



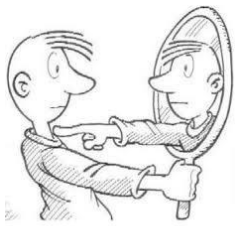
CHRISTIANS SEEKING IDENTITY

THE MISTERY



ALPHA & OMEGA
INTERNATIONAL MINISTRIES

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Who am I?

Introduction

The universal questions that every human being has asked in frustration at one time or another are “Who am I?” “What is the purpose of my life?”

Most Christians are just as frustrated as people who don't know God. They know about God, but they somehow feel like they don't know Him. They lack peace and joy and are continually searching for the revelation that will bring a sense of destiny and fulfillment to their lives.

Why do we long to be with God, long to be holy, long to be righteous, long to know Him? It is because we were created in the image of God. Until we have an understanding of who we were created to be, according to the truth of His word, and not according to ignorance, religion or tradition, we will long to be who we really are.

This course is designed to answer these questions and to bring a sense of destiny, purpose and fulfillment to you. It is designed to show you who you are!

Listed below are the ten lessons with a short summary of each.

1. *The Foundations are out of Course* Man was created to walk in righteousness, covered by the image of God. The foundation (the original intent of God) is out of course (twisted from the truth.)
2. *Are You Sin Conscious or are you God Conscious?* Is your value based on examining yourself and assessing your personal performance according to the Law of the Old Testament, or is it based on examining what God has provided for you through the perfect sacrifice according to the Covenant of the New Testament? Most of us are a mixture of both and it has caused frustration in the body of Christ.
3. *The Mystery of the Gospel* The mystery of the gospel is “Christ in you, the hope of glory.” God wants us to begin to understand that it is His righteousness in us that enables us to perform.
4. *The Mystery of Iniquity* There is an enemy of righteousness at work which presents a form of godliness as truth, but has no power to work righteousness.

5. *Revealed by the Spirit* The function of the Holy Spirit is not to point out every fault in us, but to reveal to us who we really are, to reveal to us the true nature of God and to change us into the image of God.
6. *What Does it Take to Be God Conscious?* The Bible says that we “Walk after the flesh, but we do not war (contend with carnal inclinations) after the flesh. What do we combat sin consciousness with?”
7. *Armed with His Nature* Our sustaining strength comes from the “Power of His Might.”
8. *Go and Take Dominion* God created man in His image to act on His behalf according to His word to take dominion over the earth and to fill all of the earth with the knowledge of the glory of the Lord.
9. *The Will of God* Jesus said if we ask anything according to His will, it will be done. We can begin to do the work of God and expect results according to His word when our knowledge regarding His purpose and intent is correct.
10. *Commitment* We have failed to be committed to God because we have failed to see how committed He is to us.

Lesson #1 The Foundations are Out of Course

Psalm 82:5-7 *They know not, neither will they understand; they walk on in darkness: all the foundations of the earth are out of course.*

Definition:

Out of Course 4131: waver, slip, fallen into decay, spoiled

The very foundation upon which the earth was established has slipped off of its course. Things are not operating the way that God intended them to function.

Luke 3:4-6 *Prepare ye the way of the Lord, **make his paths straight.** The crooked shall be made straight (**true**)*

Acts 2:40 *Save yourselves from this untoward generation.*

Definition:

Crooked, untoward 4646: Skoilios From the base of G4628; *warped*, that is, *winding*; figuratively *perverse*: - crooked, froward, a bend from the original truth

That which has slipped off course is the way we see God. We do not see God according to His ways. God's ways have become watered down with man's ways.

Proverbs 28:18 *Whoso walketh uprightly shall be saved: but he that is perverse in his ways shall fall at once.*

Definition:

Perverse 6140: distorted, knotted, crooked, perverted

Walking according to God's ways produces salvation or a complete sense of well being in every area of one's life. God's way always brings forth fruit unto life. **(Isaiah 55:7-13)** Man's ways according to the works of man's hands do not produce according to God's ways.

Deuteronomy 32:4 *He is the Rock, his work is perfect: for all his ways are judgment: a God of truth and without iniquity, just and right is he. 5 They have corrupted themselves, their spot is not the spot of his children: they are a perverse and crooked generation.*

Definitions:

Perfect: without blemish

Judgment: divine law, formal decree, decision

Iniquity: unrighteous, distorted

Corrupted 7843: decay, ruin, mar, spoil

Spot-3971: stain, blemish

Perverse 6141: distorted, crooked,

Crooked 6618: twisted

God's ways work perfectly because they are the divine law that governs the universe. There is no unrighteousness in God. He created man to walk in His image. He created man to be like Him and to walk in His righteousness. God designed man to gain his strength from God. Man has a distorted view of this principle. Because he does not believe that God has equipped man with His righteousness, man goes about trying to establish his own. Man has a zeal for God, but not according to a correct knowledge. **(Romans 10:2-3)**

Righteousness and Unrighteousness do not mix

2 Corinthians 6:14 *What fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? What communion hath light with darkness?*

Definitions:

Righteousness (Vines) 1343: That which is consistent with God's nature, everything that God is, everything that God can do, everything that God has

Unrighteousness 458: That which is opposite of God's nature; the nature man has of himself

Communion 2844 koinonia: partnership, intercourse, participation, fellowship

Until we enter into a relationship with God according to His nature and according to His divine law, we will not experience true intimacy with Him. God's way (light) cannot have intimacy with man's way (darkness.)

Romans 8:6 *carnally minded is death **Spiritually** minded is life.*

Amos 3:3 *How can any two walk together unless they agree?*

Definitions:

Walk: behave, exercise, grow

Agreed: betroth together, agree, share the same view

Isaiah 45:2-6 *God says that He will make the "crooked straight." He will gird us (or surround us with His strength) and surname us (share His identity with us).*

God created us to walk in His righteousness.

Isaiah 45:8 *Drop down, ye heavens, from above, and let the skies pour down righteousness: let the earth open, and let them bring forth salvation, and let righteousness spring up together; I the LORD have created it.*

Isaiah 45:11 *Thus saith the LORD, the Holy One of Israel, and his Maker, Ask me of things to come concerning my sons, and concerning the work of my hands command ye me. 12 I have made the earth, and created man upon it: I, even my hands, have stretched out the heavens, and all their host have I commanded. 13 I have raised him up in righteousness, and I will direct all his ways: he shall build my city, and he shall let go my captives, not for price nor reward, saith the LORD of hosts.*

God is going to set man free from his unrighteousness or iniquity with His righteousness.

God wants to make the crooked straight and restore our sight so that we can walk with Him according to His righteousness rather than our own.

Created in God's image

Genesis 1:24 *God created everything to bring forth after its kind.*

Genesis 1:27 *God created every living thing to reproduce according to its kind. God created man to bear forth His own image in the earth. He created man to take dominion over all the earth, to do God's work and to fill the earth with the knowledge of the glory of the Lord.*

Genesis 1:31 *God was pleased with His creation of man. He said that it was good! He did not leave anything out.*

Covered by His image and provision

Genesis 2:25 *Adam and Eve were naked, but they were unashamed. They did not see themselves as lacking anything because God was their covering. His covering kept their lack from being exposed.*

Psalms 91:1 *If you abide under His shadow, you are covered by His image. 2 I will say of the LORD, He is my refuge and my fortress: my God; in him will I trust. (God wants us to be confident in who we are because of who He is.)*

Unrighteousness, opposite of God's mind

Genesis 2:17 *The day you eat of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you will die. God did not design man to walk according to his own reasoning. Man's way according to man's provision of his own righteousness produces death, or a separation from God and His ways.*

Definition:

Death: separation from God, opposite of zoe life, spiritual death, physical death

Genesis 3:4-7 *Eve was drawn away from God's opinion and was convinced that God had not fully provided for her.*

Genesis 3:6-10 *When Eve became convinced that she needed to eat of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil (**human reasoning**) in order to be like God, she and Adam became separated from God's way. Their way caused them to become separated from His way. They hid from God in their sense of failure.*

Definition:

Naked: poorly clad, exposed to the all seeing God, lacking

When we begin to focus on what we must do in order to please God, our own unrighteousness becomes the point of focus. Instead of producing freedom according to God's way, it produces a sense of shame and condemnation because man was not created to be sufficient of himself.

John 16:8-9 *We enter into sin when we fail to see that God has provided everything that we need. The truth is God's plan has always been salvation and eternal life and he has made provision for it. The truth becomes crooked when we try to provide our own sufficiency.*

When man sees that his strength comes from God's provision, he is operating within the parameter of divine law and his needs are met according to God's way. When man sees himself from a position of lack rather than provision, every good thing is withheld from him because it opposes God's way.

Matthew 15:13 *But he answered and said, Every plant, which my heavenly Father hath not planted, shall be rooted up.*

The Tower of Babel was rooted in human effort and it was rooted up!

Genesis 11:4-9 *And they said, Go to, let us build us a city and a tower, whose top may reach unto heaven; and let us make us a name, lest we be scattered abroad upon the face of the whole earth.*

Definition:

Name 8034: position

Babel 894: Confusion

Tower-H4026: From H1431; a *tower* (from its size or height); by analogy a *rostrum*; *pulpit*-

Tower-a fortress, a platform where pleadings were delivered

H1431: to twist, to make large in pride, mind or body, advance, boast

It was not that they were building a tower that had the potential to reach God in the heavens that caused God to confuse their language. They were trying to establish right standing with God according to the work of their own hands and God could not let that idea become the idea that governed man. God's word will always produce according to His word. But, a word that has become twisted or crooked will not produce in like manner.

Psalm 92:9-*Workers of iniquity or unrighteousness will be scattered because unrighteous works or the works of man's hands causes man to become separated from God.*

Definition:

Iniquity 205: to exert oneself in vain; strictly *nothingness*; also *trouble, vanity, wickedness*; evil, false, unjust, unrighteous, vain, vanity

Scattered 6504: to *break through*, that is, *spread or separate* (oneself)

God will provide

Proverbs 18:10 *Your position in the Lord produces a strong tower.*

Abraham

Hebrews 11:10 *Abraham was called the Father of Righteousness. He was looking for a city built by God.*

God Story/Man Story

Romans 4:1-5 Message Bible

Romans 4:1 So how do we fit what we know of Abraham, our first father in the faith, into this new way of looking at things? 2 If Abraham, by what he did for God, got God to approve him, he could certainly have taken credit for it. But the story we're given is a God-story, not an Abraham-story. 3 What we read in Scripture is, "Abraham entered into what God was doing for him, and that was the turning point. He trusted God to set him right instead of trying to be right on his own." 4 If you're a hard worker and do a good job, you deserve your pay; we don't call your wages a gift. 5 But if you see that the job is too big for you, that it's something only God can do, and you trust him to do it--you could never do it for yourself no matter how hard and long you worked--well, that trusting-him-to-do-it is what gets you set right with God, by God. Sheer gift.

Romans 11:34 *Out of weakness made strong*

Colossians 2:6-10 *As ye have therefore received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk ye in him: Rooted and built in Him, you are complete.*

God wants us to be rooted in His identity. We are complete in Him. That is His way. That is divine law. The world has distorted His way and caused it to become crooked. The tradition of man and the rudiments of the world are being rooted up. The “world’s way” does not bear the same fruit as His way.

The Way of Righteousness

2 Peter 1:2 *Grace and peace be multiplied unto you through the knowledge of God, and of Jesus our Lord, 3 According as his divine power hath given unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of him that hath called us to glory and virtue:*

2 Peter 1:2 AMP *May grace [God’s favor] and peace [which is perfect well-being, all necessary good, all spiritual prosperity, and freedom from fears and agitating passions and moral conflicts] be multiplied to you in [the full, personal and precise, and correct] knowledge of God and our Lord Jesus Christ.*

Righteousness: God’s way, everything equal to God’s character

Salvation: deliver, protect, heal, preserve, make whole, rescue or safety, help, victory

Understanding God’s ways [righteousness] and teaching God’s ways produces grace and peace [salvation.]

Daniel 11:32 *but the people that do know their God shall be strong, and do exploits. 33 And they that understand among the people shall instruct many:*

John 17:3 *Eternal life is knowing and understanding God’s ways.*

Isaiah 55:8-12 *His way always works. It is fail proof. Joy and peace are the fruit of His ways.*

His way makes my way perfect!

Psalms 18:30, 32 *God’s way is perfect. His way makes my way perfect [sturdy, sound, without blemish, complete.]*

Philippians 6 *our faith becomes powerfully active by acknowledging every good thing in you in Christ Jesus. God wants to reveal His way to us.*

Ephesians 1:17-19 Open the eyes of their understanding that they might know the hope of his calling [way.]

Ephesians 1:17-19 Amp *[For I always pray to] the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, that He may grant you a spirit of wisdom and revelation [of insight into mysteries and secrets] in the [deep and intimate] knowledge of Him. By having the eyes of your heart flooded with light, so that you can know and understand the hope to which He has called you, and how rich is His glorious inheritance in the saints. And [so that you can know and understand] what is the immeasurably and unlimited and surpassing greatness of His power in and for us who believe, as demonstrated in the working of His mighty strength.*

God has raised us up in righteousness.

Isaiah 45:11 *Thus saith the LORD, the Holy One of Israel, and his Maker, Ask me of things to come concerning my sons, and concerning the work of my hands command ye me. 12 I have made the earth, and created man upon it: I, even my hands, have stretched out the heavens, and all their host have I commanded. 13 I have raised him up [rooted, wake up, opened eyes] in righteousness, and I will direct [to make straight or even, to make right, prosperous] all his ways: he shall build my city, and he shall let go my captives, not for price nor reward, saith the LORD of hosts.*

God's way always works! It will not fail to produce life and freedom. We have an enemy that hates God's way.

Acts 13:10 *We have an enemy of righteousness [God's way] that seeks to pervert it.*

Matthew 13:15 *He sows tares [false wheat] among the wheat. The perverted way cannot produce the same fruit. The perversion will not produce rest.*

Hebrews 3:10-11 *They have erred in their hearts and can not enter into my rest.*

We are deceived with unrighteousness [**man's ways which never equal God's ways.**]

2 Thessalonians 2:10 *with all deceivableness of unrighteousness.*

He does this by causing us to focus on ourselves [**our unrighteousness, our ways**] rather than on God's ways that make our way perfect. In other words, he

accomplishes this by getting man to focus on his condition [**sin conscious**] rather than his position [**God conscious**]

Romans 10:2-3 *having a zeal that is not according to correct knowledge they try to establish their own righteousness.*

Romans 8:6 *to be carnally minded is death.*

Jeremiah 10:23 *the way of man is not in himself.*

Proverbs 14:12 *there is a way that seems right but the end is death.*

Proverbs 28:18 *Whoso walketh uprightly [**exact conformity to the truth**] shall be saved: but he that is perverse in his ways shall fall at once.*

Lesson # 2
God Conscious or Sin Conscious
The Mixture

Sin Conscious: My walk with God is based on my obligation to meet God's standards. It is impossible to do. I am always aware of what I cannot do.

Deuteronomy 28:1-2 If you perform according to this standard you will receive the following blessings.

Deuteronomy 28:15 If you do not perform according to this standard, you will not receive the blessings but will be cursed instead.

Romans 3:19-20 Everyone is guilty according to the standards of the law. No one can become justified by the law. The law increases the awareness of sin.

Romans 7:8-11, 13 the commandments bring to light sin. When sin is magnified, it causes a longing for that which is forbidden. An awareness of sin without the ability to conquer it brings death. It causes a separation from God's ways which bring life.

Romans 7:18 The desire to conquer sin is there, but I do not have the ability to do what I desire to do.

I am sin conscious! It is impossible to achieve freedom from condemnation and guilt.

God Conscious: My walk with God is based on what He has done for me through Jesus. He fulfilled my obligation.

Romans 3:21-22, 24 We are justified freely by His grace.

Hebrews 10:9-10 The first covenant has been replaced with the second and we are sanctified once and for all by Jesus.

Hebrews 10:14, 17 By one sacrifice we are perfected forever. God does not relate to us according to our iniquities.

Hebrews 9:8-14 The Holy Spirit cleanses our consciousness of sin.

Hebrews 10:16 God has written the law in our hearts. We do not have to will ourselves to perform that which we can not. God changes our desires.

Philippians 2:13 He causes me to do that which brings Him pleasure.

Grace-the influence of God upon my heart to change the way I think, and the resulting lifestyle changes that it produces.

Faith Persuasion that you can rely on Christ to produce your salvation.

Salvation Complete well being in every area of your life! Freedom; liberty; healing; soundness of mind; prosperity, Rescue from condemnation.

The real issue is what are we depending on to produce salvation? Are we depending on our will power, or are we depending on God's Spirit? If we depend on our will power, we will be sin conscious. But if we depend on grace, we will become God conscious.

We were born again when we realized that we needed a savior. We came to Jesus with nothing to offer and accepted his provision and salvation for us. For a while we walked content in what he had done for us. But, not long after our born again experience, there came a day when we did something that caused us to feel guilty. We suddenly began to feel like we had nothing to offer God and we did not like it. We began to feel like God was no longer pleased with us and we began to think according to Deuteronomy 28 again. If I do these things, I can expect God to bless me and He will be happy with me, but if I fail to do these things, I cannot expect the blessings of God, and I might even become cursed with a punishment.

At this point, we began to live our lives out of a mixture of the old covenant and the new covenant!

Revelations 3:15-16 *I know thy works, that thou art neither cold nor hot: I would thou wert cold or hot. So then because thou art lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will spue thee out of my mouth.*

God does not want us to become a mixture. If we do not mix grace with the law, it will make us realize that we need a savior. If the law is not mixed with grace, God will be faithful to write His laws in our hearts. But, if grace becomes mixed with the law, neither one of them can fully accomplish that which they were intended to accomplish. With a little grace mixed in with the law, the law will work death in you, but you will have enough encouragement coming from grace that you will not come to the conclusion that you have to totally depend on the savior.

If you mix a little law with grace, grace will bring life to you, but there will always be that little element of death that enters in and keeps you from feeling completely free.

Galatians 2:20, 3:2

When we mix the two, we become double minded and it causes us to walk in frustration. One day we are victorious, the next day we are defeated! This is the plan of the enemy to keep us from experiencing victory the way that God intended us to.

James 1:6-9 A double minded man is unstable. A two spirited man is unstable! That means, a man that is both sin conscious and God conscious at the same time is unstable.

This double minded experience is nearly universal across the body of Christ. Why is this? It is plain to see when we analyze the old covenant that it does not work. Why do we all come to this position?

Acts 13:10 And said, O full of all subtlety and all mischief, *thou* child of the devil, *thou* enemy of all righteousness, wilt thou not cease to pervert the right ways of the Lord?

We have an enemy of righteousness that has distorted our view of who God is and His purpose for man.

2 Timothy 2:25-26 Double mindedness is a snare of the devil. If he can cause us to become double minded, we will become unstable.

Hebrews 3:10 Wherefore I was grieved with that generation, and said, “They do always err in *their* heart; and they have not known my ways.”

Hebrews 3:11 So I swore in my wrath, “They shall not enter into my rest.”

This misinterpretation of God’s ways keeps us from entering into the rest that we all so desperately long for. Let us look at the way we perceive God. Most of us feel like God’s prime objective is to get man to repent from his sins so that an unrighteous, unholy man can have fellowship with a Holy God. God is a God of wrath. If man does not repent, then God will sentence him to eternity in hell. We are “sin conscious.”

Is this the correct perception of God, or has Satan perverted the ways of God?

Definition:

Wrath Strong’s Concordance: a longing toward, excitement of the mind, violent passion. What is God longing for? What is His violent passion?

God is a God of judgment!

Psalms 9:7-8 *But the LORD shall endure for ever: he hath prepared his throne for judgment. 8 He shall judge the world in righteousness, he shall minister judgment to the people in uprightness.*

What does the word judgment mean? Included with the definitions in Strong’s Concordance that we normally associate with judgment is this definition: Divine law. God’s divine law or purpose for man is righteousness. It is not God that brings calamity upon man for disobedience. It is the fact that God’s ways and man’s ways are not the same and man’s ways do not produce salvation and complete well being in all aspects of life like God’s ways do. **Isaiah 55**

Psalms 9:16 The LORD is known *by* the judgment *which* he executeth: the wicked is snared in the work of his own hands.

Matthew 15:13 But he answered and said, Every plant, which my heavenly Father hath not planted, shall be rooted up.

Man's ways are killing him. God wants to rescue him from the wrong ways that are causing destruction in his life.

Isaiah 29:13b Their fear toward me is taught by the precept of men.

Matthew 3:7 But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees come to his baptism, he said unto them, O generation of vipers, who hath warned you to flee from the wrath to come?

The fear we have toward God is a wrong precept. It originated in the garden with the serpent. When Adam and Eve went in a direction that was not according to God's ways, it caused a sense of shame and fear that made them hide from God.

John 3:16 For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.

It is out of God's love for man that he wants to keep man from perishing from the things that are keeping him from experiencing a God quality of life.

John 3:17 For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved.

Condemn 2919 To try, to determine guilt, to punish, to make accusations against, to point out flaws

John 12:47-50 If any man hear my words and believe them not, I judge him not! God's commandment (authoritative prescription) for man is life everlasting. God did not send Jesus to condemn the world. He is not the one that is focused on bringing judgment to us because of our sin. God wants us to instead come to salvation. He wants us to live a life that is free from condemnation. It is his passion to set us free from what is killing us.

John 16:8 And when he is come, he will reprove the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment:

Definition

Reprove 1651: admonish, convict convince

John 16:9 *Of sin, because they believe not on me; 10 Of righteousness, because I go to my Father, and ye see me no more; 11 Of judgment, because the prince of this world is judged.*

The name Satan means accuser. Satan is the judged. But, Satan has flipped the ideas of accusation and judgment. He has us believing that it is God that is condemning us and that we are the ones coming under the judgment of God. He is perverting the right ways of the Lord. He knows that if we see God in this light then we will begin to serve Him out of guilt and fear and it will produce the fruit of the Law and we will walk in sin consciousness.

God is not the one bringing condemnation to us. He is trying to rescue us from the condemnation that comes when we go our own way that is not His way. He knows that our way will kill us. His violent passion is for us to experience a God quality of life and He knows that we cannot enter into the rest of His divine law unless we go His way. He wants to rescue us, not condemn us.

Mark 3:26-29 A house divided can't stand.

Definitions:

Divided 3307-separated in opinion or feeling

Stand 2476-hold up

Mark 3:26 *And if Satan rise up against himself, and be divided, he cannot stand, but hath an end.*

How do we divide Satan? We do it by speaking God's word when he comes in with accusation. How does divide God's house? We divide it when we begin to agree with the words of the adversary that are not in agreement with the word of God.

Mark 3:27 *No man can enter into a strong man's house, and spoil his goods, except he will first bind the strong man; and then he will spoil his house. 28 Verily I say unto you, All sins shall be forgiven unto the sons of men, and blasphemies wherewith soever they shall **blaspheme**: 29 But he that shall blaspheme against the Holy Ghost hath never forgiveness, but is in danger of eternal damnation:*

Definitions:

Blaspheme slander, come against good character say the opposite of that which is true and thus declaring that the Holy Ghost is a liar.

Forgiveness liberty, freedom from condemnation

Damnation Accusation, Condemnation

The Holy Ghost is the one that reveals to you God's ways and how God sees you. He reveals to you what God has freely given you.

1 Corinthians 2:12 *Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the spirit which is of God; that we might know the things that are freely given to us of God.*

If you continually speak opposite what the Holy Ghost is speaking, you will never be free from accusation and condemnation.

This is the tactic that Satan has used from the beginning. Each of the examples below show where man took his mind and confidence off of what God had spoken, and began to trust or not trust in what he could do independently of God.

Genesis 3:1-5 Adam and Eve

God created Adam and Eve in His image. They were like God. But, the enemy convinced them that they could only be like God if they went against the words God had spoken concerning the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. When they agreed with the adversary, they began to walk in condemnation and death or separation from God.

Numbers 13:2, 31-33 Spies and children of Israel-God told them to spy out the land which he had given them. When the spies saw the land, they looked to their ability to be able to conquer the land and realized that they were too weak to take it. The Bible says that they brought back an evil report of unbelief. Evil report means blaspheme or slander. God said they could take the land because He had given it to them. But they were actually calling God a liar when they said that they could not take the land. As soon as the focus came to their ability apart from God's ability, what God had promised became an impossible thing. God said one thing, they said the opposite thing and it divided God's house.

The same tactic was used on Jesus, but Jesus did not waver from the word that God had spoken to Him.

Matthew 3:16, 17 Matthew 4:3 Satan attempted to divide Jesus with the thought "If you are the son of God, prove it." Have you ever heard that?

Acts 13:10 We have an enemy of righteousness that wants to pervert the word of God. God says that His word in us will never come back void but will always accomplish that which He sent it to do. But, if His word becomes perverted, it cannot accomplish what God intended it to. **Isaiah 55**

God wants to set us free, He wants to rescue us from the perverted ways that are killing us. God wants us to enter into what He has done for us. *He wants us to be God Conscious!*

Lesson # 3
The Mystery of the Gospel
God Conscious

1 Corinthians 2:4 *And my speech and my preaching was not with enticing words of man's wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power: 5 That your faith should not stand in the wisdom of men, but in the power of God. 6 Howbeit we speak wisdom among them that are perfect: yet not the wisdom of this world, nor of the princes of this world, that come to nought: 7 But we speak the wisdom of God in a mystery, even the hidden wisdom, which God ordained before the world unto our glory:*

Mystery – Vines-That which can only be known by divine revelation, outside the range of natural understanding, truth revealed to those illuminated by the Spirit

The mystery is connected to coming to an understanding of the things that have freely been given to us of God.

1 Corinthians 2:9 *But as it is written, Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him. 10 But God hath revealed them unto us by his Spirit: for the Spirit searcheth all things, yea, the deep things of God.*

What has God given us?

2 Peter 1:3 *According as his divine power hath given unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of him that hath called us to glory and virtue: 4 Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises: that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust.*

We have been equipped to be a partaker of His nature.

The mystery defined.

Colossians 1:26 *Even the mystery which hath been hid from ages and from generations, but now is made manifest to his saints: 27 To whom God would make known what is the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles; which is Christ in you, the hope of glory: 28 Whom we preach, warning every man, and teaching every man in all wisdom; that we may present every man perfect in Christ Jesus:*

We walk with God in a relational way. It is not a walk whereby we see ourselves as servants, but as heirs.

Romans 8:15 *For ye have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear; but ye have received the Spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, Abba, Father. 16 The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God: 17 And if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ;*

Galatians 4:4 *But when the fulness of the time was come, God sent forth his Son, made of a woman, made under the law, 5 To redeem them that were under the law, that we might receive the adoption of sons. 6 And because ye are sons, God hath sent forth the Spirit of his Son into your hearts, crying, Abba, Father. 7 Wherefore thou art no more a servant, but a son; and if a son, then an heir of God through Christ.*

The mystery involves beginning to see yourself “in Him.” I am one with Him.

Galatians 3:27 *For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ. 28 There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither bond nor free, there is neither male nor female: for ye are all one in Christ Jesus.*

You can see numerous mentions of “The Mystery” in Ephesians, and they all point to unity in Him.

Ephesians 1:4 We were chosen to be “in Him” before the foundations of the world

Ephesians 1:9-10 . . . That he might gather together in one all things in Christ

Ephesians 2:16-22. . . We are like a building, a habitation of God fitly framed together

Ephesians 2:5-6 . . . We sit together in heavenly places in Christ

Ephesians 4:4-12 . . . One faith, one body, one Spirit

Ephesians 4:13. . . Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ:

Ephesians 5:30-33 We are one with Him in the same manner that a husband and wife are one with each other. . . “Bone of His bones, flesh of His flesh.”

We are complete in Him

Colossians 2:9 *For in him dwelleth all the fulness of the Godhead bodily. 10 And ye are complete in him, which is the head of all principality and power:*

We bring Him to His fullness:

Ephesians 1:22 *And hath put all things under his feet, and gave him to be the head over all things to the church, 23 Which is his body, the fulness of him that filleth all in all.*

He has a relationship with us in that we each complete each other. We are His vessel and He is our filling. Without Him we are nothing, and without us, He has no expression.

In Genesis 1 it says that God created everything to bring forth seed after its kind. Then he said, "Let us make man in our image." Let them have dominion and fill the earth with the knowledge of the glory of the Lord.

Ephesians 3:9 *And to make all men see what is the fellowship of the mystery, which from the beginning of the world hath been hid in God, who created all things by Jesus Christ:10 To the intent that now unto the principalities and powers in heavenly places might be known by the church the manifold wisdom of God,*

Manifold: Strong's variegated, multifarious
Dictionary having many parts functioning together as one device

According to Romans 12 and 1 Corinthians 12, God created us as his body and all of us are different parts that work together with him to be a visible expression of God on earth. We have to see ourselves working with Him as a unit.

Jesus was a manifold expression of His father. He was the Word that created, and the flesh that represented the Father. He was His exact representation on earth.

Hebrews 1:3 *Who being the brightness of his glory, and the express image of his person, and upholding all things by the word of his power, when he had by himself purged our sins, sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on high;*

Even the disciples when they asked Jesus to show them the Father were told, "If you have seen me, you have seen my Father.

John 14:6 *Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me. 7 If ye had known me, ye should have known my Father also: and from henceforth ye know him, and have seen him.*

John 14:9 *Jesus saith unto him, Have I been so long time with you, and yet hast thou not known me, Philip? he that hath seen me hath seen the Father; and how sayest thou then, Shew us the Father? 10 Believest thou not that I am in the Father,*

and the Father in me? the words that I speak unto you I speak not of myself: but the Father that dwelleth in me, he doeth the works.

Jesus was called to “Glorify” his Father.

John 17:4 *I have glorified thee on the earth: I have finished the work which thou gavest me to do.*

Glory: According to **Vine’s** Everything that characterizes who God is, what God does is the glory of God.

Glorified: A revelation with a manifestation of the glory of God.

In other words, when Jesus, or any one get a revelation of the glory of God, it flows through them and becomes a visible expression of God’s glory to those around them. The revelation that flows through you causes someone else to get a glimpse of God.

Jesus sent the comforter or Holy Spirit to glorify himself and God. In other words, through the Holy Spirit’s influence, we get a revelation of Jesus and the Father.

John 16:13 *Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak: and he will shew you things to come. 14 He shall glorify me: for he shall receive of mine, and shall shew it unto you. 15 All things that the Father hath are mine: therefore said I, that he shall take of mine, and shall shew it unto you.*

We have been called to do the work that Jesus did. When people see us, they get a revelation of God and of Jesus. We become the visible expression of God.

John 17:18 *As thou hast sent me into the world, even so have I also sent them into the world.*

John 20:21 *Then said Jesus to them again, Peace be unto you: as my Father hath sent me, even so send I you. 22 And when he had said this, he breathed on them, and saith unto them, Receive ye the Holy Ghost: 23 Whose soever sins ye remit, they are remitted unto them; and whose soever sins ye retain, they are retained.*

We are one with Him.

John 17:22 *And the glory which thou gavest me I have given them; that they may be one, even as we are one: 23 I in them, and thou in me, that they may be made perfect in one; and that the world may know that thou hast sent me, and hast loved them, as thou hast loved me.*

You have to get a revelation of the glory that God has called you to before you can pass it on.

John 17:1 *These words spake Jesus, and lifted up his eyes to heaven, and said, Father, the hour is come; glorify thy Son, that thy Son also may glorify thee:*

Jesus came to His glory when He heard the voice that said he was a son well – pleasing to his father. **2 Peter 1:17**

Jesus brought many sons to glory.

Hebrews 2:9 *But we see Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels for the suffering of death, crowned with glory and honour; that he by the grace of God should taste death for every man. 10 For it became him, for whom are all things, and by whom are all things, in bringing many sons unto glory, to make the captain of their salvation perfect through sufferings.*

Our provision comes through the realization that we have been called to glory and honor.

2 Peter 1:3 *According as his divine power hath given unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of him that hath called us to glory and virtue:*

The Pharisees wanted to stone Jesus for saying he and the Father were one.

John 10:30 *I and my Father are one. 31 Then the Jews took up stones again to stone him. 32 Jesus answered them, Many good works have I shewed you from my Father; for which of those works do ye stone me? 33 The Jews answered him, saying, For a good work we stone thee not; but for blasphemy; and because that thou, being a man, makest thyself God.*

It is blasphemy if we can't picture ourselves in the same manner.

Philippians 2:5 *Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus: 6 Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God:*

We are ambassadors of the mystery.

Ephesians 6:19 *And for me, that utterance may be given unto me, that I may open my mouth boldly, to make known the mystery of the gospel.*

Lesson #4
The Mystery of Iniquity
Sin Conscious

God's ways always produce. God wants us to be God conscious and see ourselves the way he sees us. We have an enemy of God's ways.

Acts 13:10 *And said, O full of all subtilty and all mischief, thou child of the devil, thou enemy of all righteousness, wilt thou not cease to pervert the right ways of the Lord?*

A slight inclination to error misleads the whole church!

Galatians 5:4 *Christ is become of no effect unto you, whosoever of you are justified by the law; ye are fallen from grace. 5 For we through the Spirit wait for the hope of righteousness by faith. 6 For in Jesus Christ neither circumcision availeth any thing, nor uncircumcision; but faith which worketh by love. 7 Ye did run well; who did hinder you that ye should not obey the truth? 8 This persuasion cometh not of him that calleth you. 9 A little leaven leaveneth the whole lump.*

Galatians 5:9 **Amp** *A little leaven [a slight inclination to error, or a few false teachers] leavens the whole lump [it perverts the whole conception of faith or misleads the whole church].*

The mystery of iniquity is the perverted mystery of the gospel.

2 Thessalonians 2:7 *For the mystery of iniquity doth already work: . . .*

2 Thessalonians 2:10 *And with all deceivableness of unrighteousness in them that perish; because they received not the love of the truth, that they might be saved.*

Iniquity: violation of the law, unrighteousness, to exert oneself in vain, come to naught, be of no value

Unrighteousness righteousness is everything that defines God's character. The focus is on God. Unrighteousness is the opposite. It defines man's character when the focus is on man.

The message Bible uses the word anarchy in place of iniquity in 2 Thessalonians 2:7. What does anarchy mean? It occurs as no one recognizes the force in power and tries to establish themselves in it's place. There is no organization because each man is out for himself.

The mystery of the gospel involves us seeing ourselves as one with the Father. It involves the concept that we are his body and he is our filling. The mystery of iniquity separates us from God and causes us to see ourselves in a sin conscious manner. The focus is on man a part from God and shame and bondage are the result. It keeps us separated from the power that is our strength and instead the focus is on a form of godliness with no power.

2 Timothy 3:5 *Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof: from such turn away.*

Romans 10:2 *For I bear them record that they have a zeal of God, but not according to knowledge. 3 For they being ignorant of God's righteousness, and going about to establish their own righteousness, have not submitted themselves unto the righteousness of God.*

The enemy comes against our unity or being “one with Him” because that is the source of our strength.

Ephesians 6:12 *For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places.*

Spiritual wickedness Strong's iniquity, to corrupt that which is sound
Corrupt-dictionary-to separate the component parts of the body so that it becomes weak

Ephesians 6:10 *Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might.*

Ephesians 6:10 Amp *In conclusion be strong in the Lord [be empowered through your union with Him]:*

How does he do this? Through deception in such a way that it looks like God's plan.

2 Thessalonians 2:4 *Who opposeth and exalteth himself above all that is called God, or that is worshipped; so that he as God sitteth in the temple of God, shewing himself that he is God.*

We are the temple of God. He shows himself in such a way that we think it is God talking to us. It is very subtle. We would recognize an out and out lie.

He makes us think that his (God's) focus is unrighteousness. When the focus is shifted from God to man and man is responsible for proving that he is worthy for God to favor-it becomes an impossibility. It did not work under the law and it won't work now.

Romans 7:18

He poses as an angel of light. It looks good. It looks like the way to go.

2 Corinthians 11:14 *And no marvel; for Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light. 15 Therefore it is no great thing if his ministers also be transformed as the ministers of righteousness; whose end shall be according to their works.*

For the most part, religion's approach to the gospel is a sin conscious approach. It looks good and sounds right. But, it can not produce what a God conscious approach does because it is a counterfeit.

Matthew 7:13 *Enter ye in at the strait gate: for wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat: 14 Because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it. 15 Beware of false prophets, which come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravening wolves.*

Do they think they are false prophets? I don't think so. When it says they come in sheeps clothing, it means the message looks good!

Matthew 7:16 *Ye shall know them by their fruits. Do men gather grapes of thorns, or figs of thistles? 17 Even so every good tree bringeth forth good fruit; but a corrupt [separate the component parts of a body] tree bringeth forth evil {has a harmful effect} fruit.*

When man's condition becomes the focus of the gospel, the gospel becomes perverted in such a way that the fruit is altered. God wants us to focus on our position, not our condition.

This scripture ties the straight and narrow gate concept together with the idea of preaching a sin conscious gospel.

Isaiah 29:20 *For the terrible one is brought to nought, and the scorner is consumed, and all that watch [Be on the lookout] for iniquity[unrighteousness} are cut off: 21 That make a man an offender for a*

word, and lay a snare for him that reproveth [to be right, correct] in the gate, and turn aside the just for a thing of nought [worthless, vain, having no capability of producing].

It all becomes connected as we read the next scripture.

Galatians 3:2 *This only would I learn of you, Received ye the Spirit by the works of the law, or by the hearing of faith? 3 Are ye so foolish? having begun in the Spirit, are ye now made perfect by the flesh?*

We have been deceived with unrighteousness! But, we think that it is the right way because we believe that it has come from God.

2 Thessalonians 2:10 *And with all deceivableness of unrighteousness in them that perish; because they received not the love of the truth, that they might be saved. 11 And for this cause God shall send them strong delusion, that they should believe a lie:*

Our concept of how we know God plays itself out in our lives. God did not send the delusion, but we think what we know came from God so it becomes reality or truth to us.

Romans 1:18 *For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who hold the truth in unrighteousness; 19 Because that which may be known of God is manifest in them; for God hath shewed it unto them.*

And the fruit of our false belief is. . . .

2 Thessalonians 2:12 *That they all might be damned [experience condemnation, a calling into question] who believed not the truth, but had pleasure in unrighteousness.*

How do we combat this?

2 Thessalonians 2:7 *For the mystery of iniquity doth already work: only he who now letteth will let, until he be taken out of the way. 8 And then shall that Wicked be revealed, whom the Lord shall consume with the spirit of his mouth, and shall destroy with the brightness of his coming: 9 Even him, whose coming is after the working of Satan with all power and signs and lying wonders,*

You can read this and say that it is pertaining to the second coming, but it says that the enemy can hinder until he is taken out of the way or consumed with the spirit of his mouth [**what has God said**] and the brightness [**manifestation**] of his coming [**being near, presence**]. As you begin to recognize truth and draw near to God's presence-become God conscious-the enemy loses his power to influence you.

Matthews 15:13 *But he answered and said, Every plant, which my heavenly Father hath not planted, shall be rooted up.*

Lesson # 5 Revealed by the Spirit

THE HOLY SPIRIT REVEALS CHRIST IN YOU

2 Peter 1:2-4 We are given promises that enable us to be *partakers of His divine nature*

Ephesians 1:2-14

1:13 Sealed with the Holy Spirit of Promise

Definition:

Sealed 4973: to *stamp* (with a signet or private mark) for security or preservation, (as *fencing* in or protecting from misappropriation)

Promise 1860: Divine Assurance of Good

Ephesians 3:4-5 The Mystery of the Gospel (Christ in me the hope of glory, Colossians 1:27) is revealed to us by the Holy Spirit.

Definition:

Glory doxa Vines Manifested revelation of all that God is and has-manifested and revealed according to the true nature of God

The glory of God and the righteousness of God are synonymous.

Acts 13:10 We have an enemy of righteousness that perverts the right ways of the Lord. Since the Mystery of the Gospel is made known to us by the Holy Spirit, it makes sense to suspect that Satan has perverted the role of the Holy Spirit. Why after years of walking as Christians with the Holy Spirit residing inside of them, most Christians know very little about their true identity in Christ?

It is difficult to spot a perversion unless you know the truth. Let us first search the scriptures to discover what the word says about the role of the Holy Spirit.

JESUS WAS CALLED TO MANIFEST THE FATHER

John 17:4, 6 I have finished the work you have called me to do. Jesus glorified the Father. He was such a clear picture of His Father that when His disciples asked Jesus to show them the Father, Jesus said, "If you have seen me, you have seen the Father."

Acts 10:38 God anointed Jesus with the Holy Ghost, and Jesus went about doing the work of His Father. It was very evident that God was with Him. According to

Luke 3:22 Jesus became aware that He was a son that pleased His Father when the Holy Ghost came upon Him.

2 Peter 1:17 says that it was at this point that Jesus walked in the honor and glory of the Father. **Hebrews 2:10** says that Jesus brought us to that same glory.

THE HOLY SPIRIT MANIFESTS JESUS

John 16:13-15 The Holy Spirit perfectly reveals the Son, and the Father to us. Why? It is through the revelation of the Spirit that we in turn can perfectly manifest the Father and the Son to those around us. **John 17:18; John 20:21-23** We are God's representation on earth through the revelations of the Holy Spirit.

Acts 1:5, 8 You shall be baptized with the Holy Ghost and power

Definition:

Baptize 911 to stain, to cover wholly, whelm

Whelm dictionary- To cover completely; to immerse deeply, to cover by immersion in something that envelops on all sides;

Definition:

What is a witness? 3144: Martyr, record, someone who gives evidence after seeing or hearing something

We are equipped by the Holy Spirit to be a "living record" or living manifestation of God.

Definition:

Manifestation 602: Vines, n. The act of disclosing what is secret, unseen or obscure; discovery to the eye or to the understanding; the exhibition of any thing by clear evidence;

Matthew 10:8 Freely you have received, freely give

We can't give or manifest what we have not realized we have received.

1 Corinthians 2:9-12

1Corinthians 2:12 Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the spirit which is of God; that we might know the things that are freely given to us of God.

John 17:22-24 It is God's plan that we see ourselves as one with Him. The Holy Spirit quickens that concept to us so that we can pass it on to those we encounter.

2 Corinthians 3:15-18 Through the Holy Spirit, the veil that has kept us from seeing our relationship with God according to truth is lifted and we begin to assume the role of being one with Him and His glory becomes our glory.

2Peter 1:2 Grace and peace be multiplied unto you through the knowledge of God, and of Jesus our Lord,
A correct knowledge of God causes the influence of God in our life to increase. The Holy Spirit is instrumental in revealing truth to us.

John 16:13; John 14:17

The Holy Spirit causes us to discern between that which brings life from that which does not. The things that are rooted in the righteousness of God reproduce in like manner. But, those things that are not rooted in Him are rooted up.

Matthew 3:11-12; Luke 3:9,17; Matthew 7:13-19;
Matthew 15:13

2Peter 1:3 According as his divine power hath given unto us all things that *pertain* unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of him that hath called us to glory and virtue: It is through the knowledge that we have been called to glory and virtue that we can begin to accept the things that God has given to us.

The Holy Spirit is the instrumentation that brings all of these things about.

2Peter 1:4 Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises: that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust.

Lust is centered around those things we want, but can't have. The law works on this premise. We want to be like God, but the harder we try according to human ability, the more it distances us from what we can't achieve. The Holy Spirit is the instrumentation of God's grace that ushers in the promises that allow us to partake of God's nature. **Romans 5:17**

Listed below are the operations of the Holy Spirit that gives us all things that pertain to life and Godliness that allows us to partake of His divine nature.

HE IS THE COMFORTER THAT BRINGS PEACE:

John 14:16-17; 15:26-27

Definition:

Comforter-3875: Consoler, advocate (to speak favor of something)

Comforter (someone who relieves the anxieties of another) intercessor (someone who pleads on another's behalf)

CONVINCES YOU OF RIGHTEOUSNESS

Galatians 5:5; Romans 14:17; John 15:7-10; Ephesians 5:9

BRINGS INTIMACY

1 Corinthians 13:14

Communion (fellowship 2842: intimacy, intercourse) of the Holy Ghost with you.

John 17:22-23; Philemon 6; John 17:3

REVEALS GOD'S LOVE FOR US:

Romans 5:5 Love of God is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Ghost

Definition:

Shed abroad 1632 pour forth, gush out, run greedily, bestow

COMMUNICATES THE MIND OF GOD

Mark 13:11; 1 Corinthians 2:16, 14:14; Romans 8:6

Matthew 1:18 Mary conceived by Spirit

COMMUNICATES PEACE AND HOPE

Romans 15:13 Abound in hope through the power of the Holy Ghost

BRINGS FORTH FRUIT

Galatians 5:22 Fruit of the Spirit

Ephesians 5:9

GIFTS OF THE SPIRIT

1 Corinthians 12:4-9; 2 Peter 1:4

Baptism of Holy Spirit

OVERCOMING POWER/GOD CONSCIOUS

1 John 4:4 Greater is He who is in you than He who is in the world
God has made you the master of every other power in the world

Hebrews 9:14 Purge conscience from dead works

KEEPS US FROM FALLING:

Jude 20, 21, 24; But ye, beloved, building up yourselves on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Ghost, Keep yourselves in the love of God, looking for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ unto eternal life.

Jude 1: 24 Now unto him that is able to keep you from falling, and to present *you* faultless before the presence of his glory with exceeding joy,

2 Timothy 1:12-14-Keep that good thing that was committed to you by the Holy Ghost

1 Corinthians 14:2; Romans 8:26

REVELATION KNOWLEDGE

1 Corinthians 2:7-11; Revelations 21:10; Acts 21:11;

Joel 2:28-30

THE GIFT OF THE HOLY GHOST IS GOD HIMSELF IN YOU EQUIPING YOU WITH HIS POWER AND MIND

Part 2 The Perversion

If the job of the Holy Spirit is to reveal who we are in Christ and to reveal the true nature of God, why has it not influenced us more? Why is it that we are so ignorant in that area? It is because we have been trained to listen to the wrong voice.

The ministry of the Holy Spirit has been twisted!

The Mystery of Iniquity with all deceivableness of unrighteousness has perverted the right ways of the Lord. **Acts 13:10**

2 Timothy 3:5 Having a form of godliness, but denying the power

The Holy Spirit is the comforter. Satan is sitting as God in the temple making us think that his voice is the voice of God. The name Satan means (accuser) and Satan presents lies opposite of the true voice of God in the way of accusations and condemnation. While the Holy Spirit points us to the righteousness of God in us, Satan points us to our unrighteousness.

Most people have been led to believe that self-doubt, self condemnation, feelings of unworthiness, and conviction for individual sins are the work of the Holy Spirit.

The devil's favorite tool, religion, has done a great job of convincing the body of Christ that the Holy Spirit is the source that is pointing out all of their flaws and faults. You can not find one scripture that supports that view. The Holy Spirit is always pointing to who we are in Christ. He never singles us out and points out

individual faults. The truth is, it's your heart or, more specifically, your conscience that is condemning you, not God. That is not the work of the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit is never the source of any of your guilt or condemnation. He is not the One that makes you feel bad when you sin.

Your conscience is the part of you that condemn you. And, if you are feeling unworthy it's almost impossible to receive from God!

Galatians 5:7-9 It is not God that is criticizing you

1 John 3:19-21

Your heart can condemn you even though God is not condemning you. If your heart condemns you-it affects the confidence you have towards God.

Hebrews 10:35 Confidence toward God = great recompense of reward.

Definition:

Recompense 3405 requital (payment in like kind)

If you are led by guilt according to the Old Testament, you will not have the confidence that you can expect God to bless you. You will be sin conscious and if you are not expecting God to bless you because you are unworthy, you will receive according to your expectations. Most Christians know that God can answer their prayers, but because of their performance, they don't have confidence that He will. They believe that the feelings of guilt are coming from the Holy Spirit.

We have been deceived with lies opposite of the truth to keep us from receiving the gift of righteousness and reigning in victory through Jesus Christ.

Romans 5:17 For if by one man's offence death reigned by one; much more they which receive abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness shall reign in life by one, Jesus Christ.

1 Timothy 1:19 Shipwreck

Our conscience is not something we can or should ignore; it can be trained for our benefit, but it is not the Holy Spirit. The best way to deal with the conscience is to, as much as possible, not give it any occasion against us. It can't condemn you if you don't give it a reason to; however, no one lives a perfect life and ultimately you've got to purge your conscience from dead works.

Hebrews 10:22 Draw near (by focusing on His work) with full assurance having your hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience.

Hebrews 9:14 How much more shall the blood of Christ through the Holy Spirit purge our conscience from dead works?

Hebrews 4:12-16 come boldly to the throne of grace-The Word of God is powerful. The Accuser wants us to hide in condemnation. God wants us to run to Him in the midst of our failures so that He can set us free.

Through the mystery of iniquity the ministry of the Holy Spirit has been twisted to be the opposite of God's intention. Jesus calls the Holy Spirit the Comforter-not the afflicter. The ministry of the Holy Spirit is not one of condemnation but of comfort-revealing the nature of God.

Jesus knew that the ministry of the Holy Spirit would be twisted! Therefore, He explained it very clearly what the job of the Spirit was to do.

John 16:8-10-The Holy Spirit **convicts** us when we aren't trusting God to take care of our needs.

He is the most important and powerful figure in your life. You will never be able to correctly relate to God until you understand the ministry of the Holy Spirit Correctly. **Acts 26:18** to open their eyes and to turn them from darkness to light and from the power of Satan unto God that they might receive forgiveness of sins and inheritance.

Lesson # 6 What Does it Take to Be God Conscious?

What does it take to be God conscious rather than sin conscience? The number one problem Christians have is being double minded. They all want to discover that one thing that will end the roller coaster life. Knowing who you are in Christ is vital. Knowing how the enemy is affecting you is vital.

Romans 8:6-8 To be carnally minded is death, but to be spiritually minded is life and peace.

What is it going to take to finally find peace that we can walk in and live in?

2 Corinthians 10:3 We walk in the flesh but we do not war **(To contend with carnal inclinations)** after the flesh. What does it take to get away from fighting the fight I can't win?

Romans 8:4 How do you walk after the Spirit?

God created man in His image to bring forth after His kind. God created with the Word -and He breathed His Spirit into man

Genesis 2:7

The Spiritual man is defined by God's word and is filled with God's Spirit. God created man to bring forth after God's kind in Spirit and in Truth.

A mutation in God's seed or kind occurred! The word and the Spirit became compromised!

The carnal mind is led by the mind, will and emotions and tempered with circumstances. It all began in the garden.

God's ways and man's ways are not the same. The tree of life and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil represent the Spirit and carnal natures.

Genesis 3:15 To Satan: I will put enmity between your seed and the seed of the woman.

Genesis 3:16 In sorrow you will bring forth of an earthen vessel. We are products of an earthen vessel. You will duplicate your kind-the kind after the flesh or carnal nature.

Genesis 3:17-19 The propensity to do for ourselves even though it does not produce comes from this carnal nature.

God had to preserve His seed, His way, and when the seed became corrupted or changed, it could not produce the same.

The seed no longer produced after the Father's kind, but instead it produced after the flesh kind.

Woman gain their sense of value from their family and their husbands. Yet, without God it is not enough. Men gain their sense of value from their job, and yet their labor is insufficient to produce what they are looking for.

John 4:23-24 The hour is coming when true worshippers shall worship the Father in Spirit and in truth. God is a spirit and they that worship Him must worship Him in Spirit and in truth.

Ephesians 2:1-10 you hath he quickened in Christ who were dead in trespasses and sins

Trespasses 3900 From G3895; a *side slip (lapse or deviation)*, that is, (unintentional) *error* or (willful) *transgression*: - fall, fault, offence, sin, trespass.

Quickened in Christ made alive together again in Him

What does it take to know that God is with you? You must be made alive together again in Him in Spirit and in truth according to His workmanship.

John 3:1-2 What does it take to know that God is with you?

John 3:3-6 Jesus is answering the question that Nicodemus really asked. You must be born again.

Definition:

Born 1080: procreate of the Father, regenerate, and conceive

You must have a change of nature and that will only come when you have been birthed by the Spirit and the water, or the word of God. These two must unite.

In the physical, we are defined by the union of a sperm and an egg. But, we are also shaped by our environment. So it is in the Spirit. All who call upon the name of the Lord have the Spirit active inside of them. **Acts 2:17, 38-39**

Birth alone does not define a person. The environment plays a vital part in defining a real person. The word is the environment that defines a Christian. Everyone that has called upon the name of Jesus has the Spirit of God residing inside of them. But everyone that has been born again has not experienced the definition of salvation in their life. Why? It takes the environment of the word to fertilize and activate the Spirit.

John 6:63 It is the spirit that quickeneth; the flesh profiteth nothing: the words that I speak unto you, *they* are spirit, and *they* are life.

Everyone has asked the question: How do I access the Spirit? How do I walk in that place? How do I fight the battle if I cannot access my Spirit by my flesh? Even after all the revelation I have received concerning the function of the Holy Spirit, I had to ask myself one day, "Why am I not seeing more of the effect of the Holy Spirit's work in my life?"

The environment of the Spiritual word is shaped by the word. The physical man is driven by his natural senses, his emotions, and his circumstances.

The Spiritual man is driven or shaped by the word. The Spirit can only be accessed by the word!

John 6:63 It is the spirit that quickeneth; the flesh profiteth nothing: the words that I speak unto you, *they* are spirit, and *they* are life.

Romans 12:2 Be transformed by the renewing of your mind (according to the word)

James 1:18, 21 The engrafted (**germinated**) word will save your soul

James 1:22-25 I am defined by looking in the mirror of God's word. A doer of the word does not forget what he sees in that mirror.

James 1:26 My walk will come to destruction or turmoil if I do not stick to the word that defines me spiritually. I am not safe unless I am word defined!

The old man is defined and limited by his five senses and his circumstances. The new man is defined by the word. Satan wants to steal your identity! He does it by trying to steal the word which defines you!

Hebrews 10:32 Great fight of affliction

Mark 4:15 He comes immediately to steal the word

Paul had a life-giving revelation from God, but he too was subject to the enemy.

2 Corinthians 12:7 And lest I should be exalted above measure through the abundance of the revelations, there was given to me a thorn in the flesh, the messenger of Satan to buffet me, lest I should be exalted above measure.

Remember where the concept of thorns came from? It was in Genesis chapter three. Thorns are the result of focusing on man's strength apart from God. Paul was continually shifted by Satan. He knew that he was weak in His flesh and Satan continually reminded him of his weaknesses. Paul did not like his weakness any more than we do.

2 Corinthians 12:8-9 For this thing I besought the Lord thrice, that it might depart from me. 9 My grace is sufficient for thee. My strength is made perfect in weakness. Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me. God had to remind Paul that it was His grace that made Paul strong. His sufficiency depended upon God.

We have had the same fight with the enemy. We hate feeling weak. We want to feel like we have something to offer God besides weakness. But in the same manner that God spoke to Paul, He says, "My grace is sufficient" because it is what really defines you, not the strength of your flesh. The flesh separated from me according to performance is always weak and will always come up short without my grace.

Anytime the focus is on the flesh, weakness appears. Don't focus on the vessel. Focus on the treasure in the vessel.

It is the word of God that defines the Spiritual man. Although we walk in the flesh, it is not the work of our flesh, but the work of God within us that brings us victory. We must be God conscious and we become God conscious through the Word.

The Word that Brings Life

Part 2

2 Peter 1:3-4 His divine power has given me all things that pertain to life and godliness! I am a partaker of His nature by promise.

2 Peter 1:8-9 If I lack anything, I have forgotten the word that defines me. I am defined by what God has done for me, not by what I do for God. The Holy Spirit lives in me. I am made alive together again with Him and His word issues forth everything.

1 Corinthians 11:24-32 Communion

1 Corinthians 11:28 examine (**approve-test**) yourself

His divine power has given me all things that pertain to life and godliness and according to Hebrews 10:14 He has perfected me forever!

1 Corinthians 11:29 whoso drinketh unworthily drinketh damnation (condemnation)

If I allow myself to examine myself based on my merits according to the flesh nature, Satan will always be able to keep me in a state of condemnation. The only way I can drink unworthily is if I begin to examine myself apart from who I am in Christ.

2 Peter 1:9 He that lacketh hath forgotten-We are only unworthy when we try to do it of ourselves!

2 Peter 1:12, 13, 15

Remember! His Power!

1 Corinthians 11:30 Many are weak. Why? They are trying to provide for themselves. If your walk with Christ is based on your skill and ability to exert your will power to produce a fruitful life, you will become weak and worn out. You will become tired. It is impossible to live the Christian life according to the law.

Romans 10:2-3 Submit to His righteousness!

1 Corinthians 11:31 -32 Judge yourselves!

Definition:

Judge 1252: Withdraw from

God does not want you to be condemned with the standard that the world is condemned with! Unless you submit to His righteousness and the way He sees you,

you will walk in continual accusation and a sense of lack and falling short of the mark.

Romans 8:33-34 Who shall lay any charge against God's elect? It is God that justified us.

1 Corinthians 11:33 Tarry (*accept, expect*) for one another

2 Peter 1:12, 12, 15 Remind each other that He has provided what we need! You can't access it in the flesh. Wait on His Spirit and His truth!

Galatians 5:1 Stand fast therefore in the liberty wherewith Christ hath made us free, and be not entangled again with the yoke of bondage.

Galatians 5:4 Christ is become of no effect unto you, whosoever of you are justified by the law; ye are fallen from grace.

This doesn't mean you have lost your position with God-it means you are not depending on God

John 15:5-7 Abide in Him and you can ask (*expect that which has been provided*)

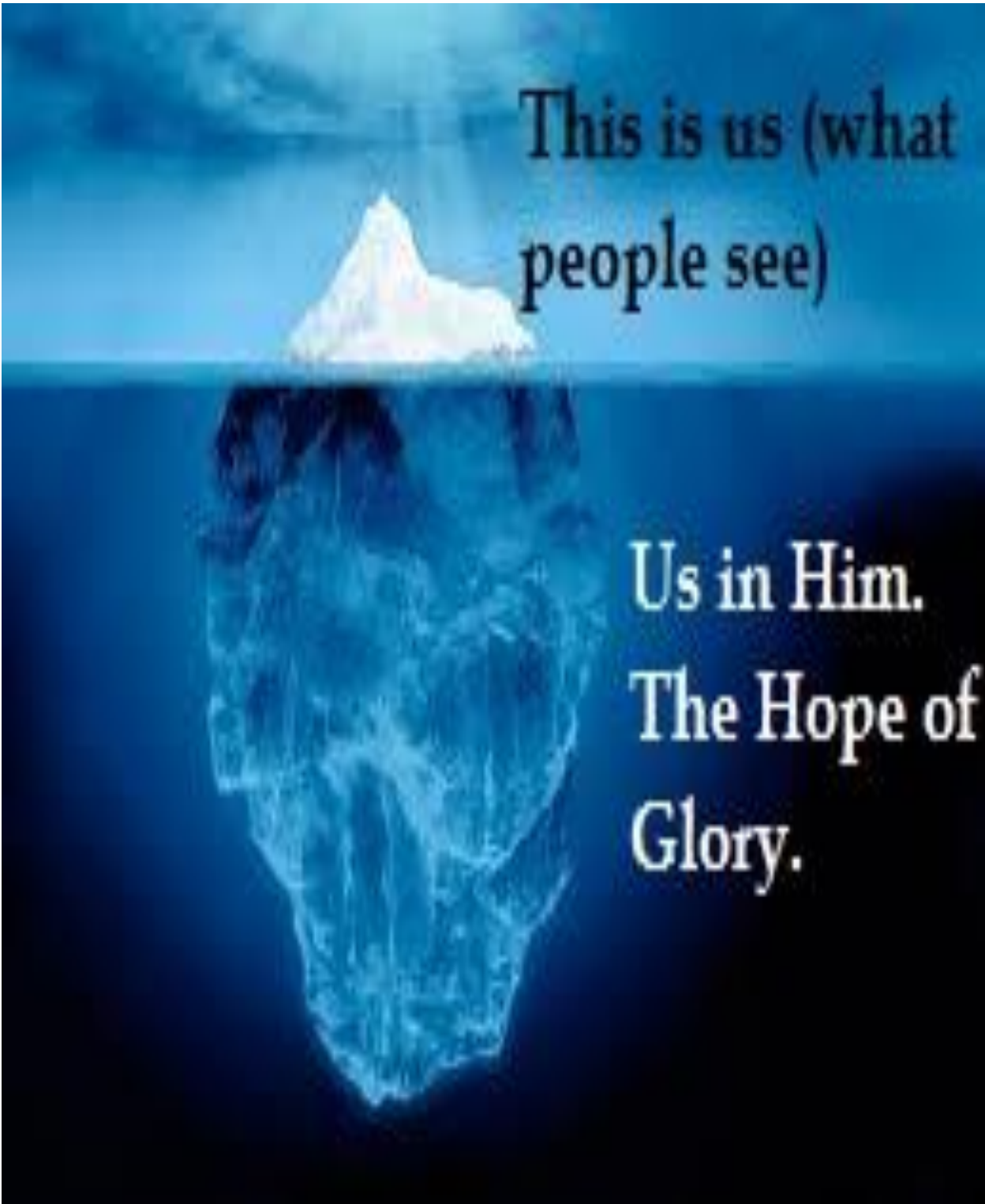
Definition:

Ask Strong's 154: ask, beg, call for, crave, desire, require. Compare G4441.

4441 to *question*, that is, *ascertain* by inquiry (as a matter of *information* merely; and *thus differing from G154, which is strictly a demand of something due*;

Putting this all together, it means that if our zeal toward Him is according to a correct knowledge and our expectation is in Him, we can *expect or make a draw on that which He has already provided.*

James 1:22-25 Be a doer of the word! *Remember! His divine power has provided everything that pertains to life and Godliness.*



This is us (what
people see)

Us in Him.
The Hope of
Glory.

Lesson # 7
Armed with His Nature

Isaiah 59:16-21 *His arm brought salvation unto him; and his righteousness, it sustained him. When the enemy shall come in like a flood, the Spirit of the LORD shall lift up a standard against him.*

Definition:

Arm 2220: help, mighty, power, shoulder, strength

Sustained 5564: hold up, rest, stand fast, establish

Standard 5127: escape, deliver

It is through God's strength and power that we receive everything. It is God's righteousness that establishes us and brings us to a position of rest. His divine power delivers us from every attack of the enemy.

We have an enemy of righteousness. Because it is the word of God that supplies our power, the enemy comes in like a flood to challenge the word. **Mark 4:15** He desires to sift us like wheat. **Luke 22:31** The sifting takes place in the form of mental conflicts between the word (the Spirit) and our circumstances and emotions (the flesh).

When this begins to take place, we often try to combat the conflict by our human ability. Our flesh with its human frailties cannot resolve the conflict. **Romans 8:6-8**

2 Corinthians 10:3 For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war after the flesh:
4 The weapons of our warfare *are* not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds;

Definition:

War 4754: Contend with carnal inclinations

Mighty 1415: powerful, capable

Pulling down 2506: destroying

Strong holds 3794: arguments, castles (castle-builder-one who forms visionary schemes- impressions on the imagination).

2 Corinthians 10:5 Casting down *imagination*s, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ;

How do we contend with carnal inclinations? How do we eliminate the thoughts that we have that come against the knowledge of God? How do we deal with the enemy that comes in like a flood?

We do not do it with our natural strength. It can not be done with will power. The weapons of the flesh are useless. It is His divine power in us that casts down the imaginations that come against the knowledge of God.

2 Corinthians 10:6 And having in a readiness to revenge all disobedience, when your obedience is fulfilled.

Definition:

Revenge: retaliate, vindicate, punish

Vindicate-Dictionary to defend with success

Fulfilled 4137: finish, accomplish, complete, satisfy

Our obedience has been fulfilled through the obedience of Jesus.

Hebrews 5:8-9 *Though he were a Son, yet learned he obedience by the things which he suffered; 9 And being made perfect, he became the author of eternal salvation unto all them that obey him;*

2 Corinthians 10:17-18 But *he that glorieth, let him glory in the Lord.*

For not he that commendeth himself is approved (accepted) but whom the Lord commendeth.

Definition:

Glorieth 2744: boasts

Commendeth himself 4921: set together himself, accepted because of one's own actions

We are enabled by the power of God that resides within us. I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me! **Philippians 4:13**

Matthew 6:33 Everything evolves out of His Righteousness and being able to use it skillfully. **Hebrews 5:12-14** When we become skillful in righteousness, we are partaking of "strong meat."

Definition:

Strong 4731: solid, stable, steadfast, sure

Meat 5160: nourishment, food

When we become skillful in His righteousness, we are nourished with the kind of food that makes us strong and stable. It is Christ in you, that brings you the hope of walking in His glory. **Colossians 1:27**

Hebrews 4:10-16 Rest from your works let the Word do the work.
Enter into what He has done for you!

Ephesians 6:10-13

Ephesians 6:10 Be strong in the Lord, and *in the power of His* might. 11 Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.

Definition:

Wiles 3880: deceit, mind games, cunning device (Behavior intended to persuade somebody to do something through insincere flattery or charm.)

Ephesians 6:12 For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high *places*.

We are not fighting a “flesh and blood battle.” Flesh tactics will not work!

Ephesians 6:13 Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand.

Definition:

Withstand 436: oppose, resist, stand against

Stand 2476: establish, abide

What do we have to do in order to stand? We are instructed to put on God’s amour! Arm yourselves with God! It is His power, His righteousness, His faith, His word, His glory that we arm ourselves with. It is His battle!

Deuteronomy 20:1-4 Do not be afraid in the day of battle when it seems as though the enemy has the advantage over you. It is the Lord that goes with you to fight the battle.

Weapons of His Warfare:

HIS TRUTH:

Ephesians 6:14 having your Loins gird with truth

Definition:**Loins 3751:** procreative power

In the natural, man reproduces sexually from the area of his loins. In the Spirit we reproduce God's way according to spoken words that are in line with His ways. Fortify your mouth with the truth according to the Word of God. **Hebrews 11:3**

John 8:32 You shall know the truth and the truth shall set you free

HIS RIGHTEOUSNESS:

Ephesians 6:14 Breastplate of righteousness-His righteousness protects us in our vital areas – we guard our heart with His Righteousness.

Philippians 3:9 Having the faith of Christ and the Righteousness of God.

Isaiah 54:14-15 *In righteousness thou shall be established* **2**

Corinthians 6:7 armor of righteousness on the right and on the left.

When the enemy comes in like a flood by causing us to focus on our righteousness, which has failed, we can counter the attack by saying, "It does not depend on my righteousness, it depends on His righteousness. I am armed with the breastplate of His righteousness." Nothing can penetrate the shield of His righteousness!

HIS PEACE

Ephesians 6:15 Feet shod with the preparation of the Gospel of peace

Luke 2:14 Peace good will toward men.

Definition:

Preparation 2091: firm footing, foundation

Peace 1515: *to set at one again, prosperity, quietness*

We walk on solid ground when our feet are firmly planted in the idea that God is not angry with us. He is not relating to us according to our iniquities. Our relationship with Him has been restored by Jesus. We are set at one with Him again. His commandment, His desire for us is eternal life and salvation. He wants us to rest in Him. **Hebrews 10:17; John 3:16-17; John 12:47-50**

HIS FAITH:

Ephesians 6:16-Shield of Faith

Definition:

Faith-4102: (3982) Persuasion, of reliance on Christ, of God's truthfulness

Every dart that the enemy throws at us is harmless when we are persuaded that we depend on Christ to lift up a standard against the enemy. Everything we need that pertains to life and godliness comes from His divine power. **2 Peter 1:3** It is His battle! It is His faith! He even provides the faith that I need in order to be persuaded!

HIS DEFENSE:

Ephesians 6:17 Helmet of Salvation

Definition:

Salvation 4992 soterion: defender

Most of the time when we read the word salvation in the New Testament, it comes from the Greek word sozo. This one is different! A helmet is designed to protect the head from injury because the head is vital to survival. Arm yourself with His helmet. He is my defender! You cannot survive if you do not understand this concept!

HIS WORD:

Ephesians 6:17-Sword of the Spirit which is the word of God. What has God said?

Matthew 4:3-10 Jesus fought with "It is written."

Romans 3:4 Let God's word be **true** and every man a **liar**.

1 Samuel 17:38, 40, 45 Saul's armor of the world was not of value in a Spiritual conflict. David came armed with the word of the Lord!

We have a weapon to fight with! We don't have to just stand and defend ourselves from the darts of the enemy. We have the power to make him flee! Satan is the enemy of righteousness. Satan wants to pervert God's word because it is the word of God that sets us free.

James 4:7

HIS BODY:

Ephesians 6:18 Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, (In the position of, resting in, instrumentally) and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints;

We are a body and a body takes care of itself.

1 Corinthians 12:25-27

Put the body in remembrance that the Battle is His. We are armed with His nature, His righteousness, His glory, His word!

Zechariah 4:6-7 The mountain in your life is removed not by might, not by power, but by His Spirit!

Lesson # 8 Go and Take Dominion

Psalms 145:13 Thy kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, and thy dominion endures throughout all generations.

Genesis 1:12 The earth brings forth seed everything after its kind.

Genesis 1:21-22 Everything brings forth abundantly after its kind.

God said, “let us make man in our image to bring forth after our kind.”

Genesis 1:27 God created man in His own image

Genesis 1:31 God said it is good

Genesis 2:25 Man was naked and unashamed

God created man in such a manner that he was not complete of himself.

Psalms 91:1-4 Man was created to be covered by the image of God and to abide under the umbrella of God’s truth.

Genesis 1:26 According to **Psalms 145:14**, God’s kingdom and His dominion will last forever. Man was created to bring forth after God’s kind. Man was created to take dominion according to God’s kind over the earth.

Definition:

Dominion 7287: Sovereign or supreme authority; the power of governing and controlling.

Gen 1:28 God said, “Be *fruitful* and *multiply*, and *replenish* the earth, and *subdue* it:

Definition:

Multiply 7235: increase in whatever respect, be in authority

Replenish 4390: fill, fulfill, satisfy, accomplish, furnish

Subdue 3533: conquer, bring into subjection

God crowned man with His own honor and glory.

Habakkuk 2:14 For the earth shall be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the LORD, as the waters cover the sea.

He created man in His own image to multiply Himself and to furnish the earth with His presence. God designed man to take dominion over the work of His hands.

Psalms 8:4-8: God made man a little lower than *angels*, crowned him with *glory* and *honor*, made him to have *Dominion* over the work of *His hands*, and put *all things* under his *feet*.

Definitions:

Angels: God (gods) In the Greek, the tense suggests that man was made a little lower than himself-for a time-the time when Jesus could fulfill man according to the word.

John 10:34-35 *He called them gods to whom the word came* and the scriptures can't be broken.

Hebrews 1:3 Who being the brightness of *his* glory, and the express image of his person, *and upholding all things by the word* of his power..

In order to have a clear understanding of this, we must go back and review some concepts from the chapter on The Mystery of the Gospel. The work that Jesus was called to do was to glorify the Father. **John 17:4** He only did what the Father told Him to do. He did nothing of himself. He clearly manifested the Father. Jesus said, "When you have seen me, you have seen the Father." **John 14:7** Jesus was an exact representation of the Father because the Father's word in Him was pure. We too have been called to the work of glorifying the Father. **John 17:18** We are manifold expressions of God. Our job is to clearly manifest Jesus to those around us. When we manifest Jesus, we will have also manifested the Father. Those we glorify the Father to will be able to say that because they saw us, they saw the Father. The manifestation of Jesus through us can only be as accurate as the Word of God that is in us. If the word in us is or becomes distorted, the seed that was meant to fill the earth with the knowledge of the glory of the Lord will become compromised and it will not bring forth after God's kind. At this point it will be blasphemy to say we and the Father are one. **John 10:30-35**

God injected or breathed Himself into man.

Genesis 2:7 And the LORD God formed man *of* the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul.

God created Adam and Eve after His image to bring forth after His kind, but the seed became compromised and could not reproduce God's kind.

False Grain

Psalms 82:5-6 The foundations are out of course. He called men Gods, but because the foundations are out of course, they will die like men.

Satan had no power over this creation, but he saw the possibility of gaining the dominion that God had given to man for himself. Satan saw that he could dominate man if he could separate man from God.

Isaiah 14:13-14 Satan exalted himself above the throne of God and said, "I will be like the most high." Satan wanted to walk in the dominion that God had given to man. It was man that was created "like the most high" not Satan. Satan is a deceiver that perverts the ways of the Lord. **Acts 13:10**

Genesis 2:17 In the day you partake of the earthly, you will become separated from me.

Genesis 3:5 Satan simply twisted the words of God. "For God doth know that in the day ye eat thereof, then your eyes shall be opened, and *ye shall be as gods*, knowing good and evil.

Satan twists the truth and when false seed is planted, it cannot bear fruit according to the truth.

Matthew 13:24-25 *The kingdom of heaven is like a man which sowed good seed in his field: 25 While men slept, his enemy came and sowed tares among the wheat, and went his way.*

Isaiah 14:20 The seed of evil doers shall never be renown

Definition:

Tares 2215: false grain

Genesis 3:9-11 Who told you you were naked?

Condemnation is the tool that Satan uses to prevent man from seeing himself as a God kind. It keeps man from assuming the role that he was created for.

Isaiah 14:17 The power of darkness desires captives

God has not changed His plan

Isaiah 45:2 He makes the crooked straight

Daniel 7:27 *And the kingdom and dominion, and the greatness of the kingdom under the whole heaven, shall be given to the people of the saints of the most High, whose kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, and all dominions shall serve and obey him.*

1 John 3:8-10 He that commits sin is of the devil; for the devil sinneth from the beginning. For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that he might destroy the works of the devil.

Colossians 2:14-15 Jesus spoiled principalities and powers and blotted out the accusations against us.

Definition:

Spoiled 554: To strip of clothes, arms or equipage; to undress

Jesus did to Satan what Satan did to Adam and Eve. Satan's perversion of God's way caused Adam and Eve become separated from God and that separation caused a sense of nakedness. The work of the cross brings light to the truth of God's word, and unveils the perversion that brought man to a sense of nakedness. The truth causes Satan becomes naked and exposed. **John 16:8-11**

Luke 4:18, Isaiah 61:1-3 I have come to set the captives free.

Colossians 1:13 He has delivered us from the power of darkness and hath translated us into the kingdom of his dear Son.

2 Peter 1:17 Jesus came to glory when he heard the voice, "This is my beloved son in whom I am well pleased!" **Matthew 3:16-17;**
Matthew 4:1-10

Hebrews 2:9-10 Jesus obtained glory for us.

2 Peter 1:3 His divine power hath given us all things that *pertain* to life and godliness, through the knowledge of him that hath called us to glory and virtue:

God called or designed us to walk in His glory. When we begin to realize that we will rise up and take the dominion that the son was designed to take according to His kind.

Mark 16:15-18 He said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature.

Go! Do the work that I have called you to do.

Mar 16:16 He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned.

Mar 16:17 And these signs shall follow them that believe; In my name shall they cast out devils; they shall speak with new tongues;

Definition:

Name 3686: identifying factor of one

Devils 1140: slanderers, false accusers

They shall speak with new tongues Not a tongue inspired by the lies of the accuser, but the tongue of the indwelt Holy Spirit.

Mark 16:18 *They shall take up serpents; and if they drink any deadly thing, it shall not hurt them; they shall lay hands on the sick, and they shall recover.*

Definition:

Take up serpents 142 and 3789: Neutralize the power of the enemy to affect you

Numbers 21:4-9 Out of discouragement, the Israelites spoke against God and they were bitten by serpents.

Definition:

Serpent 5175: a snake, hiss comes from 5172 an enchantment-to whisper a magic spell or to observe a magic spell that predicts the future by the present circumstances

Bite: To sting, to oppress

Died: destroy, decay, the fruit of the lie brings death

The people began to focus on their circumstances rather than on the words of God that promised their provision. When our focus shifts from God's provision to our circumstances, we invite the enemy's oppression and it separates us from God.

Numbers 21:7-9 Therefore the people came to Moses, and said, We have sinned, for we have spoken against the LORD, and against thee; pray unto the LORD, that he take away the serpents from us. And Moses prayed for the people. 8 And the LORD said unto Moses, Make thee a fiery serpent, and set it upon a pole: and it shall come to pass, that every one that is bitten, when he looketh upon it, shall live. 9 And Moses made a serpent of brass, and put it upon a pole, and it came to pass, that if a serpent had bitten any man, when he beheld the serpent of brass, he lived.

In the midst of our lack, if we will focus on God's provision made possible through the cross, we will be set free from that separation that produces a sense of nakedness. The enemy will become powerless. Instead of death, we will experience life. **John 3:14-15**

Mark 16:18 "And if they drink any deadly thing, it shall not hurt them."

Everything according to our works is deadly! The lie is that we will have to walk in righteousness according to our works or we will not receive the blessings of God. Through Jesus we are released from the curse of the law.

Luke 10:18-19 And he said unto them, I beheld Satan as lightning fall from heaven. Luke 10:19 Behold, I give unto you power to tread on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy: and nothing shall by any means hurt you.

Luke 10:20 Message Bible All the same, the great triumph is not in your authority over evil, but in God's authority over you and presence with you. Not what you do for God but what God does for you, that's the agenda for rejoicing."

Romans 8:19-22 For the earnest expectation of the creature waiteth for the manifestation of the sons of God. 20 For the creature was made subject to vanity, not willingly, but by reason of him who hath subjected *the same* in hope, 21 Because the creature itself also shall be delivered from the bondage of corruption into the glorious liberty of the children of God. 22 For we know that the whole creation groaneth and travaileth in pain together until now.

Habakkuk 2:14 For the earth shall be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the Lord as the waters cover the sea.

Lesson # 9 The Will of the Father

1 John 5:14 And this is the confidence that we have in him, that, if we ask any thing according to his will, he heareth us:

John 15:7 If ye abide in me, and my words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you.

Definition:

Will 2307 determination, purpose, plan

Abide 330: to *stay* (in a given place, state, relation or expectancy): - abide, `continue, dwell, endure, be present, remain, stand, tarry (for), X thine own.

Ask 154 demand of something that is due. To require that which has already been given (Place a draw on) **See 4441**

We have this idea in our head that God is mysterious. It is impossible to really understand Him. The more we know about him, the less we seem to know. This is not a correct concept. God is a God of order. The natural world is put together with laws that govern the universe. There is nothing that is without order. If this is true about the things that God has created in the physical world, then it should be true about the things that govern the Spiritual world. God is a God of order. You can get to know him. He operates or functions according to divine laws just as the universe operates according to natural law.

Psalms 105:7-8 He is the LORD our God: his judgments *are* in all the earth. His judgments are in accordance with His word.

Deuteronomy 32:4 His work is perfect, all His ways are judgment

Definition:

Judgment 4941: *verdict* (favorable or unfavorable) a *sentence* or formal decree, divine law, including the act, justice, including a particular right, or privilege

When our thoughts and expectations come into line with divine law, then we can expect predictable Spiritual results just like we can expect predictable physical results when we apply the laws of the natural world.

Daniel 7:27 And the kingdom and dominion, and the greatness of the kingdom under the whole heaven, shall be given to the people of the saints of the most High, whose kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, and all dominions shall serve and obey him.

In order to assume the dominion of the kingdom that has been given to us, we must know the purpose that rules the kingdom. In order to require that which has been given, we must know what has been given. We must know Divine Law.

1 John 2:3 And hereby we do know that we know him, if we keep his commandments. **4** He that saith, I know him, and keepeth not his commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him. **5** But whoso keepeth his word, in him verily is the love of God perfected: hereby know we that we are in him.

Definition:

Commandment 1785: From G1781; *injunction*, that is, an authoritative prescription: commandment, precept.

Keep 5083: To guard against loss or injury, unmarred

1 John 2:6 He that saith he abideth in him ought himself also so to walk, even as he walked.

HOW DID JESUS WALK?

John 8:28-29 I do nothing of myself but only what pleases the Father.

John 17:4 I have finished the work you have called me to do

John 17:6 I have manifested you

Walk as He walked!

1 John 4:17

John 17:18; 20:20-21 I have called you to do the same work

Philippians 2:5-7 Let this mind be in you which was in Christ who thought it not robbery to be equal with God. Jesus came to serve men because that was the heart of God.

Matthew 20:25-28 Jesus came to serve us, and we serve others with what He served us.

1Chronicles 29:11 Thine, O LORD, is the greatness, and the power, and the glory, and the victory, and the majesty: for all *that is* in the heaven and in the earth is *thine*; thine is the kingdom, O LORD, and thou art exalted as head above all. **12** Both riches and honour *come* of thee, and thou reignest over all; and in thine hand is power and might; and in thine hand it is to make great, and to give strength unto all.

1Chronicles 29:14 But who *am* I, and what is my people, that we should be able to offer so willingly after this sort?

DIVINE LAWS OF THE KINGDOM:

- EVERLASTING LIFE: **John 3:16**,

Life 222 Vine's Concordance: life as God has it, that which the Father has in Himself

John 12:47-50 He did not come to condemn, but to give life!

Definition:

Condemn, Judge 2919: To distinguish, to decide, to try, to punish, to condemn, damn, to call in question, sentence

John 17:3 The God quality of life comes through relationship.

- SALVATION: **John 3:16-17, Psalms 18:46** He came to save us.

Definition:

Save NT 4982 Sozo: to *save*, that is, *deliver* or *protect*, heal, preserve, save, do well, be made whole.

Save OT 3444 yshuah: something *saved*, *victory*, *prosperity*: - deliverance, health, help, salvation

It is God's purpose to give to His people complete well being in every area of their lives. His divine law is a God quality of life.

2 Peter 1:3 His divine power has given us all things that pertain to life and godliness. All of these things have been provided for us through the finished work of Jesus. Going back to John 15:7, if we ask (demand or expect that which has been provided) anything according to His will, He will do it. We can expect everything that is included in the definitions of salvation to come forth. They are ours, and they are ours to freely give to the world. They are DIVINE LAW. **1 Timothy 4:10; Matthew 18:11-14; John 6:51; Romans 8:1; Matthew 10:8, Matthew 28: 18-20; Mark 16:15-18**

- RIGHTEOUSNESS:

God's divine law is righteousness!

Psalms 9:7 But the LORD shall endure for ever: he hath prepared his throne for judgment.

Psalms 9:8 And he shall judge the world in righteousness, he shall minister judgment to the people in uprightness.

Hosea 2:19 And I will betroth thee unto me for ever; yea, I will betroth thee unto me in righteousness, and in judgment, and in lovingkindness, and in mercies.

Hosea 2:20 I will even betroth thee unto me in faithfulness: and thou shalt know the LORD.

Isaiah 61:1-3; Isaiah 60:21; Isaiah 11:1-5; Luke 4:18;

○ RECONCILIATION:

2 Corinthians 5:17-20 God was in Christ, reconciling the world unto himself, not imputing their trespasses unto them; and hath committed unto us the word of reconciliation.

○ PARTAKE OF HIS NATURE

Ephesians 1:12 That we should be to the praise of His glory!

2 Peter 1:4; Philippians 2:5-6; James 1:18;

John 1:12-13; 1 Corinthians 8:6-7; Ephesians 1:9-12

○ DESTROY THE WORKS OF THE DEVIL/TRADITION

1 John 3:8-10 For this purpose was the Son of God manifested.

Galatians 1:3-4

Tradition rejects the commandment of God.

Matthew 15:3,6; Mark 7:5-13; Mark 7:7-9;

Romans 10:1-3

○ THE WORD:

Isaiah 55 His way is governed by His word and when His word has not been altered, it will always produce in accordance with His will. His word is divine law.

James 1:22-25 doers of His word.

1 Corinthians 15:58 *Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye stedfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord.*

Lesson # 10 Commitment

Part 1: We are valuable!

Commitment-Dictionary: loyalty: devotion or dedication, e.g. to a cause, person, or relationship

Lack of commitment is a universal problem among Christians. With the passing of time, it seems to be getting worse. The cry of church leaders is that people just don't care! It is not that people don't care and don't love God. The problem is that they do not have a revelation of how committed God is to them. It is hard to totally commit yourself to someone that you don't really know.

Daniel 11:32 People who know their God will be strong and DO. We have tried to get to know God by doing. We have tried to get others to get to know God by doing. We believe that we and others have problems because somehow we have not been committed enough to God. But, the opposite is true. We have problems being strong and doing things for God because we do not have a correct knowledge concerning God's commitment and love towards us.

GOD IS COMMITTED TO US

Psalms 8:1-6

Psalms 8:3-4 When I consider thy heavens, the work of thy fingers, the moon and the stars, which thou hast ordained, who is man?

David is looking for answers to these questions. Look at man compared to the universe. Why is he important to you God? Why do you have him in mind? Why do you care for him? Why do you put up with him?

We need an understanding of how God views us. Our religious beliefs have far removed us from our true identity.

Psalms 8:5 For thou hast made him a little lower than the angels and crowned him with glory and honor.

Definition:

Angels H430 Elohiym: Plural of H433; *gods* in the ordinary sense; but specifically used of the supreme *God*; Of the supreme God, angels, God

The word here for angels is the same word in the Hebrew for God. In the original language it says, "For you have made him for a (time) a little lower than God." (The

time between Adam's fall and Jesus' resurrection from the dead) You have crowned him with glory (dignity) and honor (worth).

Psalms 8:6 Thou made him to have dominion over the works of thy hands; thou hast put all *things* under his feet:

We need to see the value that God sees in man! Not just believers, but mankind in general. In the beginning God created everything to bring forth after its kind. Then He said, "Let us make man in our image to bring forth after our kind." God created man to fill the earth with the *knowledge of the glory of the Lord.* **Habakkuk 2:14**
He created us to be one with Him. **John 17:22-24**

God is committed to us because He is committed to Himself. He is committed to His seed going forth and reproducing like kind. We are sons of the living God destined to rule and reign in our father's footsteps. When we begin to see ourselves the way that God sees us, it will change the way we think about God.

Religion has stolen from us our dignity and our worth! Christianity is supposed to be all about what God has done for us, and we have turned it into what we can do for God.

Most Christians have never realized the commitment that God has to mankind.

John 14:7, 9 Jesus came to show us who God is. He was a perfect representation of His Father. He said, "If you have seen me, you have seen the Father."

Jesus came to show us who we are.

WE ARE THE TREASURE!

Matthew 13:44 the kingdom of heaven is like unto treasure hid in a field; the which when a man hath found, he hideth, and for joy thereof goeth and selleth all that he hath, and buyeth that field.

Jesus is saying, "This is the way the my Father operates His kingdom." My Father is like a man who buys a field in order to obtain the treasure in it. The treasure is not the Kingdom of God, *the treasure is you.* Jesus is using this parable to explain to us how valuable we are to God.

Definition:

Treasure-dictionary: any possession that is highly valued or favored by its owner, art work which is highly prized for its beauty or perfection.

God sold all that He had to buy the treasure.

John 3:16

WE ARE A PEARL OF GREAT PRICE!

Matthew 13:45-46 Again the kingdom of heaven is like unto a merchant man, seeking goodly pearls: Who, when he had found one pearl of great price, went and sold all that he had, and bought it.

Definition:

Bought G59: From G58; properly to *go to market*, that is to *purchase*; specifically to *redeem*: - buy, redeem.

We are the purchased possession of God because he valued us. It is not referring to what we do for God. We do not sell all that we have. We receive what He has done for us. **Romans 5:17**

LET ME TELL YOU WHY I EAT WITH SINNERS!

Luke 5:27-30 And after these things he went forth, and saw a publican, named Levi, sitting at the receipt of custom: and he said unto him, Follow me. Jesus went to eat with Levi in his house.

Luke 5:30 But their scribes and Pharisees murmured against his disciples, saying, Why do ye eat and drink with publicans and sinners?

In Luke chapter 15 the Pharisees again ask why Jesus would eat with sinners. Jesus answers their question by telling three parables.

Luke 15:1-7 The Lost Sheep

Why do sheep get lost? Sheep are dumb-the nature of sheep is to get lost. It is not intentional. They just wander off.

Luke 15:8-10 Woman with 2 Coins

A coin gets lost through circumstance.

Luke 15:11-24 Parable of 2 Sons

The prodigal son got lost through his own choice. He was rebellious and wanted to do his own thing.

Jesus' answer to the religious people was "You are asking me why I am spending time with these people. I don't care why they are the way they are-because of their nature, because of the circumstances that have come their way, or just because they are rebellious-If they will receive me-I will hold a celebration!"

Jesus doesn't care why you are the way you are-he loves you and wants to help you!

Luke 15:8-10 -Could it be that the coin that was lost was in a place of darkness? Could it be that the coin was in a place that caused it to become dirty? Could it be that the coin could have gotten damaged?

A coin never loses its value! We are the coins-lost, dirty and damaged by circumstances.

Why does a coin never lose its value? What makes a coin valuable?

The image of Caesar was inscribed on the coins that the woman lost. That is what gave them value. Man is valuable because he is stamped with the image of God.

John 3:16-For God so loved the world (mankind) that He gave up His only begotten son. God is talking about man in general. Not just Christians. He views all men the same way. **Genesis 9:11-12;**

1 John 2:2

Note: Lesson compiled by Arthur Meintjus, South Africa

Part 2 We are Covered!

You became mine!

Ezekiel 16:8 I spread my *skirt* over thee and covered thy nakedness. I swore unto thee and entered into a covenant , and thou became mine. **Psalms 91:1**

Definition:

Nakedness 6172: blemish, shame, uncleanness, disgrace

The covenant is everlasting!

Deuteronomy 4:31 For the LORD thy God *is* a merciful God; he will not forsake thee, neither destroy thee, nor forget the covenant of thy fathers which he swore unto them.

Ezekiel 16:9 Then washed I thee with water; yea, I thoroughly washed away thy blood from thee, and I anointed thee with oil.

Definition:

Water 4325: *water*; figuratively *juice*; by euphemism *semen*:

Euphemism – dictionary: representation of good qualities;

Thoroughly washed away 7857: conquered

Blood 1818: guiltiness, that which causes death

Anointed you with oil 5480 and 8081: -smearing you with anointing, (the Holy Spirit)

God washed away our weak qualities with His good qualities. He conquered that which causes death in us by smearing us with Himself. He is our righteousness. He is our covering.

Ezekiel 16:10-12 I decked thee with ornaments and put a crown upon thy head.

Ezekiel 16:13 Thou prospered into a kingdom.

Ezekiel 16:14 And thy renown went forth among the heathen for thy beauty: for it *was* perfect through my comeliness, which I had put upon thee, saith the Lord GOD.

Definition:

Comeliness 1926: *magnificence*, that is, ornament or splendor: - beauty, comeliness, excellency, glorious, glory, goodly, honour, majesty.

We were created in His image and covered with His image. God perfected us with Himself! God gave us His magnificence, His glory, His goodness, and His honor to rule His kingdom with.

Ezekiel 16:13-14 I decked you with fine clothing-that which a king or queen wears
Isaiah 61:10 covered with a robe of righteousness

Unfaithful!

Ezekiel 16:15 But *thou didst trust in thine own beauty and playedst the harlot because of thy renown*, and pouredst out thy fornications on every one that passed by; his it was.

Ezekiel 16-15-54 Unfaithful as a harlot

Nevertheless!

Ezekiel 16:60-62 Nevertheless I will remember my covenant with you in the days of thy youth, and I will establish unto thee an everlasting covenant.

Ezekiel 16:61 Then thou shalt remember thy ways, and be ashamed, when thou shalt receive thy sisters, thine elder and thy younger: and I will give them unto thee for daughters, but not by thy covenant.

Ezekiel 16:62 And I will establish my covenant with thee; and thou shalt know that I am the Lord.

Ezekiel 16:63 That thou mayest remember, and be confounded, and never open thy mouth any more because of thy shame, when I am pacified toward thee for all that thou hast done, saith the Lord GOD.

Hebrews 10:14,17 God's covenant does not depend on our faithfulness. He made a covenant of everlasting faithfulness to us based on the faithfulness of Jesus.

Hosea 2:14-20 God allures us (speak words of love) in the land of our wilderness and brings us to a place that we see Him as Ishi or husband rather than Baal or taskmaster. He brings us to a place of safety and joy through His righteousness.

Isaiah 32:17-18 The work of righteousness shall be peace and calm assurance forever.

Covered By God

God provided a covering for Adam and Eve. They were covered with His image.

Deuteronomy 8:4, 29:5 God provided a covering for the Israelites when they left Egypt. Their clothing never wore out and their shoes never became too small.

He has provided a covering for us. We are covered with His robe of righteousness.

Matthew 22:2-13 Parable of the Wedding Feast

Matthew 22:11 One man did not have on a wedding garment

Man can not provide his own covering or righteousness. God covers him with His own righteousness. Don't take off your robe of righteousness. It will never wear out. You will never out grow it.

Isaiah 61:10 He hath clothed me with the garments of salvation, he hath covered me with the robe of righteousness.

1 Corinthians 13 God's love for us will never fail. He is committed to our success. We may fail. We may shun His covering. We may forget about Him, but He will not forget us. He will not slack off!

Definition

Fails 2673: becomes inefficient, slacks off

Philippians 1:6 Being confident of this very thing, that he which hath begun a good work in you will perform *it* until the day of Jesus Christ:

Part 3 Committed to His Commitment

Daniel 11:32-33 but the people that do know their God shall be strong, and do *exploits*. And they that understand among the people shall instruct many:

Matthew 16:24 Then said Jesus unto his disciples, If any *man* will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me.

Religion says:-if you want to be one with Jesus-this is going to cost you! There is a price to pay if you are going to be a follower of Jesus.

What price can we pay that Jesus didn't pay?

Definition:

Deny-533- From G575 and G720; to *deny utterly*, that is, *disown, abstain*: - deny. **720** to *contradict*, that is, *disavow, reject, abnegate*: - deny, refuse.

Take up 142 from 5375H accept, receive, lift up, wear,

Cross 4716 figuratively *exposure to death*, that is, *self denial*; by implication the *atonement* of Christ: - From the base of **G2476**(instrumentally, a relation of rest)

Jesus is saying "If you want to follow me, you have to give up any confidence you have in yourself. You are going to have to totally commit yourself to me.

Definition:

Commit-Dictionary: To give in trust; to put into the hands or power of another; to entrust; with to.

Matthew 16:25-26 For whosoever will save his life shall Lose it: and whosoever will lose his life **for my sake** shall find it.

Definition:

Save 4982 Sozo: deliver, protect, rescue, heal, preserve, make whole

Lose-622-destroy fully, die, mar, perish, lose (become separated from)

For my sake 1752: On account of

If you try to be your own savior, you will fail and it will separate you from me. If you put your care in my hands, you will find your life.

Romans 3:20-21 by the deeds of the law there shall

No flesh be justified in his sight:

Matthew 16:27 HE shall reward every thing according to his works.

We will be rewarded according to the works of Jesus.

Luke 14:25-35-You must hate your family and count the cost and deny your self effort-

Luke 14:26 If any *man* come to me, and hate not his father, and mother, and wife, and children, and brethren, and sisters, yea, and his own life also, he cannot be my disciple. 27 And whosoever doth not bear his cross, and come after me, cannot be my disciple.

Definition:

Hate 3404 Vines: preference for one thing over another, by way of expressing either aversion from, or disregard for, the claims of one person or thing relatively to those of another, as to the impossibility of serving two masters; of disregard for one's life relatively to the claims of Christ; negatively, of one's flesh,

Bear 941: receive, take up, lift

Cross 4716: figuratively *exposure to death*, that is, *self denial*; by implication the *atonement* of Christ: - From the base of **G2476:** instrumentally, a relation of rest

You have to receive what Christ has provided by the way of the cross. You can have no confidence in your self efforts, nor can you count on the assistance of your family. You must totally depend on me. You cannot be my disciple unless you let me serve you! **John 13:8; Matthew 20:28; Jeremiah 10:23**

Luke 14:28-30 Count the cost. You will not be able to finish what has been started if you are not totally dependent on the provision of Jesus.

Luke 14:31-33 The cross is your only provision. Give up the confidence you have in everything else. He is the only one that can provide your salvation. **Galatians 3:2-3; Galatians 5:1-5**

Hebrews 12:1-2 Jesus is the author and finisher of our faith.

1 Chronical 29:12 Both riches and honor come of thee, and in thine hand it is to make great, and to give strength unto all.

God is committed to our success!

Hebrews 13:5-6 I will never leave you nor forsake you.



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