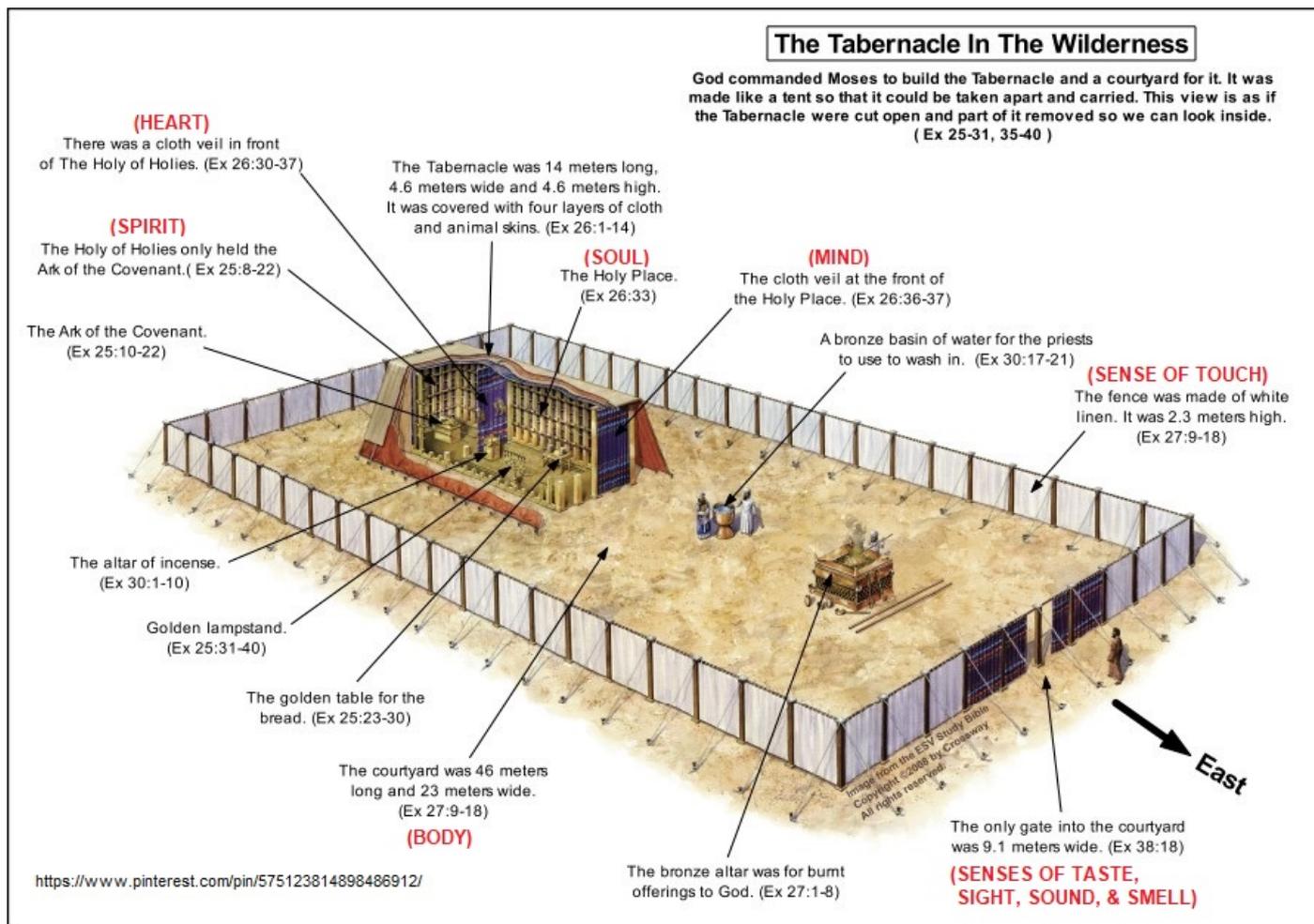
We want to discover what our body is in relation to being the “Temple of the Holy Spirit”.

Often we feel that our existence is just being a “body” on this earth; but it is more than that, housing our Mind, Soul, Heart, and Spirit. Yet this body we exist in is only temporary—so even if it is suffering in this world, we can have joy that we will get a brand new one. However, let us not forget the power and authority we still have in this world to guide and shape our bodies.

TABERNACLE: BODY

Bible Study: Lesson 013

I. TOPIC (PART 2 – BODY):



In the continuation of our series “Tabernacle: Body, Mind, Soul, Heart, Spirit” we want to focus on Body.

It is our body that engages with the world around us through our 5 senses. The gate into the Tabernacle has four openings, one for each sense that enters our bodies: taste, smell, hear, and see. The fence of the Tabernacle is the 5th sense of touch. Everything around us goes through one or more of those senses, into our bodies, and then through our mind, engaging with our soul. Our body is also where sin dwells.

This connection trains us to start believing the physical world around us over the Spiritual world. Our “flesh” is that part of our body and mind that agree with the “reality” of the world over the Truth of God.

It is this connection of the body to the ways of this world that creates conflict in us (in our soul); but we need to understand and make clear to ourselves, that this body and these desires of the flesh have already been defeated by Christ in you—our sins of the flesh and body are perpetually and forever forgiven at the Cross almost 2000 years ago.

When we are Born-Again, our body is made a Holy Temple of the Lord, and nothing can undo that Holiness—no sin of the body (or flesh remnant) can take away this Holiness. For this maintaining of Holiness is done by Christ Jesus through the alter of fire and basin of water in the courtyard. The Lord does not destroy us when sin occurs; instead, He goes about removing the defilement that happens in our bodies.

Christ Jesus baptises us with the Holy Ghost and Fire. This fire is what we sacrifice on. The same sacrificial alter that was in the fenced area (courtyard) of the Tabernacle. And the internal pain we sometimes feel is that fire engulfing that which does not belong—whether an old habit, current sin, religious doctrine, etc. More detail can be read here: <https://cbadenhorst.blogspot.com/2016/06/grace-christ-us-part-4-holy-spirit-and.html>

TABERNACLE: BODY

Bible Study: Lesson 013



Also, in that same courtyard of the Tabernacle, near the alter, is the wash basin. This is where the ritualistic cleansing took place. But as Jesus shared with His disciples, it is His Word that washes us clean—always.

Yet, because of conflict of our flesh, we are still promised a new body when the Lord returns—no longer having to deal with our old self that is connected to this departing world. So even though we may be suffering in our body (including physically), it will always be temporary; and we have a promised hope of a new body awaiting us!

But know also, that even though we are to get new bodies, the Lord values us in the body we are in. He still wants us to enjoy the things around us in this world that bring Godly joy to the body—for He made the earth and all the universe for our enjoyment. So don't reject those Godly things we can enjoy through our senses (even sex)—and if we don't know what is Godly or not, we can read those differences in scripture and follow the guidance of the Holy Spirit. And remember, even if you make a mistake, the Lord is not upset with you!

II. READING: [Romans 8:1-27](#) (MEV)

There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus, who walk not according to the flesh, but according to the Spirit. 2 For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has set me free from the law of sin and death. 3 For what the law could not do, in that it was weak through the flesh, God did by sending His own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and concerning sin, He condemned sin in the flesh, 4 in order that the righteous requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not according to the flesh but according to the Spirit.

5 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. 6 To be carnally minded is death, but to be spiritually minded is life and peace, 7 for the carnal mind is hostile toward God, for it is not subject to the law of God, nor indeed can it be, 8 and those who are in the flesh cannot please God.

9 You, however, are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God lives in you. Now if any man does not have the Spirit of Christ, he does not belong to Him. 10 And if Christ is in you, though the body is dead because of sin, the Spirit is alive because of righteousness. 11 But if the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead lives in you, He who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit that lives in you.

12 Therefore, brothers, we are debtors not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh. 13 For if you live according to the flesh, you will die, but if through the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live.

14 For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, these are the sons of God. 15 For you have not received the spirit of slavery again to fear. But you have received the Spirit of adoption, by whom we cry, "Abba, Father." 16 The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirits that we are the children of God, 17 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 with Him.

18 For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed to us. 19 The eager expectation of the creation waits for the appearance of the sons of God. 20 For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but by the will of Him who subjected it, in hope 21 that the creation itself also will be set free from its slavery to corruption into the glorious freedom of the children of God.

22 We know that the whole creation groans and travails in pain together until now. 23 Not only that, but we also, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan within ourselves while eagerly waiting for adoption, the redemption of our bodies. 24 For we are saved through hope, but hope that is seen is not hope, for why does a man still hope for what he sees? 25 But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.

26 Likewise, the Spirit helps us in our weaknesses, for we do not know what to pray for as we ought, but the Spirit Himself intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words. 27 He who searches the hearts knows what the mind of the Spirit is, because He intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.

III. RELATED VERSES AND QUESTIONS:

A. [1 Corinthians 3:10-15](#) (MEV)

According to the grace of God which has been given to me, as a wise master builder, I have laid the foundation, but another builds on it. Now let each one take heed how he builds on it. 11 For no one can lay another foundation than that which was laid, which is Jesus Christ. 12 Now if anyone builds on this foundation with gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, or stubble, 13 each one's work will be revealed. For the Day will declare it, because it will be revealed by fire, and the fire will test what sort of work each has done. 14 If anyone's work which he has built on the foundation endures, he will receive a reward. 15 If anyone's work is burned, he will suffer loss. But he himself will be saved, still going through the fire.

Question: What do you find yourself building on the alter that is being tested by fire?

Response:

B. The Lord's reaction to defilement (cleansing of the Temple / us):

[John 2:13-17](#) (MEV)

The Passover of the Jews was at hand, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem. 14 In the temple He found those who were selling oxen and sheep and doves, and the moneychangers sitting there. 15 When He had made a whip of cords, He drove them all out of the temple, with the sheep and oxen. He poured out the changers' money and overturned the tables. 16 He said to those who sold doves, "Take these things away! Do not make My Father's house a house of merchandise!" 17 His disciples remembered that it was written, "Zeal for Your house will consume Me."

[Luke 19:45-46](#) (MEV)

Then He entered the temple and began to drive out those who sold and bought in it, 46 saying to them, "It is written, 'My house will be a house of prayer,' but you have made it 'a den of thieves.'"

[1 Corinthians 3:16-17](#) (MEV) [PoG]

Do you not know that you are the temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwells in you? 17 If anyone defiles the temple of God, God will destroy [this, *the defilement* ([G5126](#))]. For the temple of God is holy. And you are His [*Holy*] temple.

[Galatians 5:25b-27](#) (MEV)

... Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for it, 26 that He might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word, 27 and that He might present to Himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing, but that it should be holy and without blemish.

[John 15:3](#) (MEV)

You are already clean through the word which I have spoken to you.

Question: What does God destroy, the Temple or the defilement in the Temple?

Response:

C. Our conflict and choices:

[Romans 6:5-18](#) (MEV)

For if we have been united with Him in the likeness of His death, so shall we also be united with Him in the likeness of His resurrection, 6 knowing this, that our old man has been crucified with Him, so that the body of sin might be destroyed, and we should no longer be slaves to sin. 7 For the one who has died is freed from sin. 8 Now if we died with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with Him, 9 knowing that Christ, being raised from the dead, will never die again; death has no further dominion over Him. 10 For the death He died, He died to sin once for all, but the life He lives, He lives to God.

11 Likewise, you also consider yourselves to be dead to sin, but alive to God through Jesus Christ our Lord. 12 Therefore do not let sin reign in your mortal body, that you should obey it in its lusts. 13 Do not yield your members to sin as instruments of unrighteousness, but yield yourselves to God, as those who are alive from the dead, and your bodies to God as instruments of righteousness. 14 For sin shall not have dominion over you, for you are not under the law, but under grace.

15 What then? Shall we sin because we are not under the law but under grace? God forbid! 16 Do you not know that to whom you yield yourselves as slaves to obey, you are slaves of the one whom you obey, whether of sin leading to death, or of obedience leading to righteousness? 17 But thanks be to God, for you were slaves of sin, but you have obeyed from the heart that form of teaching to which you were entrusted, 18 and having been freed from sin, you became the slaves of righteousness.

[Romans 7:21-25](#) (MEV)

21 I find then a law that when I desire to do good, evil is present with me. 22 For I delight in the law of God according to the inner man, 23 but I see another law in my members, warring against the law of my mind and bringing me into captivity to the law of sin which is in my members. 24 O wretched man that I am! Who will deliver me from the body of this death? 25 I thank God through Jesus Christ our Lord. So then, with my mind, I serve the law of God, but with my flesh, the law of sin.

Question: Can you feel the conflict of the world vs the Spirit in yourself? Do you have authority and a choice?

Response:

D. [Romans 12:1-2](#) (MEV)

I urge you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy, and acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service of worship. 2 Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is the good and acceptable and perfect will of God.

TABERNACLE: BODY

Bible Study: Lesson 013



Question: What does a “living sacrifice” mean to you?

Response:

IV. FURTHER THOUGHT:

A. [2 Corinthians 5:14-17](#) (MEV):

For the love of Christ constrains us, because we thus judge: that if one died for all, then all have died. 15 And He died for all, that those who live should not from now on live for themselves, but for Him who died for them and rose again. 16 So from now on we do not regard anyone according to the flesh. Yes, though we have known Christ according to the flesh, yet we do not regard Him as such from now on. 17 Therefore, if any man is in Christ, he is a new creature. Old things have passed away. Look, all things have become new.

Thoughts: Something we tend to do as humans is judge other people for the things they do or don't do (regardless of whether it's a comparison to our own actions or some form of morality). Since we are comprised of more than just a body, we must understand that what we do is a result of a blend of our being and the filters we apply (or that have been applied to us).

This is what Paul is getting at above—that we can no longer look at a person's exterior to know whom they are. Only the Lord truly understands their identity and the reasons why people do things. The Lord actually sees the end from the beginning ([Isaiah 46:9-10](#)) and every minute detail of a person's existence in relation to the world we are in (including the actions/inactions of everyone else from the beginning of time). None of us have that insight to understand others or ourselves.

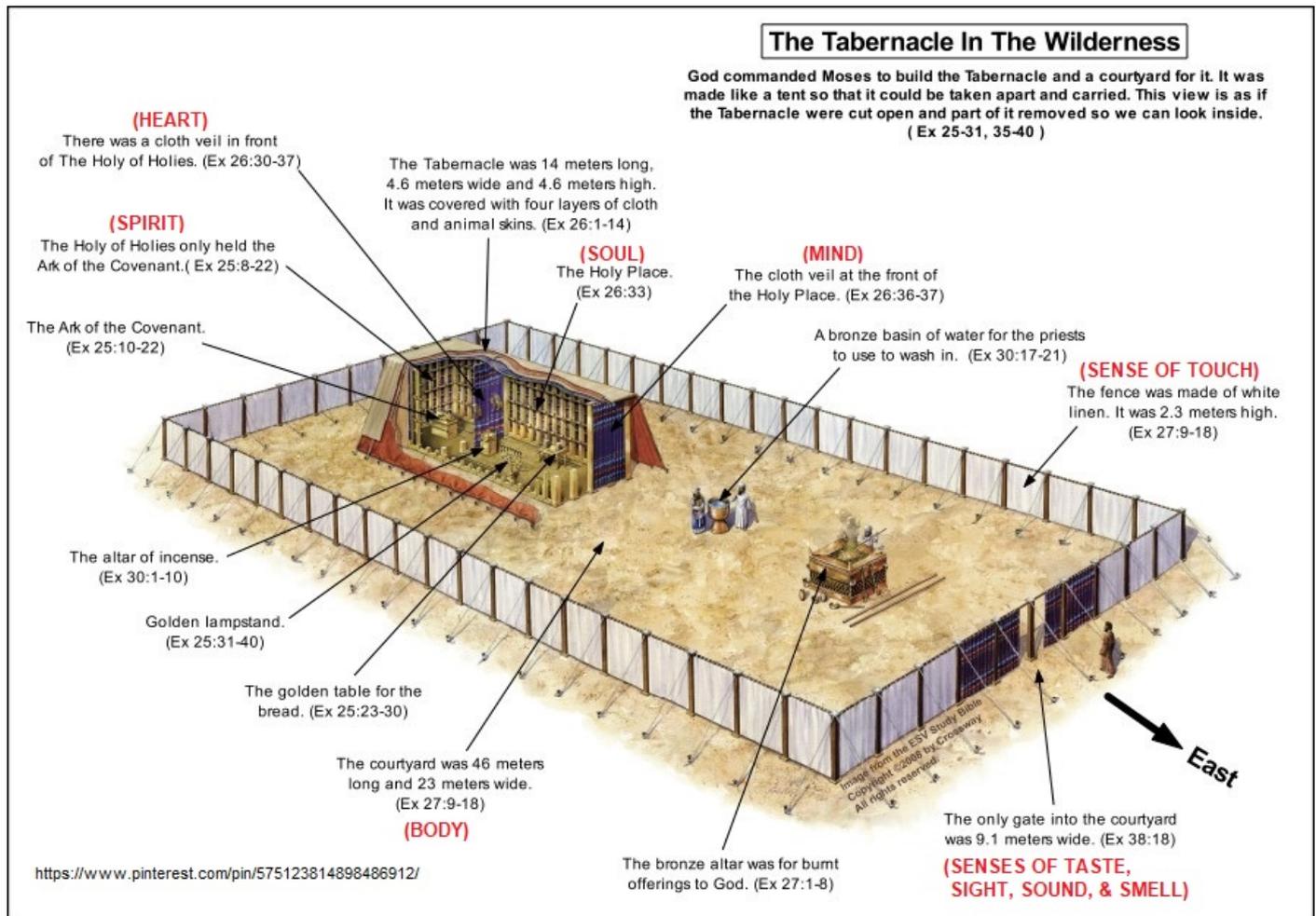
Thus, when we judge ourself or others for what the body and flesh do, we neglect all the other parts of our being and the fulfilment of the Cross to take away all the sins of the flesh of every human being ([Hebrews 10](#)). When we let go of that judgment, we actually allow ourselves to Love others (and to Love ourself) with the Love of God! And too, perpetually walk in forgiveness of others as we ourselves are forgiven (whom are forgiven also).

TABERNACLE: MIND

INTENTION:

Our mind can guide a lot of what we do by its thinking and imaginations; impacting our lives and the lives of those around us. Yet, we can renew it away from the influences of this world and shape it into acknowledging and accepting a greater Truth from the Holy Spirit inside of us.

I. TOPIC (PART 3 – MIND):



In the continuation of our series “Tabernacle: Body, Mind, Soul, Heart, Spirit” we want to focus on the Mind.

When looking at the diagram above, we see that the first doorway into the Tabernacle from the Courtyard is our mind. Everything that gets processed by our 5 senses (our body) goes through our brain (our mind)—our mind is the gateway from the body into the soul. And is the battleground for much of our life.

But what can create beautiful imaginations, can also create doctrine and obstacles (filters) against the Lord. Because it is here in the mind that we begin to train our thinking into accepting the world around us as reality; creating those filters on our mind that affect our own will (which comes from the Spirit in us). These filters are developed through negative “nature and nurture”; and can be: racism, xenophobia, religious doctrines, victim mentality, a poverty mindset, negative thinking, and more.

Our minds from birth are an open and free sponge, accepting all that comes its way—whether positive or negative nature or nurturing. We don’t consciously know if it is positive or negative at that childhood time, but as we grow and mature, we can often recognise where we picked up a “bad habit” or “bad mindset” and change it in our adulthood—even though it can be quite a painful process in reprogramming and rewiring the brain.

However, when we align our mind (thinking, imaginations, wisdom, etc) with the Lord, we help set our beliefs on Him and allow Him to more clearly flow out into our bodies from His Spirit within. The battle for our mind is strong as the world will always want to train it to align with itself—yet the brain is always malleable and can untrain and retrain itself.

So, when you find something misaligned with the Lord, know that you CAN change it, and the Lord will help you through that change to set you free from the filters that hinder or destroy your life. Even undoing traumas.

II. **READING:** [Philippians 4:1-20](#) (NTE)

Well then, my dear family – I miss you so much, you’re my joy and crown! – this is how you must stand firm in the Lord, my beloved people.

2 I have a special appeal which goes jointly to Euodia and Syntyche: please, please, come to a common mind in the Lord. 3 (And here’s a request for you too, my loyal comrade: please help these women. They have struggled hard in the gospel alongside me, as have Clement and my other fellow-workers, whose names are in the book of life.)

4 Celebrate joyfully in the Lord, all the time. I’ll say it again: celebrate! 5 Let everybody know how gentle and gracious you are. The Lord is near.

6 Don’t worry about anything. Rather, in every area of life let God know what you want, as you pray and make requests, and give thanks as well. 7 And God’s peace, which is greater than we can ever understand, will keep guard over your hearts and minds in King Jesus.

8 For the rest, my dear family, these are the things you should think through: whatever is true, whatever is holy, whatever is upright, whatever is pure, whatever is attractive, whatever has a good reputation; anything virtuous, anything praiseworthy. 9 And these are the things you should do: what you learned, received, heard and saw in and through me. And the God of peace will be with you.

10 I’ve been having a great celebration in the Lord because your concern for me has once again burst into flower. (You were of course concerned for me before, but you didn’t have an opportunity to show it.)

11 I’m not talking about lacking anything. I’ve learnt to be content with what I have. 12 I know how to do without, and I know how to cope with plenty. In every possible situation I’ve learned the hidden secret of being full and hungry, of having plenty and going without, and it’s this: 13 I have strength for everything in the one who gives me power.

14 But you did the right thing by entering into partnership with me in my suffering. 15 Indeed, as you people in Philippi know well, when the gospel was getting under way and I was moving on from Macedonia, there wasn’t a single other church, except yourselves, that entered into a two-way partnership with me, giving and receiving. 16 Yes: when I was in Thessalonica you sent help to me, not just once but twice.

17 I stress that it isn’t the gift I’m interested in. My concern is that you should have a healthy profit balance showing up on your account. 18 For myself, I’ve received full payment, and I’m well stocked up. In fact, I’m full to overflowing, now that I have received from Epaphroditus what you sent. It’s like a sacrifice with a beautiful smell, a worthy offering, giving pleasure to God. 19 What’s more, my God will meet all your needs, too, out of his store of glorious riches in King Jesus. 20 Glory be to our God and father for ever and ever, Amen!

III. **RELATED VERSES AND QUESTIONS:**

A. [Mark 12:30](#) (NTE) [PoG]

“and you shall love the Lord your God with [your whole] heart, and with [your whole] soul, and with [your whole] understanding, and with [your whole] strength.”

Question: When we Love Him in “whole”, it means without filters and hindrances—what are some filters you feel you can eliminate in your mind that affect how you view the Lord?

Response:

B. Renewing the Mind (<https://cbadenhorst.blogspot.com/2016/06/forgetting-past-renewing-mind-06-13-16.html>):

[Ephesians 4:17-24](#) (NTE)

So this is what I want to say; I am bearing witness to it in the Lord. You must no longer behave like the Gentiles, foolish-minded as they are. 18 Their understanding is darkened; they are cut off from God's life because of their deep-seated ignorance, which springs from the fact that their hearts are hard. 19 They have lost all moral sensitivity, and have given themselves over to whatever takes their fancy. They go off greedily after every kind of uncleanness.

20 But that's not how you learned the king! – 21 if indeed you did hear about him, and were taught in him, in accordance with the truth about Jesus himself. 22 That teaching stressed that you should take off your former lifestyle, the old humanity. That way of life is decaying, as a result of deceitful lusts. 23 Instead, you must be renewed in the spirit of your mind, 24 and you must put on the new humanity, which is being created the way God intended it, displaying justice and genuine holiness.

[Romans 12:1-2](#) (NTE)

So, my dear family, this is my appeal to you by the mercies of God: offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God. Worship like this brings your mind into line with God's. 2 What's more, don't let yourselves be squeezed into the shape dictated by the present age. Instead, be transformed by the renewing of your minds, so that you can work out what God's will is, what is good, acceptable and complete.

[Philippians 3:13b-16](#) (NTE) [PoG]

this is my one aim: to forget [no longer care for ([G1950](#))] everything that's behind, and to strain every nerve to go after what's ahead. 14 I mean to chase on towards the finishing post, where the prize waiting for me is the upward call of God in King Jesus. 15 Those of us who are mature should think like this! If you think differently about it, God will reveal this to you as well. 16 Only let's be sure to keep in line with the position we have reached.

Question: Do you feel you need to change (or "forget") in your own mind anything contrary to the Lord?

Response:

C. Worldly vs Spiritual wisdom and discernment:

[1 Corinthians 2:13b-16](#) (NTE)

We don't use words we've been taught by human wisdom, but words we've been taught by the spirit, interpreting spiritual things to spiritual people. 14 Someone living at the merely human level doesn't accept the things of God's spirit. They are foolishness to such people, you see, and they can't understand them because they need to be discerned spiritually. 15 But spiritual people discern everything, while nobody else can discern the truth about them! 16 For 'Who has known the mind of the Lord, so as to instruct him?' But we have the mind of the Messiah.

[2 Corinthians 4:2b-6](#) (NTE)

We don't use tricks; we don't falsify God's word. Rather, we speak the truth openly, and recommend ourselves to everybody's conscience in the presence of God. 3 However, if our gospel still remains 'veiled', it is veiled for people who are perishing. 4 What's happening there is that the god of this world has blinded the minds of unbelievers, so that they won't see the light of the gospel of the glory of the Messiah, who is God's image. 5 We don't proclaim ourselves, you see, but Jesus the Messiah as Lord, and ourselves as your servants because of

Jesus; 6 because the God who said ‘let light shine out of darkness’ has shone in our hearts, to produce the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus the Messiah.

[2 Corinthians 10:3-5](#) (NTE) [PoG]

Yes, we are mere humans, but we don’t fight the war in a merely human way. 4 The weapons we use for the fight, you see, are not merely human; they carry a power from God that can tear down fortresses! We tear down clever arguments, 5 and every proud notion that sets itself up against the knowledge of [God; leading away into captivity every thought and making it obedient to] the Messiah.

Question: Do you believe you have the “mind of Christ”? Do you know anyone who hears testimonies and truths about the Lord, yet their minds still reject His existence? What are ways you can discern that your thoughts are going against the “knowledge of God”; or that someone is speaking with worldly wisdom vs Spiritual?

Response:

D. [Ephesians 2:1-7](#) (NTE)

So where do you come into it all? Well, you were dead because of your offences and sins! 2 That was the road you used to travel, keeping in step with this world’s ‘present age’; in step, too, with the ruler of the power of the air, the spirit that is, even now, at work among people whose whole lives consist of disobeying God. 3 Actually, that’s how all of us used to behave, conditioned by physical desires. We used to do what our flesh and our minds were urging us to do. What was the result? We too were subject to wrath in our natural state, just like everyone else.

4 But when it comes to mercy, God is rich! He had such great love for us that 5 he took us at the very point where we were dead through our offences, and made us alive together with the king (yes, you are saved by sheer grace!). 6 He raised us up with him, and made us sit with him – in the heavenly places, in King Jesus! 7 This was so that in the ages to come he could show just how unbelievably rich his grace is, the kindness he has shown us in King Jesus.

Question: What do you find you have trouble with letting go of your “former self” (old flesh and mind)?

Response:

E. [Colossians 1:9-11,21b-22](#) (NTE)

For this reason, from the day we heard it, we haven’t stopped praying for you. We’re asking God to fill you with the knowledge of what he wants in all wisdom and spiritual understanding. 10 This will mean that you’ll be able to conduct yourselves in a manner worthy of the Lord, and so give him real delight, as you bear fruit in every good work and grow up in the knowledge of God. 11 I pray that you’ll be given all possible strength, according to the power of his glory, so that you’ll have complete patience and become truly steadfast and joyful.

...there was a time when you were excluded! You were enemies in your thinking, and in wicked behaviour. 22 But now he has reconciled you in the body of his flesh, through death, in order to bring you into his presence holy, blameless and without any accusation.

Question: We have to remember that we, in truth, are not enemies of God...we only think we are in our imaginations. What are ways we can remind ourselves, even when we make a mistake (sin), that we haven't changed our Loving relationship with the Lord (that He is not upset or disappointed with you)?

Response:

F. How we need to think of ourselves:

[John 10:34-36](#) (NTE)

'It's written in your law, isn't it,' replied Jesus to them, ' "I said, you are gods?" 35 Well, if the law calls people "gods", people to whom God's word came (and you can't set the Bible aside), 36 how can you accuse someone of blasphemy when the father has placed him apart and sent him into the world, and he says, "I am the son of God"?'

[Philippians 2:5-11](#) [PoG]

Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus: 6 who, being in the form of God, did not think He had something that didn't belong to Him—He didn't think that equality with God was wrong, or that He had acquired something that wasn't supposed to be His. 7 Yet He emptied Himself, made Himself devoted to another (a slave), and existed in the identity of a human. 8 Indeed, He discovered Himself as being comprised of everything that a human is. He humbled Himself, becoming obedient until death; moreover, death on the cross. 9 On account of this, God indeed exalted Him to the Highest Rank, even giving Him a Name which is over and beyond each and every name! 10 So that, by the Name of Jesus, every knee should bow down in honour: whether in heaven, on earth, or in the world below. 11 Indeed, each and every tongue (of each and every language) will profess and confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Question: We are as Christ ([1 John 4:17b](#))—does your mind agree with this truth?

Response:

G. [James 1:5-8](#) (NTE)

If any one of you falls short in wisdom, they should ask God for it, and it will be given them. God, after all, gives generously and ungrudgingly to all people. 6 But they should ask in faith, with no doubts. A person who doubts is like a wave of the sea which the wind blows and tosses about. 7 Someone like that should not suppose they will receive anything from the Lord, 8 since they are double-minded and unstable in everything they do.

Question: Do you feel you can ask the Lord for anything—even clarity as to the things in our mind that might be deceiving us regarding us knowing His Truth?

Response:

IV. FURTHER THOUGHT:

We must not limit how the Lord can work through different techniques available to us from the Medical or Psychological fields. The following are ways I have found which help me overcome the ways my mind (brain) has been detrimentally programmed—and these methods, to me, align with ways we can Biblically “renew our minds”. Often, I find that the Bible references a task, and that both science and psychology fill in the details.

One of the goals we have is to help people in their Mental Health state—having personally suffered from Depression, Anxiety, PTSD, and Suicidal Ideation. We know the affects it can have on one’s life and that of the lives around someone suffering from these. But we know and feel that these do not have to be a permanent reality to anyone. Through my relationship with the Lord, medication, deliverance, Psychiatrists, and Psychologists, I have been able to overcome these debilitating conditions.

Following are two techniques that assisted me, helping renew my mind (rewiring my brain) and healing my soul.

A. Mental Health – Dr Caroline Leaf (www.drleaf.com):

[Dr. Caroline Leaf has developed a] theory (called the Geodesic Information Processing theory) of how we think, build memory, and learn, into tools and processes that have transformed the lives of hundreds of thousands of individuals with Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI), Chronic Traumatic Encephalopathy (CTE), learning disabilities (ADD, ADHD), autism, dementias and mental ill-health issues like anxiety and depression. She has helped hundreds of thousands of students and adults learn how to use their mind to detox and grow their brain to succeed in every area of their lives, including school, university, and the workplace. – www.drleaf.com/pages/about-dr-leaf

Thoughts: Both my wife and I have gone through some of her books and listened to many of her talks. In brief, she (and we) believe that our mind can Rewire / Unwire the brain to overcome habits, addictions, and negativity.

B. Mental Health – BrainWorking Recursive Therapy (www.BWRT.org):

BWRT is defined by Terence Watts – the leading therapist who developed it – as an approach grounded in science. It uses natural psychological processes to recondition neural pathways in the brain that lead to unwanted behaviour. By stopping and rerouting the brain’s natural response to anything traumatic or not understood in its tracks, BWRT can prevent the negative outward symptoms of conditions like depression and anxiety. It uses no devices, advanced technologies or medication, but simply involves a patient and a therapist talking – like many other forms of therapy. Watts believes that because many physical health problems are rooted in – or at least impacted by – psychological problems, BWRT can also be effective in coping with the symptoms of diabetes, multiple sclerosis, and a number of autoimmune diseases. He says: “The purpose of BWRT is to give people the life they deserve, and that’s what it does. “It’s about giving people contentment in their lives, and making them feel equal to others. BWRT does that better than any other therapy I’ve ever used.” - www.ns-healthcare.com/analysis/brain-working-recursive-therapy/

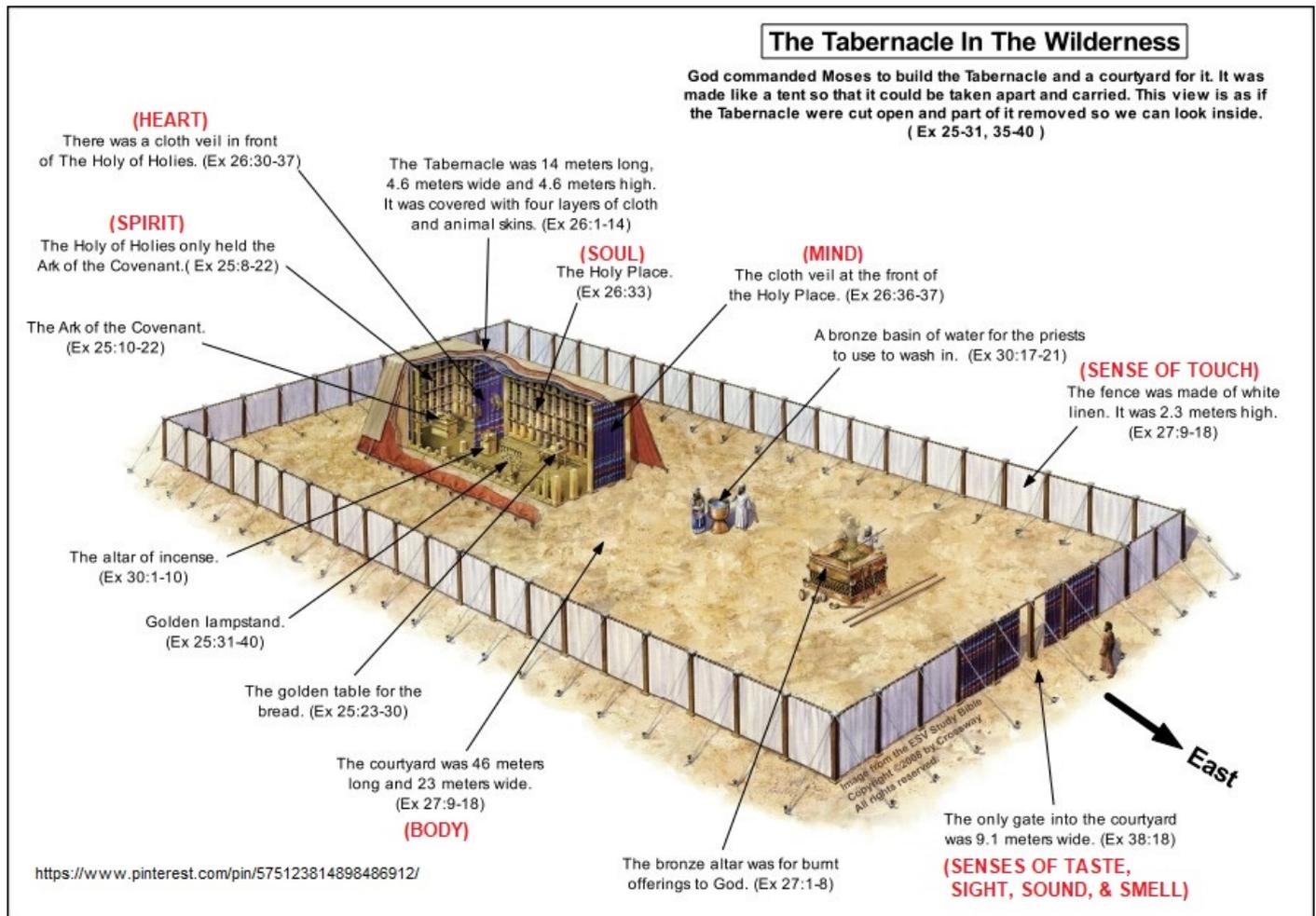
Thoughts: Having done several BWRT sessions with my Psychologist, I’ve been able to undo harsh traumas in my past—even from childhood. This has helped free me from much of the negativity and reaction-based responses from those traumas. Plus, it helped free me from the guilt and shame that I’ve lived with for so long in my life.

TABERNACLE: SOUL

INTENTION:

Our soul is where the core of our emotions lie. Knowing that they derive from a specific location in our being helps us to understand the why's of them and address their needs; also seeing the affect these emotions can have on our decisions (will) in life. We can then embrace emotions as God-given (not fearing them); while also being able to evaluate the ability to overcome them or to choose with them.

I. TOPIC (PART 4 – SOUL):



In the continuation of our series “Tabernacle: Body, Mind, Soul, Heart, Spirit” we want to focus on Soul.

For me, as I used to understand it, the word ‘soul’ and the word ‘spirit’ were one-and-the-same. But when you study it out and look at the meanings in the Greek, they are clearly separate. This, to me, made a huge difference in reading scripture where a verse would use soul—I could now relate it to what my soul is, and not confuse it with my Spirit. Now when I look at what the soul is, I can see that it is the realm made up of our emotions and feelings.

When I reference the soul, I purposefully use two words here: emotions and feelings. These typically are words used interchangeably in their meanings. However, I like to treat them different based on what transpires in the soul.

Firstly, we experience emotions related to what goes on about the world around us—from the external in; through our 5 senses, through the body, through the mind, and into our soul. Similarly, we experience emotions in relation to what transpires in and out from our Spirit through the heart, into the soul. What follows then, is a feeling related to that emotion—a “what are we feeling like doing” in response to the emotion. Examples:

- A loved-one that dies. I experience sadness / grief (emotion). From that, I then can: feel like crying; feel like isolating myself; feel like praising the Lord.
- I’m overloaded at work. I experience stress / anxiety (emotion). From that, I can: feel like quitting my job; feel like drinking; feel like I should seek help.
- The Holy Spirit is showing His Love for someone through me. I experience that Love (emotion). From that, I can: feel like doing what the Holy Ghost tells me; feel like running away; feel like blocking that emotion.

We all react to emotions differently, each with a feeling of doing something based on that emotion. And sometimes, we get conflicting feelings based on the pressures from the world and the gentle guidance from the Holy Spirit in us.

Our soul is thus the realm of conflict between the outside (world / flesh) and inside (Spirit). The turmoil we experience happens in our soul. Like our minds, our soul can become restless—even moreso since it lies in the centre between the body and the Spirit. And too, it can feel as though we have a dual-personality in us: at war.

Our soul processes our perceived two identities: that of the Spirit and that of the Flesh. We can be neck-deep in sin, and even continually chose sin in our bodies, and yet still be Born-Again, Spirit-filled, and saved. Yet, when in that dilemma of the incompatible “identities”, our soul experiences that conflict. Sin will not affect your relationship with God in any way! But it does affect your soul. And the only way this conflict will subside is when we let go of the flesh.

For me, my soul experiences anxiety when I have work to do. It seeks rest by avoiding the work through procrastination. Yet, instead of me rejecting the flesh (its learned behaviour), I get trapped into repeating the same anxiety-avoidance techniques again and again. The anxiety is so strong, it seeks the quickest way to eliminate it...hence the procrastination. But if I retrain myself in the Spirit, pushing through the anxiety, then it will have to give in, never to come back again. So instead of dealing with it each time, I eliminate that sin altogether, never having to face that same anxiety again.

Likewise, if I am stressed, I go for a sweet snack. But if I just push through that anxiety ‘driving’ me to want to eat a snack, I can overcome it and eliminate it for good. “Resist the devil (opposition to God) and it will flee from you” ([James 4:7](#)).

Another is that through the abuse suffered as a child from my dad, he nurtured in me that iniquity of anger. I find that this anger manifests itself in my life, sometimes even towards my child. I never wanted this anger, but this is a result of my dad’s iniquity nurtured into me. This fleshly anger is something that has to be eliminated from my life—it is not ‘my’ sin, but that of my dad. But I do know that through Christ and His renewal of me, that anger can go away.

So much of our stress and anxiety in the soul results not from some ‘big’ or “church-named” sin, but of the subtle things that define our “identity of the flesh”: handed-down iniquities from our parents, a personality type, a birth defect, a sickness / disease, an injury, a traumatic event, etc. We would not immediately call these a sin, but is in the context that it is opposed to the Lord and His Truth—and our “Identity as Jesus Christ” ([1 John 4:17](#)).

And as we learned in the previous lesson on renewing the mind; I can achieve this change through my relationship with the Lord, medication, Psychiatrists, and Psychologists—even removing sin from our life.

II. **READING:** [1 Peter 2:1-11](#) (TLB)

So get rid of your feelings of hatred. Don’t just pretend to be good! Be done with dishonesty and jealousy and talking about others behind their backs. 2-3 Now that you realize how kind the Lord has been to you, put away all evil, deception, envy, and fraud. Long to grow up into the fullness of your salvation; cry for this as a baby cries for his milk.

4 Come to Christ, who is the living Foundation of Rock upon which God builds; though men have spurned him, he is very precious to God who has chosen him above all others.

5 And now you have become living building-stones for God’s use in building his house. What’s more, you are his holy priests; so come to him—you who are acceptable to him because of Jesus Christ—and offer to God those things that please him. 6 As the Scriptures express it, “See, I am sending Christ to be the carefully chosen, precious Cornerstone of my church, and I will never disappoint those who trust in him.”

7 Yes, he is very precious to you who believe; and to those who reject him, well—“The same Stone that was rejected by the builders has become the Cornerstone, the most honoured and important part of the building.” 8 And the Scriptures also say, “He is the Stone that some will stumble over, and the Rock that will make them fall.” They will stumble because they will not listen to God’s Word nor obey it, and so this punishment must follow—that they will fall.

9 But you are not like that, for you have been chosen by God himself—you are priests of the King, you are holy and pure, you are God’s very own—all this so that you may show to others how God called you out of the darkness into

TABERNACLE: SOUL

Bible Study: Lesson 015



his wonderful light. 10 Once you were less than nothing; now you are God’s own. Once you knew very little of God’s kindness; now your very lives have been changed by it.

11 Dear brothers, you are only visitors here. Since your real home is in heaven, I beg you to keep away from the evil pleasures of this world; they are not for you, for they fight against your very souls.

III. RELATED VERSES AND QUESTIONS:

A. [Matthew 11:28-30](#) (TLB)

“Come to me and I will give you rest—all of you who work so hard beneath a heavy yoke. Wear my yoke—for it fits perfectly—and let me teach you; for I am gentle and humble, and you shall find rest for your souls; for I give you only light burdens.”

Question: What are ways we burden our soul with heavy loads?

Response:

B. [Mark 8:34-37](#) (TLB)

Then he called his disciples and the crowds to come over and listen. “If any of you wants to be my follower,” he told them, “you must put aside your own pleasures and shoulder your cross, and follow me closely. 35 If you insist on saving your life, you will lose it. Only those who throw away their lives for my sake and for the sake of the Good News will ever know what it means to really live. 36 “And how does a man benefit if he gains the whole world and loses his soul in the process? 37 For is anything worth more than his soul?”

Question: When the Lord gives to you, it come enveloped in Peace. How does chasing after worldly things cause one to “lose (damage) your soul”?

Response:

C. [3 John 1:2](#) (TLB)

Dear friend, I am praying that all is well with you and that your body is as healthy as I know your soul is.

Question: Look at how, medically, our bodies suffer when our soul is in turmoil. Do you find that your health is affected if you have unrest in your soul?

Response:

D. Tormented soul:

[2 Peter 2:7-8](#) (TLB) [PoG]

But at the same time the Lord rescued Lot out of Sodom because he was a good man, sick of the terrible wickedness he saw everywhere around him day after day [that tormented his righteous soul].

[James 1:21](#) (TLB)

So get rid of all that is wrong in your life, both inside and outside, and humbly be glad for the wonderful message we have received, for it is able to save our souls as it takes hold of our hearts.

[James 5:19-20](#) (TLB)

Dear brothers, if anyone has slipped away from God and no longer trusts the Lord and someone helps him understand the Truth again, 20 that person who brings him back to God will have saved a wandering soul from death, bringing about the forgiveness of his many sins.

Question: Do “unrighteous” people and behaviours around you trouble your own soul? How can we overcome this torment to help set our souls free?

Response:

E. [Mark 14:32-36](#) (TLB)

And now they came to an olive grove called the Garden of Gethsemane, and he instructed his disciples, “Sit here, while I go and pray.” 33 He took Peter, James, and John with him and began to be filled with horror and deepest distress. 34 And he said to them, “My soul is crushed by sorrow to the point of death; stay here and watch with me.” 35 He went on a little farther and fell to the ground and prayed that if it were possible the awful hour awaiting him might never come. 36 “Father, Father,” he said, “everything is possible for you. Take away this cup from me. Yet I want your will, not mine.”

Question: Have you ever been to a point of despair in your soul? Can Jesus relate to what you are going through?

Response:

IV. FURTHER THOUGHT:

A. The Lord looks out for our soul:

[1 Thessalonians 5:23](#) (TLB)

May the God of peace himself make you entirely pure and devoted to God; and may your spirit and soul and body be kept strong and blameless until that day when our Lord Jesus Christ comes back again.

TABERNACLE: HEART

INTENTION:

Our heart is alive. It is the basis for where and what we believe; and can positively or negatively affect our experiences in life.

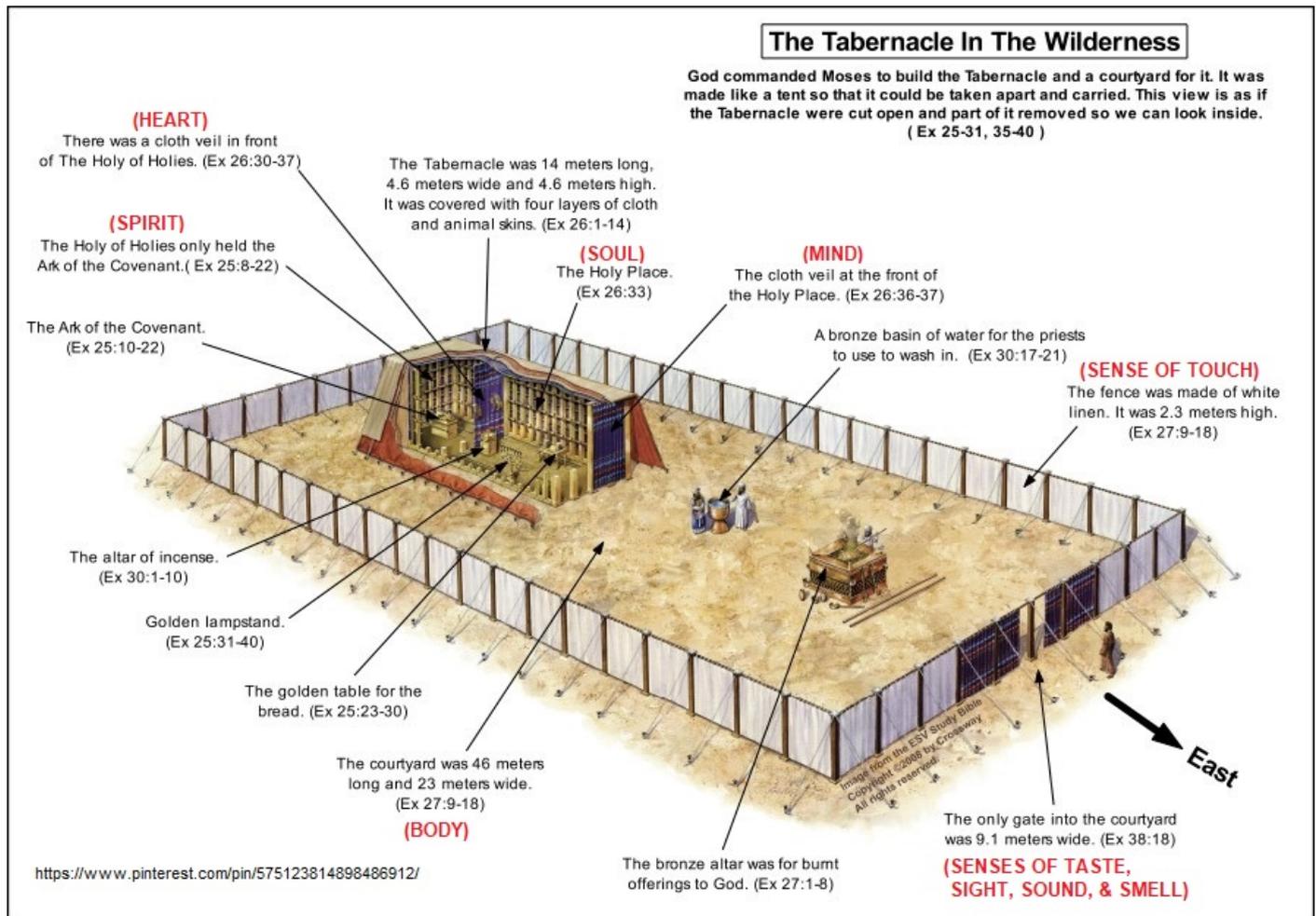
I have found that I used to live my life as a lowly “sinner saved by grace”. This sin-conscience dwelt on my heart, often condemning me. But once I believed that I was Righteous, not a sinner, that religious heaviness on my heart lifted—transforming my heart from that sin-conscience to a righteous-conscience.

We can let go and clear those “unbelief” filters from our heart; allowing us to receive and accept so much of what the Lord has gifted us in life.

TABERNACLE: HEART

Bible Study: Lesson 016

I. TOPIC (PART 5 – HEART):



In the continuation of our series “Tabernacle: Body, Mind, Soul, Heart, Spirit” we want to focus on Heart.

Like our minds, we can put barriers (filters) over our hearts ([Mark 12:30](#)). These filters and hardening of our own heart keep us from accepting (believing) in Jesus Christ—both for salvation, and for believing on the Holy Spirit.

Additionally, what we falsely believe about ourselves lies on our heart—hence why we are told to cleanse our heart from an “evil conscience” to instead have a “righteous conscience” (that we are not troubled by a consciousness of sin). When we see ourselves as “sinners”, we reject the Christ’s gifted righteousness as our true identity. And, moreso, condemn ourselves for our faults.

All of this shows the complexity of the heart and how it can affect, not only a person’s belief in Jesus Christ, but affect a believer in their relationship with the Lord; and can also hinder the miracles we seek. When we cleanse our heart, the Spirit within can flow freely and we can experience the Abundant Life Christ has given us!

II. READING: [Hebrews 10:1-23](#) (NMB)

NMB Summary: The old law has no power to cleanse away sin, but Christ did it with the offering of his body once and for all. An exhortation to receive this goodness of God thankfully, with patience and steadfast faith.

1 For the law, which has but the shadow of good things to come, and not the real things themselves, can never, with the sacrifices that the priests offer year by year continually, make those who come to it perfect. 2 For would not then those sacrifices have ceased to be offered, because the offerers, once purged, would have had no more conscience of sins? 3 But in those sacrifices, mention is made of sins every year. 4 For it is impossible that the blood

TABERNACLE: HEART

Bible Study: Lesson 016



of oxen and of goats should take away sins. 5 Therefore when he comes into the world he says: Sacrifice and offering you would not have, but a body you have made ready for me. 6 In sacrifices and sin-offerings you have no pleasure. 7 Then I said, Lo, I come! In the chief part of the book it is written of me, that I will do your will, O God.

8 Above – when he said sacrifice and offering, and burnt sacrifices and sin-offerings you would not have, neither have accepted (which yet are offered according to the law), 9 and then said, Lo, I come to do your will, O God – he takes away the first in order to establish the latter. 10 In accordance with this God’s will, we are sanctified by the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once and for all.

11 And every priest is ready daily ministering, and repeatedly offers one manner of offering that can never take away sins. 12 But this man, after he had offered one sacrifice for sins, sat down forever on the right hand of God, 13 and from henceforth waits till his enemies be made his footstool. 14 For with one offering, he has made perfect forever those who are sanctified.

15 And the Holy Spirit also witnesses to us of this, namely when he foretold: 16 This is the testament that I will make unto them after those days, says the Lord: I will put my laws in their hearts, and in their mind I will write them, 17 and their sins and iniquities I will remember no more.

18 Now where there is remission of these things, there is no more offering for sin.

19 Seeing, brethren, that by the means of the blood of Jesus we may be bold to enter into that holy place, 20 by the new and living way that he has prepared for us through the veil (that is to say, by his flesh), 21 and seeing also that we have a high priest who is ruler over the house of God, 22 let us draw near with a true heart, in full faith, sprinkled in our hearts from an evil conscience, and washed in our bodies with pure water. 23 And let us keep the profession of our hope without wavering, for he who promised is faithful.

III. RELATED VERSES AND QUESTIONS:

A. Heart-believing:

[Mark 4:14-20](#) (NMB)

The sower sows the word. 15 And those who are by the wayside where the word is sown are those to whom, as soon as they have heard it, Satan comes immediately, and takes away the word that was sown in their hearts. 16 And likewise, those who receive the seed on the stony ground are those who, when they have heard the word, at once receive it with gladness, 17 yet have no roots in themselves. And so they endure but a time, and once trouble and persecution arise for the word’s sake, they fall immediately. 18 And those who receive the seed among the thorns are such as hear the word, 19 but the care of this world, and the deceitfulness of riches, and the hunger for other things, enter in and choke the word, and it is made unfruitful. 20 And those who received the seed in good ground are those who hear the word and receive it, and bring forth fruit: some thirtyfold, some sixtyfold, some a hundredfold.

[Acts 8:36-38](#) (NMB)

And as they went on their way, they came to some water, and the chamberlain said, See, here is water. What is to keep me from being baptized? 37 Philip said to him, If you believe with all your heart, you may be. He answered and said, I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God. 38 And he commanded the chariot to stand still. And they both went down into the water, both Philip and also the chamberlain, and he baptized him.

[Romans 10:9-13](#) (NMB)

For if you acknowledge with your mouth that Jesus is the Lord, and believe with your heart that God raised him up from death, you will be safe. 10 For the belief of the heart justifies, and to acknowledge with the mouth makes a man safe. 11 For the scripture says: Whoever believes on him, will not be ashamed. 12 There is no

TABERNACLE: HEART

Bible Study: Lesson 016



difference between the Jews and the Gentiles. For there is one Lord over all, who richly blesses all who call on him. 13 For: Whosoever calls upon the name of the Lord, shall be saved.

Question: We believe through the heart—have you believed in Jesus Christ to be saved?

Response:

B. Our heart has a “mind of its own” and is affected by emotion:

[Matthew 9:4-7](#) (NMB)

When Jesus saw their thoughts, he said, Why do you think evil in your hearts? 5 Which is easier to say: Your sins are forgiven you, or to say, Arise and walk? 6 But so that you may know that the Son of man has power to forgive sins in earth—Then he said to the paralytic, Arise, take up your bed, and go home to your house. 7 And the man arose and departed to his own house.

[Luke 9:46-48](#) (NMB)

Then there arose a dispute among them, who should be the greatest. 47 When Jesus perceived the thoughts of their hearts, he took a child and set him close by himself 48 and said to them, Whoever receives this child in my name, receives me. And whoever receives me, receives him who sent me. For he that is least among you all, the same shall be great.

[John 14:27](#) (NMB)

Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. Not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your hearts be troubled, and do not fear.

[John 16:6,22](#) (NMB)

But because I have said such things to you, your hearts are full of sorrow. And you now are in sorrow. But I will see you again, and your hearts will rejoice, and no one will take your joy from you.

Question: What do you sometimes think and feel in your heart?

Response:

C. It’s not God that hardens our heart; but we can harden it through our own doubts, unbelief, and deception:

[Matthew 13:15](#) (NMB)

For the hearts of this people have grown dull, and their ears are hard of hearing, and their eyes they have closed, lest they should see with their eyes and hear with their ears and understand with their hearts, and should turn, so that I might heal them.

[Mark 6:49-52](#) (NMB) [PoG]

When they saw him [*Jesus*] walking upon the sea, they supposed it was a spirit and cried out. 50 For they all saw him and were afraid. And immediately he spoke to them and said to them, Be of good cheer, it is I. Be not afraid.

TABERNACLE: HEART

Bible Study: Lesson 016



51 And he went up to them into the boat, and the wind ceased; and they were greatly amazed in themselves beyond measure, and taken aback. 52 For they did not remember about the loaves, because their hearts were blinded [hardened].

[Mark 11:23](#) (NMB)

Truly I say to you that whoever says to this mountain, Take yourself away and cast yourself into the sea, and who does not waver in his heart, but believes that those things which he says will come to pass – whatever he says will be done for him.

[Hebrews 3:7-13](#) (NMB)

Therefore as the Holy Spirit says: Today if you hear his voice, 8 harden not your hearts, as in the rebellion in the day of trial in the wilderness, 9 where your fathers tried me, proved me, and saw my works forty years long. 10 Therefore I was grieved with that generation, and said, They do ever err in their hearts; they have not acknowledged my ways. 11 So I swore in my wrath that they would not enter into my rest. 12 Take heed, brethren, that there be in none of you an evil heart in unbelief, that he should depart from the living God; 13 but exhort one another daily, while it is called today, lest any of you grow hard-hearted through the deceitfulness of sin.

Question: What are ways you harden your heart to the Lord?

Response:

D. Our conscience is connected to our heart: hence, why we should always have a clean (righteous) conscience:

[Acts 24:16](#) (NMB) [PoG]

And therefore I strive to have a clear conscience [without offense, not troubled by a consciousness of sin] toward God, and toward man also.

[Philippians 1:9-11](#) (NMB) [PoG]

And this I pray: that your love may increase more and more in knowledge and in all experience, 10 that you may accept the things of most value, that you may be pure [without offense, not troubled by a consciousness of sin] until the day of Christ – 11 filled with the fruits of righteousness, which fruits come by Jesus Christ for the glory and laud of God.

[1 Timothy 1:5](#) (NMB)

For the end of the commandment is love that comes of a pure heart and a good conscience, and of faith unfeigned.

Question: Do you find you focus on your faults and sins? Do you feel you offend God?

Response:

TABERNACLE: SPIRIT

INTENTION:

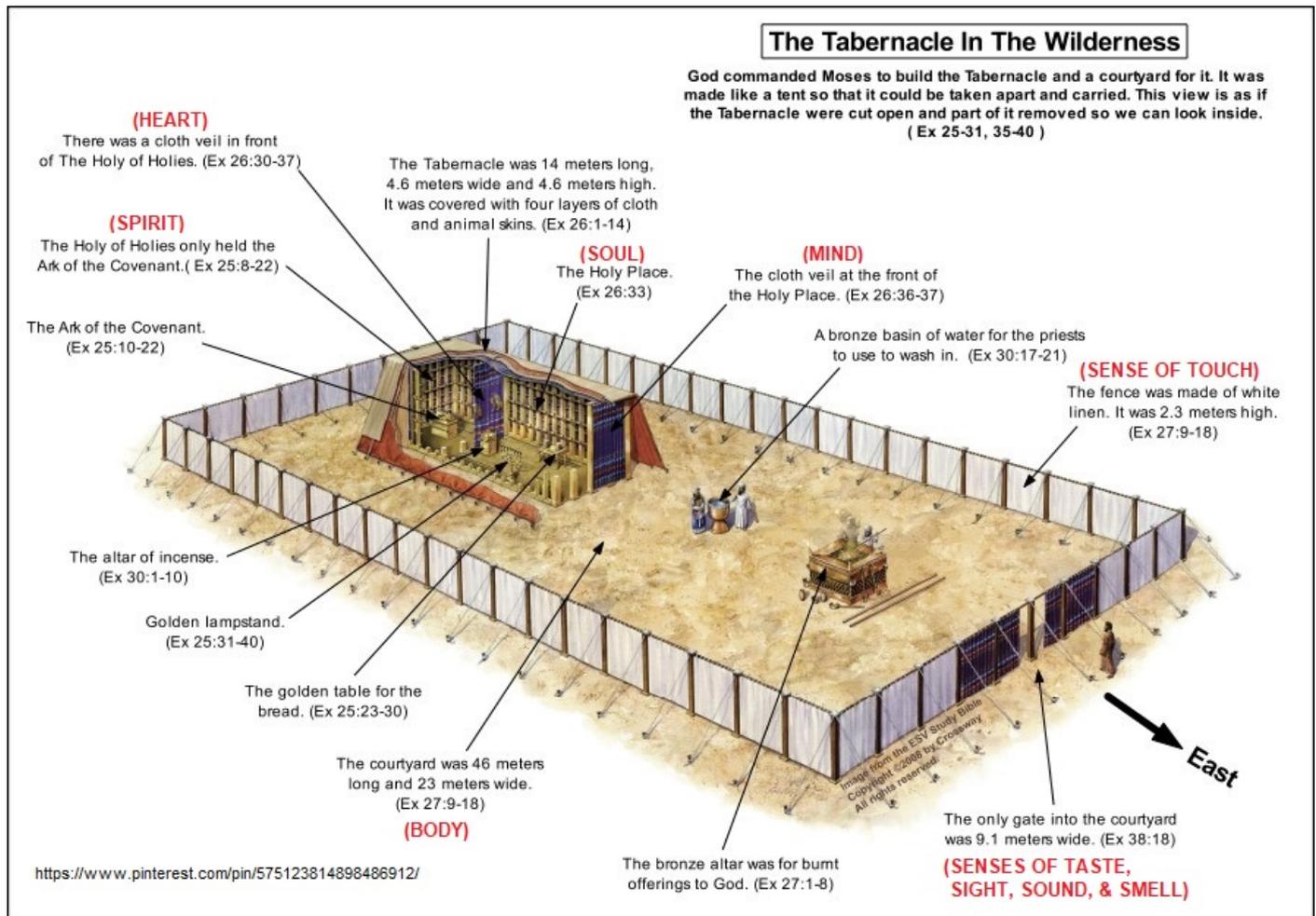
Whom we are in the core is a spirit. In essence, we are a spirit, with a heart, soul, and mind, in a body. Our actions (will) all stem from our spirit inside-out. And as we clear hindering filters from our heart, soul, mind, and body, our Born-again Spirit can flow freely—doing the Will of the Lord in us.

Our body may die, but our spirit exists in eternity; and will either eternally live WITH the Lord in Heaven/New Earth or live SEPARATED from the Lord in Hell. When we believe through the heart in Christ Jesus, our spirit is Born Again into a Holy Spirit—becoming the Spirit of Christ!

TABERNACLE: SPIRIT

Bible Study: Lesson 017

I. TOPIC (PART 6 – SPIRIT):



In the continuation of our series “Tabernacle: Body, Mind, Soul, Heart, Spirit” we want to focus on Spirit. This is the inner-most aspect of whom we are. It is the “Most Holy of Holies” place in the Moses Tabernacle and where the Lord Himself indwells—not only making our Spirit Holy upon believing, but them co-habiting His Spirit with our Born-Again Spirit...”His Spirit testifying with our Spirit”.

When we chose to believe in Christ Jesus, the “sin of not believing” is eliminated. Our sins of the flesh were all forgiven at the Cross, and now that spiritual sin of unbelief is eliminated too! *This is a Bible Study we will address in the future, but you can read about here:* <https://cbadenhorst.blogspot.com/2019/06/forgiveness.html>

As humans, we are influenced both by the world around us (outside-in) and the spirit / Spirit inside us (inside-out). this is the eternal core of who we are; whether Born-Again or not.

NB: when I discuss the Spirit, I will use lower-case “spirit” as a means to identify a spirit not Born-Again; and use upper-case “Spirit” as a Spirit Born-Again.

Everything we do (our will) originates in our spirit / Spirit. It travels through the heart, through the soul, through the mind, through the body, and becomes our action. The person’s will can then change as it gets filtered passing through each part of our being which may have unbelief, strongholds, conflict, doctrine, etc. However, if from the Spirit we have cleared the debris and items of resistance (i.e. having a clear heart, soul, and mind), then His Will becomes our Will. This is exactly as Christ was able to do only what He saw His Father do. He was in complete unity with the Father through the Holy Ghost in Him: three-in-one, unified!

This is why we must have a clean conscience, no unbelief, not a troubled soul, a renewed mind, and a sacrificed body. In doing so, we open the way for the Spirit out through us!

TABERNACLE: SPIRIT

Bible Study: Lesson 017



When we become Born-Again (through believing in the heart in the spirit), our spirit is made Holy: a Holy Spirit. The Holy Ghost then seals that doorway of the heart that we cannot lose that belief or salvation to come. Since there is only one kind of Holy to the Lord, when our spirit is made Holy, it is made a Holy Spirit. This is the exact same Spirit that Christ has. We have the Spirit of Christ! Our Born-Again Spirit has the same Holiness as Him and His Holy Spirit. And when we get in-filled with the Holy Ghost, our Spirit and His Spirit are unified as one. Just as mixing two identically pure glasses of water into one, they become inseparable and we are unable to tell them apart: they become one (two-in-one).

Our communication and understanding of the Lord are through the Spiritual realm—for we must “worship Him in Spirit and Truth”. This realm and understanding helps us cut through misunderstandings of scripture often the result of us trying to interpret Spiritual with the flesh.

II. **READING:** [1 Corinthians 2:1-16](#) (HCSB)

When I came to you, brothers, announcing the testimony of God to you, I did not come with brilliance of speech or wisdom. 2 For I didn't think it was a good idea to know anything among you except Jesus Christ and Him crucified. 3 I came to you in weakness, in fear, and in much trembling. 4 My speech and my proclamation were not with persuasive words of wisdom but with a powerful demonstration by the Spirit, 5 so that your faith might not be based on men's wisdom but on God's power.

6 However, we do speak a wisdom among the mature, but not a wisdom of this age, or of the rulers of this age, who are coming to nothing. 7 On the contrary, we speak God's hidden wisdom in a mystery, a wisdom God predestined before the ages for our glory. 8 None of the rulers of this age knew this wisdom, for if they had known it, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory. 9 But as it is written:

What eye did not see, and ear did not hear, and what never entered the human mind—God prepared this for those who love Him.

10 Now God has revealed these things to us by the Spirit, for the Spirit searches everything, even the depths of God. 11 For who among men knows the thoughts of a man except the spirit of the man that is in him? In the same way, no one knows the thoughts of God except the Spirit of God. 12 Now we have not received the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who comes from God, so that we may understand what has been freely given to us by God. 13 We also speak these things, not in words taught by human wisdom, but in those taught by the Spirit, explaining spiritual things to spiritual people. 14 But the unbeliever does not welcome what comes from God's Spirit, because it is foolishness to him; he is not able to understand it since it is evaluated spiritually. 15 The spiritual person, however, can evaluate everything, yet he himself cannot be evaluated by anyone.

16 For who has known the Lord's mind, that he may instruct Him?

But we have the mind of Christ.

III. **RELATED VERSES AND QUESTIONS:**

A. Born of the Spirit:

[John 3:5-8](#) (HCSB) [PoG]

Jesus answered, “I assure you: Unless someone is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God. 6 Whatever is born of the flesh is flesh, and whatever is born of the Spirit is spirit. 7 Do not be amazed that I told you that you must be born again. 8 The wind [Spirit] blows where it pleases, and you hear its sound, but you don't know where it comes from or where it is going. So it is with everyone born of the Spirit.”

TABERNACLE: SPIRIT

Bible Study: Lesson 017



[John 4:21-24](#) (HCSB)

Jesus told her, "Believe Me, woman, an hour is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem. 22 You Samaritans worship what you do not know. We worship what we do know, because salvation is from the Jews. 23 But an hour is coming, and is now here, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth. Yes, the Father wants such people to worship Him. 24 God is spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth."

Question: What are ways you recognise the Spirit inside of you?

Response:

B. The Spirit lives in us, shared (joined) with our Spirit:

[Romans 8:9,14-17](#) (HCSB)

You, however, are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit, since the Spirit of God lives in you. But if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he does not belong to Him.

All those led by God's Spirit are God's sons. 15 For you did not receive a spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you received the Spirit of adoption, by whom we cry out, "Abba, Father!" 16 The Spirit Himself testifies together with our spirit that we are God's children, 17 and if children, also heirs—heirs of God and coheirs with Christ—seeing that we suffer with Him so that we may also be glorified with Him.

[1 Corinthians 3:16](#) (HCSB) [PoG]

Don't you yourselves know that you are God's sanctuary [Temple] and that the Spirit of God lives in you?

[1 Corinthians 6:17](#) (HCSB)

But anyone joined to the Lord is one spirit with Him.

[Ephesians 1:13-14](#) (HCSB)

When you heard the message of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and when you believed in Him, you were also sealed with the promised Holy Spirit. 14 He is the down payment of our inheritance, for the redemption of the possession, to the praise of His glory.

[Galatians 4:6-7](#) (HCSB)

And because you are sons, God has sent the Spirit of His Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba, Father!" 7 So you are no longer a slave but a son, and if a son, then an heir through God.

[1 John 4:13](#) (HCSB)

This is how we know that we remain in Him and He in us: He has given assurance to us from His Spirit.

Question: Do you believe you have His Spirit? Do you sometimes doubt you are a child of God?

Response:

TABERNACLE: SPIRIT

Bible Study: Lesson 017



C. Holy Spirit Gifts and Fruit:

[1 Corinthians 12:4-11](#) (HCSB)

Now there are different gifts, but the same Spirit. 5 There are different ministries, but the same Lord. 6 And there are different activities, but the same God activates each gift in each person. 7 A demonstration of the Spirit is given to each person to produce what is beneficial:

8 to one is given a message of wisdom through the Spirit, to another, a message of knowledge by the same Spirit, 9 to another, faith by the same Spirit, to another, gifts of healing by the one Spirit, 10 to another, the performing of miracles, to another, prophecy, to another, distinguishing between spirits, to another, different kinds of languages, to another, interpretation of languages.

11 But one and the same Spirit is active in all these, distributing to each person as He wills.

[Galatians 5:22-23a](#) (HCSB)

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faith, 23 gentleness, self-control.

Question: We all have been gifted the same Holy Spirit; hence we all operate with all the Gifts—do you feel you can operate in all these Gifts and “eat” of the Fruit of the Spirit?

Response:

IV. FURTHER THOUGHT:

A. [James 2:26a](#) (HCSB)

...the body without the spirit is dead.

Thoughts: Whom we are in our core reality is as a Spiritual being, in a body (Temple / Tabernacle) on this earth. When we die, our spirit/Spirit departs our body, and our body returns to the earth it was created from. Our spirit/Spirit then continues to exist for eternity, whether with the Lord, or separated from Him in Hell.

Let us make a clean understanding in our hearts and minds that this life we experience on earth is not the be-all-end-all of things. We can rejoice that we are more than just limited and temporary beings, but that we were created by an Eternal being to be eternal ourselves. So, rejoice as a believer, your existence will be with the Lord for ever and ever and ever!

BELIEVING IN CHRIST JESUS & FORGIVENESS OF SINS

INTENTION:

Our sins of the flesh were all forgiven at the Cross (long before we ever commit them). And when we believe in Christ Jesus, our Sin of not believing in Him is forgiven.

When we understand the these two “sin” aspects, we can let go of so much of the confusion revolving around the concept of sin. The Lord did the work of removing any hindrance sin could have in keeping us from believing in Him; yet He could not violate our free-will in not believing.

So let us let go of the weight and power of sin in our lives and just believe on Him!

I. TOPIC:

We want to look at Believing in Christ Jesus and Forgiveness of Sins.

This is what the Lord has strived to do from the beginning of Creation. His desire is for us to have an eternal relationship with Him. However, He did not create us as mindless, programmed robots; no, He created us with a free will to believe or not believe (and to sin or not sin). We saw this transpire with Adam and Eve (God not forcing them to eat of the wrong tree), and see it transpire in the everyday lives of each and every human being. We all make choices that affect our lives every minute—our choices even affecting those around us and across the globe.

To think that God “controls” everything or everyone is to reject that notion of a person’s free will. He has the ultimate power to control, but purposefully limits Himself to His own Word to not control. God gave the world to humanity at creation, humanity then gave it to Satan at the Fall, but it was reclaimed to humanity by the human Christ Jesus. Everything that transpires on this earth is a result of human decisions, not through an “Act of God”.

This freedom to choose is His Love for us—for how can we Love Him back if it isn’t a choice? Nor, can that Love be honest and true if we are just programmed like computers to Love Him back.

Our ability to choose is of utmost importance when it comes to believing in Christ Jesus! And this choice determines our eternity. We are eternal beings in a temporary shell (tabernacle) on this earth. Once we depart from our earthly shell, we continue our eternal existence apart from it. Either heading into eternity with the Lord or separated from Him. With Him is partly in Heaven then forever on the New Earth to be created. Separated from Him is to be locked away in agonizing Hell (a place originally created for Satan and His angels).

Once we leave this earth, there is no making a separate choice; our choice must transpire here on this earth before we die. And to help us make the choice, Christ took upon Himself the entire fleshly sins of humanity once-and-for-all-time at the Cross. No longer can our fleshly sins affect our eternity—keeping us out of Heaven or sending us to Hell.

With all the sins of the flesh forgiven, the only Sin left is that of not believing on Christ Jesus. It is only this Sin of not believing that sends a person to eternal Hell. But when we make a choice to believe in Christ Jesus, that Sin is removed, and our eternal destination is to be with the Lord! And it is the ongoing work of God and the Holy Spirit to do all they can to convince you to believe (all without violating your free will not to believe).

With God, we don’t have to worry about the fleshly sins we commit affecting our relationship with Him (as a believer or non-believer); but must decide whether to have believed on Him or not to be Born-Again. Thus, when we read the Bible about sin, we have to distinguish between it talking about the sins of the flesh (those forgiven at the Cross) and the Sin of not Believing in Christ Jesus (the Sin that sends us to Hell). This too translates into what the Bible refers to “Good Works” (to believe in Christ Jesus) and “Evil Works” (not believing in Christ Jesus).

The following reading shares about the impact Jesus had in His ministry and concludes with needing to believe on Him.

Further Reading: <http://cbadenhorst.blogspot.com/2019/06/forgiveness.html>

II. READING: [John 12:9-50](#) (GWT)

A large crowd of Jews found out that Jesus was in Bethany. So they went there not only to see Jesus but also to see Lazarus, whom Jesus had brought back to life. 10 The chief priests planned to kill Lazarus too. 11 Lazarus was the reason why many people were leaving the Jews and believing in Jesus.

12 On the next day the large crowd that had come to the Passover festival heard that Jesus was coming to Jerusalem. 13 So they took palm branches and went to meet him. They were shouting,

“Hosanna! Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord, the king of Israel!”

14 Jesus obtained a donkey and sat on it, as Scripture says:

15 “Don’t be afraid, people of Zion! Your king is coming. He is riding on a donkey’s colt.”

16 At first Jesus' disciples didn't know what these prophecies meant. However, when Jesus was glorified, the disciples remembered that these prophecies had been written about him. The disciples remembered that they had taken part in fulfilling the prophecies.

17 The people who had been with Jesus when he called Lazarus from the tomb and brought him back to life reported what they had seen. 18 Because the crowd heard that Jesus had performed this miracle, they came to meet him.

19 The Pharisees said to each other, "This is getting us nowhere. Look! The whole world is following him!"

20 Some Greeks were among those who came to worship during the Passover festival. 21 They went to Philip (who was from Bethsaida in Galilee) and told him, "Sir, we would like to meet Jesus." 22 Philip told Andrew, and they told Jesus.

23 Jesus replied to them, "The time has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. 24 I can guarantee this truth: A single grain of wheat doesn't produce anything unless it is planted in the ground and dies. If it dies, it will produce a lot of grain. 25 Those who love their lives will destroy them, and those who hate their lives in this world will guard them for everlasting life. 26 Those who serve me must follow me. My servants will be with me wherever I will be. If people serve me, the Father will honour them.

27 "I am too deeply troubled now to know how to express my feelings. Should I say, 'Father, save me from this time of suffering'? No! I came for this time of suffering. 28 Father, give glory to your name."

A voice from heaven said, "I have given it glory, and I will give it glory again."

29 The crowd standing there heard the voice and said that it had thundered. Others in the crowd said that an angel had talked to him. 30 Jesus replied, "That voice wasn't for my benefit but for yours.

31 "This world is being judged now. The ruler of this world will be thrown out now. 32 When I have been lifted up from the earth, I will draw all people toward me." 33 By saying this, he indicated how he was going to die.

34 The crowd responded to him, "We have heard from the Scriptures that the Messiah will remain here forever. So how can you say, 'The Son of Man must be lifted up from the earth'? Who is this 'Son of Man'?"

35 Jesus answered the crowd, "The light will still be with you for a little while. Walk while you have light so that darkness won't defeat you. Those who walk in the dark don't know where they're going. 36 While you have the light, believe in the light so that you will become people whose lives show the light."

After Jesus had said this, he was concealed as he left. 37 Although they had seen Jesus perform so many miracles, they wouldn't believe in him. 38 In this way the words of the prophet Isaiah came true:

"Lord, who has believed our message? To whom has the Lord's power been revealed?"

39 So the people couldn't believe because, as Isaiah also said,

40 "God blinded them and made them close-minded so that their eyes don't see and their minds don't understand. And they never turn to me for healing!"

41 Isaiah said this because he had seen Jesus' glory and had spoken about him.

42 Many rulers believed in Jesus. However, they wouldn't admit it publicly because the Pharisees would have thrown them out of the synagogue. 43 They were more concerned about what people thought of them than about what God thought of them.

44 Then Jesus said loudly, "Whoever believes in me believes not only in me but also in the one who sent me. 45 Whoever sees me sees the one who sent me. 46 I am the light that has come into the world so that everyone who believes in me will not live in the dark. 47 If anyone hears my words and doesn't follow them, I don't condemn them. I didn't come to condemn the world but to save the world. 48 Those who reject me by not accepting what I say have a judge appointed for them. The words that I have spoken will judge them on the last day. 49 I have not spoken on my own. Instead, the Father who sent me told me what I should say and how I should say it. 50 I know that what he commands is eternal life. Whatever I say is what the Father told me to say."

III. RELATED VERSES AND QUESTIONS:

A. [Hebrews 10:11-18](#) (GWT)

Every day each priest performed his religious duty. He offered the same type of sacrifice again and again. Yet, these sacrifices could never take away sins. 12 However, this chief priest made one sacrifice for sins, and this sacrifice lasts forever. Now he holds the honoured position—the one next to God the Father on the heavenly throne. 13 Since that time, he has been waiting for his enemies to be made his footstool. 14 With one sacrifice he accomplished the work of setting them apart for God forever.

15 The Holy Spirit tells us the same thing: 16 “This is the promise that I will make to them after those days, says the Lord: ‘I will put my teachings in their hearts and write them in their minds.’ ”

17 Then he adds, “I will no longer hold their sins and their disobedience against them.”

18 When sins are forgiven, there is no longer any need to sacrifice for sins.

Question: Did you do anything 2000 years ago to be forgiven? Do you understand that any sin of the flesh you commit (from a simple lie to genocide) is forever forgiven you and never remembered by God; and done so even before you committed it?

Response:

B. Our only goal is to believe in Christ Jesus:

[Mark 16:15-16](#) (GWT)

Then Jesus said to them, “So wherever you go in the world, tell everyone the Good News. 16 Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved, but whoever does not believe will be condemned.

[John 3:16-18](#) (GWT)

God loved the world this way: He gave his only Son so that everyone who believes in him will not die but will have eternal life. 17 God sent his Son into the world, not to condemn the world, but to save the world. 18 Those who believe in him won’t be condemned. But those who don’t believe are already condemned because they don’t believe in God’s only Son.

[Romans 10:9-11](#) (GWT)

If you declare that Jesus is Lord, and believe that God brought him back to life, you will be saved. 10 By believing you receive God’s approval [made righteous], and by declaring [it unto salvation]. 11 Scripture says, “Whoever believes in him will not be ashamed.”

Question: What is the goal of the Lord for you personally; and the instructions He gave?

Response:

BELIEVING IN CHRIST JESUS & FORGIVENESS OF SINS

Bible Study: Lesson 018



C. God is not convicting us of our fleshly sins; the Holy Spirit only tries to convince us to believe in Him (convicting us of the Sin of not believing on Him):

[John 8:23-24](#) (GWT) [PoG]

Jesus said to them, "You're from below. I'm from above. You're from this world. I'm not from this world. 24 For this reason I told you that you'll die because of your [Sin]. If you don't believe that I am the one, you'll die because of your [Sin]."

[John 15:26-27, 16:7-15](#) (GWT) [PoG]

"The helper whom I will send to you from the Father will come. This helper, the Spirit of Truth who comes from the Father, will declare the truth about me. 27 You will declare the truth, too, because you have been with me from the beginning."

However, I am telling you the truth: It's good for you that I'm going away. If I don't go away, the helper won't come to you. But if I go, I will send him to you.

[8-11 And when He has come, He will convict the world (unbelievers) of:

- Sin, because they do not believe in Me;
- Righteousness, because I go to My Father and you see Me no more;
- Judgment, because the ruler of this world is judged.]

12 "I have a lot more to tell you, but that would be too much for you now. 13 When the Spirit of Truth comes, he will guide you into the full truth. He won't speak on his own. He will speak what he hears and will tell you about things to come. 14 He will give me glory, because he will tell you what I say. 15 Everything the Father says is also what I say. That is why I said, 'He will take what I say and tell it to you.'

[Mark 3:28-29](#) (GWT)

"I can guarantee this truth: People will be forgiven for any sin or curse. 29 But whoever curses the Holy Spirit will never be forgiven. He is guilty of an everlasting sin."

Question: How can God convict you of your fleshly sins if He took them away at the Cross?

Response:

D. [1 John 5:1-13](#) (GWT)

Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Messiah has been born from God. Everyone who loves the Father also loves his children. 2 We know that we love God's children when we love God by obeying his commandments. 3 To love God means that we obey his commandments. Obeying his commandments isn't difficult 4 because everyone who has been born from God has won the victory over the world. Our faith is what wins the victory over the world. 5 Who wins the victory over the world? Isn't it the person who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?

6 This Son of God is Jesus Christ, who came by water and blood. He didn't come with water only, but with water and with blood. The Spirit is the one who verifies this, because the Spirit is the truth. 7 There are three witnesses: 8 the Spirit, the water, and the blood. These three witnesses agree.

9 We accept human testimony. God's testimony is greater because it is the testimony that he has given about his Son. 10 Those who believe in the Son of God have the testimony of God in them. Those who don't believe God have made God a liar. They haven't believed the testimony that God has given about his Son.

11 This is the testimony: God has given us eternal life, and this life is found in his Son. 12 The person who has the Son has this life. The person who doesn't have the Son of God doesn't have this life.

13 I've written this to those who believe in the Son of God so that they will know that they have eternal life.

Question: There is no fear of Final Judgement by God for believers. As a believer, do you still fear God and Judgement from Him?

Response:

IV. FURTHER THOUGHT:

A. Works (Good and Evil) – Judged by our works at the Judgement Seat

[John 6:26-29](#) (GWT) [PoG]

Jesus replied to them, "I can guarantee this truth: You're not looking for me because you saw miracles. You are looking for me because you ate as much of those loaves as you wanted. 27 Don't work ([G2038](#)) for food that spoils. Instead, work for the food that lasts into eternal life. This is the food the Son of Man will give you. After all, the Father has placed his seal of approval on him."

28 The people asked Jesus, "What does God want us to do [that we can work the works ([G2038](#)) of God]?"

29 Jesus replied to them, "God wants to do something for you so that you believe in the one whom he has sent." [i.e. This is the work ([G2041](#)) of God: that you believe in Him whom He sent].

[John 3:16-21](#) (GWT) [PoG]

God loved the world this way: He gave his only Son so that everyone who believes in him will not die but will have eternal life. 17 God sent his Son into the world, not to condemn the world, but to save the world. 18 Those who believe in him won't be condemned. But those who don't believe are already condemned because they don't believe in God's only Son.

19 This is why people are condemned: The light came into the world. Yet, people loved the dark rather than the light because their actions [works ([G2041](#))] were evil. 20 People who do what is wrong hate the light and don't come to the light. They don't want their actions [works ([G2041](#))] to be exposed. 21 But people who do [works ([G2041](#))] what is true come to the light so that the things they do [works ([G2038](#))] for God may be clearly seen.

[Romans 2:4b-11](#) (GWT) [PoG]

Don't you realize that it is God's kindness that is trying to lead you to him and change the way you think and act?

5 Since you are stubborn and don't want to change the way you think and act, you are adding to the anger that God will have against you on that day when God vents his anger. At that time God will reveal that his decisions are fair. 6 He will pay all people back for what they have done [works ([G2041](#))]. 7 He will give everlasting life to those who search for glory, honour, and immortality by persisting in doing [work ([G2041](#))] what is good. But he will bring 8 anger and fury on those who, in selfish pride, refuse to believe the truth and who follow what is

wrong. 9 There will be suffering and distress for every person who does [works ([G2716](#))] evil, for Jews first and Greeks as well. 10 But there will be glory, honour, and peace for every person who does [works ([G2038](#))] what is good, for Jews first and Greeks as well. 11 God does not play favourites.

[1 Peter 1:17-20](#) (GWT) [PoG]

So if you call God your Father, live your time as temporary residents on earth in fear. He is the God who judges all people by what they have done [work ([G2041](#))], and he doesn't play favourites. 18 Realize that you weren't set free from the worthless life handed down to you from your ancestors by a payment of silver or gold which can be destroyed. 19 Rather, the payment that freed you was the precious blood of Christ, the lamb with no defects or imperfections. 20 He is the lamb who was known long ago before the world existed, but for your good he became publicly known in the last period of time.

[Revelations 20:11-15](#) (GWT) [PoG]

I saw a large, white throne and the one who was sitting on it. The earth and the sky fled from his presence, but no place was found for them. 12 I saw the dead, both important and unimportant people, standing in front of the throne. Books were opened, including the Book of Life. The dead were judged on the basis of what they had done [their works ([G2041](#))], as recorded in the books. 13 The sea gave up its dead. Death and hell gave up their dead. People were judged based on what they had done [their works ([G2041](#))]. 14 Death and hell were thrown into the fiery lake. (The fiery lake is the second death.) 15 Those whose names were not found in the Book of Life were thrown into the fiery lake.

Thoughts: If our works were everything we did on this earth, then it matters not that we believe on Christ Jesus, but just that we led some form of 'moral' life. And then moreso, that Jesus Christ was sacrificed on the Cross for the removal of everyone's 'sins of the flesh' has no relevance. But if the "work" being spoken of that we are judged by is only the work of "believing in Christ Jesus" or "not believing in Christ Jesus" for that eternal salvation, then this takes out the notion that we have to strive and do things to earn merit for "Heaven". Yet everything Christ Jesus did was to remove the Law and the inability for any human being to earn salvation through their own merits. So do the work of "believing in Christ Jesus" for Salvation and to become Born-Again into the family of God the Loving Father!

Do you believe in Christ Jesus?

TAKING THE WORRY OUT OF SIN (RELIGIOUSLY)

INTENTION:

Being raised in a legalistic church, I developed a religion that kept me focused on sin—in trying to avoid sin. I got trapped in a winless system, for the more I focused on trying not to sin, the more the stronger sin became. But when I realized Christ took care of all those fleshly sins “once and for all time” at the Cross, I stopped worrying about those sins and thinking that they had an affect on my relationship with the Lord.

They never affect how much God Loves me or Gifts me; we just need to take care on how sin can affect the relationships we have here on earth. Though the Lord took care of sin in our relationship with Him, it is still His desire that we don’t sin, so as to avoid the hurts and pains that come along with it in this world.

TAKING THE WORRY OUT OF SIN (RELIGIOUSLY)

Bible Study: Lesson 019



I. TOPIC:

We want to look at Taking the Worry Out of Sin (Religiously).

In the previous Bible Study, we looked at the difference between the “sins of the flesh” (which were all taken away through Christ Jesus and the Cross) and the Sin of not believing (Sin of unbelief) on Christ Jesus for Salvation (which is taken away when we do believe).

With this understanding, we can look at some specific scriptures that might cause us to worry or doubt our forgiveness if we don’t see it in the context of these two distinct types of sin.

Much of what I grew up believing was that any sin I committed (especially sexual sins) would cause me to go to Hell. I had such fear of these types of sins, I led a miserable Christian life. And moreso, could not keep from sinning—for the strength of sin is the Law ([1 Corinthians 15:56](#))—the more I tried not to sin, the stronger that desire to sin became.

But once I let go of this fear of sin, trusting that Christ took care of them at the Cross, my life became so much freer. I could now live free from the impossibility of never sinning (something many see as their “Christian” responsibility). It is not that the Lord wants us to keep sinning, for He knows that sin can affect our earthly relationship with ourselves and others—sin impacting our own life or those lives around us in a damaging way. The Lord does not want sin to steal away that Abundant Life He wants us to all freely live. He took away its attempt at hindering our relationship with Him; in turn allowing us to live a life that no longer needs to have any consciousness of sin; knowing that any sin of the flesh I do commit cannot affect my relationship with God; and I am “free to make a mistake”.

Remember, each and every fleshly sin was taken away forever 2000 years ago at the Cross—taken away before you ever committed them. And what is even better is that the Lord already knows which sins and mistakes you will make, and plans your life around them, rescuing you from those mistakes and bringing Good out from them.

God’s desire and purpose for the Cross is to set you free from worrying about what sin you commit. It is impossible to not commit a sin; and more impossible to remember each and every sin you do commit to then ask forgiveness of them. What a dreadful Christian life one leads when the focus of life is on our mistakes, not on our Righteous identity.

This dreadful life is what I have been set free of and strive to never repeat. And my desire is to also set you free from that same sin-conscience I myself lived with. And a good way to start is to remind ourselves that the sacrifice Christ Jesus made for us through the Cross forgave our sins once-and-for-all-time!

Further Reading: <http://cbadenhorst.blogspot.com/2019/06/forgiveness.html>

Furthermore, if we are caught up in a sin of the flesh and feel trapped by it, we do have the authority to overcome it and remove its hold over us. We can pull down those strongholds ([2 Corinthians 10:3-5](#)) because the strength of sin has been overcome, and we are dead to sin ([Romans 6:11](#))!

II. READING: [Hebrews 10:1-25](#) (DLNT)

For the Law— having a shadow of the coming good things, not the very image of the things—is never able to perfect the ones approaching yearly with the same sacrifices which they offer perpetually. 2 Otherwise would they not have ceased being offered, because of the ones worshiping no longer having a consciousness of sins, having been cleansed once-for-all? 3 But in them there is a yearly reminder of sins. 4 For it is impossible for the blood of bulls and goats to take-away sins. 5 Therefore, while entering into the world, He says [in Ps 40:6-8]: “You did not desire sacrifice and offering, but You prepared a body for Me. 6 You were not well-pleased with whole-burnt-offerings and offerings for sin. 7 Then I said, Behold, I have come—in the roll of a book it has been written about Me—that I might do Your will, God”.

TAKING THE WORRY OUT OF SIN (RELIGIOUSLY)

Bible Study: Lesson 019



8 Saying above that “You did not desire nor were You well-pleased with sacrifices and offerings and whole-burnt-offerings and offerings for sin” (which are being offered according-to the Law!), 9 then He has said, “Behold, I have come that I might do Your will”—He does-away-with the first in-order-that He might establish the second, 10 ... by which will we have been made-holy through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once-for-all. 11 And every priest stands ministering daily and offering often the same sacrifices which are never able to take-away sins—12 but this One, having offered one sacrifice for sins for all time, sat-down at the right hand of God, 13 henceforth waiting until His enemies are put as a footstool of His feet. 14 For by one offering He has perfected for all time the ones being made-holy. 15 And the Holy Spirit also testifies to us; for after the statement [in Jer 31:33] having said 16 “This is the covenant which I will covenant with them after those days, says the Lord: Giving My laws upon their hearts, I will also write them upon their mind”, 17 then He says “And I will never remember their sins and their lawless-deeds again”. 18 Now where there is forgiveness of these things, there is no longer an offering for sin! 19 Therefore, brothers, having confidence for the entering of the Holies by the blood of Jesus— 20 which fresh and living way He inaugurated for us through the curtain, that is, His flesh— 21 and having a great Priest over the house of God, 22 let us be approaching God with a true heart in full-assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience, and having our body washed with clean water. 23 Let us be holding-on-to the confession of our hope without-wavering, for the One having promised is faithful. 24 And let us be considering one another for the provoking of love and good works, 25 not forsaking the gathering-together of ourselves as is a habit with some, but exhorting one another, and so-much more by-as-much-as you see the day drawing-near..

III. RELATED VERSES AND QUESTIONS:

- A. These following verses do not talk about sins that keep you out of “Heaven”, but refers to how that identity of sin can keep you from experiencing (sensing) “righteousness, joy, and peace in the Holy Spirit” which is what the Kingdom of Heaven / Kingdom of God is ([Romans 14:17](#)). Referencing the conflict one can experience in a person’s soul between the Spirit (inside-out life) and world (outside-in life).

[1 Corinthians 6:9-10](#) (DLNT)

Or do you not know that wrongdoers will not inherit God’s kingdom? Do not be deceived. Neither sexually-immoral ones, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor homo-erotic-partners, nor homosexuals, 10 nor thieves, nor greedy ones—not drunkards, not revilers, not swindlers—will inherit the kingdom of God.

[Galatians 5:19-21](#) (DLNT)

Now the works of the flesh are evident, which are sexual-immorality, impurity, sensuality, 20 idolatry, sorcery, hostilities, strife, jealousy, rages, selfish-interests, dissensions, factions, 21 envy, drunkenness, revelries, and the things like these—as to which things I tell you beforehand, just as I said-before, that the ones practicing such things will not inherit the kingdom of God.

Question: Do you worry that committing any of these sins will keep you out of Heaven (or relationship with God)?

Response:

TAKING THE WORRY OUT OF SIN (RELIGIOUSLY)

Bible Study: Lesson 019



B. Jesus taught the extremes of the Law to demonstrate to everyone how impossible it was to keep them. Yet, at the same time prophesied about His purpose of fulfilling the Law for us. Sometimes when we read the things Jesus preached, we get scared because it seems very harsh or direct. This is why we too need to understand whom His audience is (those under the Law, which we are not); and what it is He is really saying?

Sadly, I have heard how a person took this following verse literally, and out of context, and actually plucked out her own eye because their “eye” sinned. Yet, Jesus is not speaking about your eye sinning as in it lusting over something, but the sin being spoken of is the Sin of not believing in Christ Jesus for salvation. Jesus explains to us that the Sin being spoken of is this sin that will send a person to Hell. Not that if our hand or eye commits a sin of the flesh that it must be removed. But that if your hand or eye is keeping you from believing in Christ Jesus for salvation, it is better to get into Heaven without a hand or an eye, than keep it and spend eternity in Hell.

[Matthew 5:29-30](#) (DLNT) [PoG]

And if your right eye is causing you to fall, tear it out and throw it from you. For it is better for you that one of your body-parts perish and your whole body not be thrown into Gehenna [Hell]. 30 And if your right hand is causing you to fall, cut it off and throw it from you. For it is better for you that one of your body-parts perish and your whole body not go into Gehenna [Hell].

Question: Have you ever thought about cutting off a member of your body because you didn’t like it sinning?

Response:

C. Jesus demonstrated that the presence of sin (personally or in a group) cannot deter God from your life or that of a group or nation. Jesus only did what He saw God the Father do; thus, Jesus demonstrated what God does with us when we sin. Sin does not reject God’s presence!

[Mark 2:15-17](#) (DLNT)

And it comes about that He was reclining [to eat] in his house. And many tax-collectors and sinners were reclining-back-with Jesus and His disciples. For there were many, and they were following Him. 16 And the scribes of the Pharisees, having seen that He was eating with the sinners and tax collectors, were saying to His disciples “Why is it that He is eating with the tax collectors and sinners?” 17 And having heard, Jesus says to them that “The ones being strong have no need of a physician, but the ones being ill. I did not come to call righteous ones, but sinners”.

Question: Do you feel God is hiding His presence from you when you sin; or do you feel He is sitting next to you?

Response:

TAKING THE WORRY OUT OF SIN (RELIGIOUSLY)

Bible Study: Lesson 019



D. Sometimes we can feel that our sin can keep us from receiving healing (for ourself or another). This can especially feel true when our sickness or disability came about because of a sin we committed—like paralysis from an accident caused because of driving drunk, or a disease we got from sex or drugs. The guilt of which can weigh heavy on our heart and conscience.

Yet the Lord demonstrates to us that His desire that we are healed, healthy, and whole outweighs any form of sin we might have committed—or any form of sin we might think has transpired. For even when we think sin is in the way, Jesus always demonstrated that any sin they may believe they had committed was forgiven. When we truly believe we are forgiven, we tend to let go of the guilt and open up that pathway to receive healing.

[Luke 5:20-26](#) (DLNT)

And having seen their faith, He said, “Man, your sins have been forgiven you”. 21 And the scribes and the Pharisees began to reason, saying, “Who is this One Who is speaking blasphemies? Who is able to forgive sins except God alone?” 22 But Jesus, having known their reasonings, having responded, said to them, “Why are you reasoning in your hearts? 23 Which is easier: to say, ‘Your sins have been forgiven you’, or to say, ‘Arise and walk’? 24 But in order that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins” —He said to the one having been paralyzed, “I say to you, arise, and having picked up your little-bed, proceed to your house”. 25 And having stood-up at once in their presence, having picked up the thing upon which he was lying-down, he went to his house glorifying God. 26 And astonishment seized everyone. And they were glorifying God. And they were filled with awe, saying that “We saw incredible things today”.

Question: What sin-related guilt do you feel is holding you back from receiving healing for you or someone else?

Response:

E. If our sins of the flesh are all taken at the Cross, does that mean I can choose to keep on sinning? Yes!

Remember, it is not these sins of the flesh that affect your eternal destiny, only the Sin of not believing in Christ Jesus. Thus, as Paul reiterates twice in the same book, we can do whatever we want. Yet, he shares with us that not everything we choose to do is beneficial to our current existence here on earth. And even blatantly says, “God Forbid” that we would want to choose to keep on sinning in the flesh ([Romans 6:1-2](#)). This is because sin can truly have a negative impact on our own life and that of so many around you (directly or indirectly).

It is not the Lord’s desire that we continue to sin in the flesh, but He knows we will, and knows all the reasons why (that domino / butterfly effect from Adams sin). He really only wants the best life for us here on earth; and more-than-not, that includes a life without a sin that can diminish the Abundant Life He longs for us to have. But our sinning (whether by choice or by circumstance or by force), cannot change our relationship with God the Father; nor affect our eternity. We must never fear that it can!

[1 Corinthians 6:12](#) (DLNT)

“All things are lawful to me”, but not all things are beneficial. “All things are lawful to me”, but I will not be mastered by any.

[1 Corinthians 10:23](#) (DLNT)

All things are lawful, but not all things are beneficial. All things are lawful, but not all things build-up.

TAKING THE WORRY OUT OF SIN (RELIGIOUSLY)

Bible Study: Lesson 019



Question: How free do you feel in being able to sin, or keep sinning? Do you feel other Churches or Christians condemn you for you choices or lifestyle?

Response:

- F. What are ways we can help lessen the negative impact sin has on our own life or those around us? We feel hurt by others' faults (sins) against us; and likewise, the same for our faults (sins) towards others. To help spur on forgiveness and bring about healing, we are instructed to talk to others about it. When we bring it into the Light, it has no room to destroy, divide, or infest. And we too can help others we see trapped in sins to guide them out of it if they choose; then, in doing so, restores the trauma that is the conflict in their souls.

[James 5:13-16, 19-20](#) (DLNT)

Is anyone among you suffering-hardship? Let him be praying. Is anyone cheerful? Let him be singing-praise.

14 Is anyone among you sick? Let him summon the elders of the church, and let them pray over him, having anointed him with oil in the name of the Lord. 15 And the prayer of faith will restore the one being ill, and the Lord will raise him. And if he has committed sins, it will be forgiven him. 16 Therefore be confessing-out your sins to one another, and be praying for one another so that you may be healed. A prayer of a righteous person can-do much while working.

My brothers, if anyone among you errs from the truth and someone turns him back, 20 let him know that the one having turned-back a sinner from the error of his way will save his soul from death, and will cover a multitude of sins.

Question: Do you talk about your mistakes to others?

Response:

IV. FURTHER THOUGHT:

- A. So, what about the verse regarding confessing our sins—are we supposed to confess them all the time?

[1 John 1:5-10](#) (DLNT) [PoG]

And this is the message which we have heard from Him and are declaring to you: that God is light, and there is not any darkness in Him.

6 If we claim that we have fellowship with Him and are walking in the darkness [*having not believed in Christ Jesus*], we are lying and not doing the truth. 7 But if we are walking in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another and the blood of Jesus His Son cleanses us from all sin.

8 If we claim that we do not have sin, we are deceiving ourselves and the truth is not in us.

HOW DO WE LIVE AS CHRISTIANS (BELIEVERS)

INTENTION:

I found in my life that ‘how hard the Christian life can be to live’ is a matter of how I live it. I’m not talking about just giving in to the world around us, but gaining a strength that is not just my own ability.

My entire Christian life and its way of living changed the instant that I was Baptised in the Holy Spirit. I let go of trying to live that “righteous” lifestyle out of my own fleshly strength and started living as a team with the Lord. He not only started living His life out of me, but He transformed how I read and understood the Bible.

This is what I want for you to experience too!

Ask Him for it.

HOW DO WE LIVE AS CHRISTIANS (BELIEVERS)

Bible Study: Lesson 020



I. TOPIC:

We want to look at the question: How Do We Live as Christians (Believers)?

One of the biggest struggles I had after becoming a believer (at 16 years old) was how difficult it was to live the Christian life. It was an impossible task to live up to the expectation that religion placed on me to “be like Jesus”—to be Righteous, Holy, and without fault (sin). And when I failed at that task, I became guilty, shameful, and tried to hide myself from God and others. I was a miserable Christian, a hypocrite, and lived behind a façade.

I tried to read the Bible, but would fall asleep, or find things that condemned me even more for failing to live up to this “Christian” standard. I would try and go to church, but never felt I fit in, nor felt I was being fed (like I was starving for the Lord without getting any healthy substance). I eventually got so condemned with myself, I really just lived waiting to die (or waiting for the Lord’s return). I was a powerless Christian, swept around like a piece of rubbish on the sea.

But then something happened when I was 38 years old: I started to hear this message (a new message to me) of how I could be an authoritative Christian—the key being the Baptism of the Holy Spirit. And on 28 May 2014, in the loft I lived in, I asked Jesus Christ to Baptise me in the Holy Spirit with the ability to speak in Tongues. And in that moment, cutting through the fear and doubt, I trusted the Father and asked. He delivered on His promise. I lay face-down and sprawled out on the wood floor. Jesus’s presence was so real standing next to me in His sandals and white robe, that I reached out my hand expecting to touch Him.

From that moment, my whole Christian life changed, and I began renewing my heart and mind to some powerful truths that I had not heard before. No longer was I a passive Christian just waiting for the Lord to come again, but became an overcoming Christian. I began to hear the Holy Spirit more clearly, scripture popped out at me in ways I never experienced before with new meaning (without any judgement or condemnation), and I was speaking in Spiritual Tongues. I changed, and my whole outlook on life changed.

It was during this time that the Lord spoke to Kelly and I the words “Just Be”.

These two simple words packed such depth and meaning. It translated our Christian lives from us trying to be as Christ, to us actually accepting that we already WERE like Christ ([1 John 4:17b](#))! It was His commandment for us to “Just Be” whom He already made us to be: Jesus Christ. Just as Jesus was Baptised in the Holy Spirit and commanded the power of God in Him, so were we exactly like that. We let go of the ‘trying’ and just relaxed in the ‘being’—helping us understand that Christ’s yoke is easy!

This didn’t mean we wouldn’t face persecution, nor having to continually renew our mind to this truth; it meant that we were able to let go of the part about living like a Christian. It meant that we could spend our energies, not on striving to be like Him, but using that energy existing as Him. And through this dramatic change, we found our lives shift, getting married, and leaving all behind in the States for our new mission into South Africa.

With my reality (identity) as Christ Jesus, I could stop worrying about if I failed, sinned, or didn’t live up to some perceived expectation of Christianity. Whether I fail or succeed, it never changes my identity as Righteous and Holy. What a stress relief that is, to know that it is okay to make a mistake—God’s Grace always has me covered!

So, what does it look like being a Christian—how do we live as Christians (Believers)?

We’ve looked at the Parable of the Sower ([Mark 4:14-20](#)) in a previous Bible Study, and see that there can be three types of Christians: the first two lose heart or are deceived, and don’t live authoritatively (remaining believers); the third does thrive with an Abundant Life. I went from the former to the latter—and found it an amazing place to be!

Let’s take the struggle out of trying to live as a Christian, and just BE a Christian. And I’ve found one of the strongest ways to do this is to read about what the Lord wants to give you, and has already given you. God doesn’t say, “good luck” after we are Born-Again, He teams up with us as equal partners to share responsibility for our life here on earth; providing for our everyday needs. He never abandons us!

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II. **READING:** [1 John 4:1-19](#) (MSG)

My dear friends, don't believe everything you hear. Carefully weigh and examine what people tell you. Not everyone who talks about God comes from God. There are a lot of lying preachers loose in the world.

2-3 Here's how you test for the genuine Spirit of God. Everyone who confesses openly his faith in Jesus Christ—the Son of God, who came as an actual flesh-and-blood person—comes from God and belongs to God. And everyone who refuses to confess faith in Jesus has nothing in common with God. This is the spirit of antichrist that you heard was coming. Well, here it is, sooner than we thought!

4-6 My dear children, you come from God and belong to God. You have already won a big victory over those false teachers, for the Spirit in you is far stronger than anything in the world. These people belong to the Christ-denying world. They talk the world's language and the world eats it up. But we come from God and belong to God. Anyone who knows God understands us and listens. The person who has nothing to do with God will, of course, not listen to us. This is another test for telling the Spirit of Truth from the spirit of deception.

7-10 My beloved friends, let us continue to love each other since love comes from God. Everyone who loves is born of God and experiences a relationship with God. The person who refuses to love doesn't know the first thing about God, because God is love—so you can't know him if you don't love. This is how God showed his love for us: God sent his only Son into the world so we might live through him. This is the kind of love we are talking about—not that we once upon a time loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as a sacrifice to clear away our sins and the damage they've done to our relationship with God.

11-12 My dear, dear friends, if God loved us like this, we certainly ought to love each other. No one has seen God, ever. But if we love one another, God dwells deeply within us, and his love becomes complete in us—perfect love!

13-16 This is how we know we're living steadily and deeply in him, and he in us: He's given us life from his life, from his very own Spirit. Also, we've seen for ourselves and continue to state openly that the Father sent his Son as Saviour of the world. Everyone who confesses that Jesus is God's Son participates continuously in an intimate relationship with God. We know it so well, we've embraced it heart and soul, this love that comes from God.

17-18 God is love. When we take up permanent residence in a life of love, we live in God and God lives in us. This way, love has the run of the house, becomes at home and mature in us, so that we're free of worry on Judgment Day—our standing in the world is identical with Christ's. There is no room in love for fear. Well-formed love banishes fear. Since fear is crippling, a fearful life—fear of death, fear of judgment—is one not yet fully formed in love.

19 We, though, are going to love—love and be loved. First we were loved, now we love. He loved us first.

III. **RELATED VERSES AND QUESTIONS:**

A. Giving up our own ability to achieve:

[Galatians 2:17-21](#) (MSG)

Have some of you noticed that we are not yet perfect? (No great surprise, right?) And are you ready to make the accusation that since people like me, who go through Christ in order to get things right with God, aren't perfectly virtuous, Christ must therefore be an accessory to sin? The accusation is frivolous. If I was "trying to be good," I would be rebuilding the same old barn that I tore down. I would be acting as a charlatan.

19-21 What actually took place is this: I tried keeping rules and working my head off to please God, and it didn't work. So I quit being a "law man" so that I could be God's man. Christ's life showed me how, and enabled me to do it. I identified myself completely with him. Indeed, I have been crucified with Christ. My ego is no longer central. It is no longer important that I appear righteous before you or have your good opinion, and I am no

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longer driven to impress God. Christ lives in me. The life you see me living is not “mine,” but it is lived by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me. I am not going to go back on that.

Is it not clear to you that to go back to that old rule-keeping, peer-pleasing religion would be an abandonment of everything personal and free in my relationship with God? I refuse to do that, to repudiate God’s grace. If a living relationship with God could come by rule-keeping, then Christ died unnecessarily.

[Galatians 5:22-26](#) (MSG)

But what happens when we live God’s way? He brings gifts into our lives, much the same way that fruit appears in an orchard—things like affection for others, exuberance about life, serenity. We develop a willingness to stick with things, a sense of compassion in the heart, and a conviction that a basic holiness permeates things and people. We find ourselves involved in loyal commitments, not needing to force our way in life, able to marshal and direct our energies wisely.

23-24 Legalism is helpless in bringing this about; it only gets in the way. Among those who belong to Christ, everything connected with getting our own way and mindlessly responding to what everyone else calls necessities is killed off for good—crucified.

25-26 Since this is the kind of life we have chosen, the life of the Spirit, let us make sure that we do not just hold it as an idea in our heads or a sentiment in our hearts, but work out its implications in every detail of our lives. That means we will not compare ourselves with each other as if one of us were better and another worse. We have far more interesting things to do with our lives. Each of us is an original.

Question: Do you feel you sometimes try to achieve out of your own ability? Do you believe God has given you of His Spirit for your free and unlimited use?

Response:

B. [Ephesians 1:7-12](#) (MSG)

Because of the sacrifice of the Messiah, his blood poured out on the altar of the Cross, we’re a free people—free of penalties and punishments chalked up by all our misdeeds. And not just barely free, either. Abundantly free! He thought of everything, provided for everything we could possibly need, letting us in on the plans he took such delight in making. He set it all out before us in Christ, a long-range plan in which everything would be brought together and summed up in him, everything in deepest heaven, everything on planet earth.

11-12 It’s in Christ that we find out who we are and what we are living for. Long before we first heard of Christ and got our hopes up, he had his eye on us, had designs on us for glorious living, part of the overall purpose he is working out in everything and everyone.

Question: As a Christian, do you feel absolutely free?

Response:

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C. It's His power living in and through us that we have an Authority.

[Ephesians 3:20](#) (MSG)

God can do anything, you know—far more than you could ever imagine or guess or request in your wildest dreams! He does it not by pushing us around but by working within us, his Spirit deeply and gently within us.

[Colossians 1:9-12](#) (MSG)

Be assured that from the first day we heard of you, we haven't stopped praying for you, asking God to give you wise minds and spirits attuned to his will, and so acquire a thorough understanding of the ways in which God works. We pray that you'll live well for the Master, making him proud of you as you work hard in his orchard. As you learn more and more how God works, you will learn how to do your work. We pray that you'll have the strength to stick it out over the long haul—not the grim strength of gritting your teeth but the glory-strength God gives. It is strength that endures the unendurable and spills over into joy, thanking the Father who makes us strong enough to take part in everything bright and beautiful that he has for us.

Question: Do you understand that His Spirit and "glory-strength" is given for you to use?

Response:

D. We are given the ability to Live as Christ.

[Philippians 2:12-16](#) (MSG)

What I'm getting at, friends, is that you should simply keep on doing what you've done from the beginning. When I was living among you, you lived in responsive obedience. Now that I'm separated from you, keep it up. Better yet, redouble your efforts. Be energetic in your life of salvation, reverent and sensitive before God. That energy is God's energy, an energy deep within you, God himself willing and working at what will give him the most pleasure.

14-16 Do everything readily and cheerfully—no bickering, no second-guessing allowed! Go out into the world uncorrupted, a breath of fresh air in this squalid and polluted society. Provide people with a glimpse of good living and of the living God. Carry the light-giving Message into the night so I'll have good cause to be proud of you on the day that Christ returns. You'll be living proof that I didn't go to all this work for nothing.

[Philippians 4:6-9](#) (MSG)

Don't fret or worry. Instead of worrying, pray. Let petitions and praises shape your worries into prayers, letting God know your concerns. Before you know it, a sense of God's wholeness, everything coming together for good, will come and settle you down. It's wonderful what happens when Christ displaces worry at the centre of your life.

8-9 Summing it all up, friends, I'd say you'll do best by filling your minds and meditating on things true, noble, reputable, authentic, compelling, gracious—the best, not the worst; the beautiful, not the ugly; things to praise, not things to curse. Put into practice what you learned from me, what you heard and saw and realized. Do that, and God, who makes everything work together, will work you into his most excellent harmonies.

Question: What are our instructions in this ability to Live as Christ?

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Response:

IV. FURTHER THOUGHT:

- A. Do you want the Holy Spirit fully in your innermost being (filled and overflowing); trusting and accepting the Power of the Him in you?

[John 14:25-31](#) (MSG) [PoG]

“I’m telling you these things while I’m still living with you. The Friend, the Holy Spirit whom the Father will send at my request, will make everything plain to you. He will remind you of all the things I have told you. I’m leaving you well and whole. That’s my parting gift to you. Peace. I don’t leave you the way you’re used to being left—feeling abandoned, bereft. So don’t be upset. Don’t be distraught.

28 “You’ve heard me tell you, ‘I’m going away, and I’m coming back.’ If you loved me, you would be glad that I’m on my way to the Father because the Father is the goal and purpose of my life.

29-31 “I’ve told you this ahead of time, before it happens, so that when it does happen, the confirmation will deepen your belief in me. I’ll not be talking with you much more like this because the chief of this godless world is about to attack. But don’t worry—he has nothing on me, no claim on me. But so the world might know how thoroughly I love the Father, I am carrying out my Father’s instructions right down to the last detail.

“Get up. Let’s go. It’s time to leave here.”.

Thoughts: Sometimes we can feel that the Lord is not near...or worse off, “abandoned”. Other times it is that we would feel more secure if Jesus was still here with us (next to me). But here, Jesus shares with us that the Holy Spirit is a greater benefit to us. How amazing is it that the Holy Spirit is referred to by Jesus as a Comforter! Someone that brings peace to our souls—an emotional being that can transform our fears to peace. He reminds us of whom Jesus truly is and make clear to us (unconfused for us) the notion of whom God is as a Father. Confirming that His presence in us testifies in our being that we are NOT abandoned, but powerful and authoritative; and calls out for us that we truly have an Abba Father that so cares for us:

[Romans 8:15-17](#) (MSG)

This resurrection life you received from God is not a timid, grave-tending life. It’s adventurously expectant, greeting God with a childlike “What’s next, Papa?” God’s Spirit touches our spirits and confirms who we really are. We know who he is, and we know who we are: Father and children. And we know we are going to get what’s coming to us—an unbelievable inheritance! We go through exactly what Christ goes through. If we go through the hard times with him, then we’re certainly going to go through the good times with him!

[Galatians 4:4-7](#) (MSG)

But when the time arrived that was set by God the Father, God sent his Son, born among us of a woman, born under the conditions of the law so that he might redeem those of us who have been kidnapped by the law. Thus we have been set free to experience our rightful heritage. You can tell for sure that you are now fully adopted as his own children because God sent the Spirit of his Son into our lives crying out, “Papa! Father!” Doesn’t that privilege of intimate conversation with God make it plain that you are not a slave, but a child? And if you are a child, you’re also an heir, with complete access to the inheritance.

