

TITLE: Relationship Pilgrimage

ISBN: 978-1-927468-10-4

COPYRIGHT © 2006 Dr. James Paul Humphries

All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system or transmitted, in any form, or by any means, electronic, mechanical, photocopying, recording, or otherwise, without the prior written permission of Project L.A.M.B.S. Publications.

Author: Dr. James Paul Humphries

Editor: Dominique Kozarchuk

Copy-editor: Gilbert Demers

Cover Design / Layout: Sarah Van Pelt

Printed in Canada by:

Project L.A.M.B.S. International Inc.
Box 20569 Steinbach, MB Canada R5G 1R9
E-mail: projectlambs@gmail.com
Website: www.projectlambs.com

Unless otherwise indicated, Scripture quotations are from:
New American Standard Bible, © The Lockman Foundation
1960, 1962, 1963, 1968, 1971, 1973, 1975, 1977, 1995.

or

New King James Bible © Thomas Nelson, Inc. 1982

First Edition: January 2006

Second Edition: Mar.9, 2012

Leadership Series

Book 13

RELATIONSHIP PILGRIMAGE

CONTENTS

Forward	3
Introduction	5
Section One	
1. Relationship God	5
2. Relationship Created	9
3. Relationship Violated	12
4. Relationship Protected and Preserved	16
5. Relationship Restoration Attempts	19
6. Relationship Spokespersons	22
7. Relationship of Love and Grace (Good News)	31
8. Relationship Restored	37
9. Relationship Door Opened	39
10. Relationship Covenant	43
11. Relationship Confessed	45
12. Relationship Commitment	49
13. Relationship Prayer and Pledge	52
14. Relationship Miracle	56
15. Relationship Guaranteed	59
16. Relationship Eternal	62
Section Two	
17. Relationship Lifestyle	65
18. Relationship Challenge	67
19. Relationship Torch	72
20. Relationship Broadcasted	77
21. Relationship Victory	80
Conclusion	83
Prayer	83
Application	84
Meditation	85
Memorization	85
Discipleship Reflections	86
Project L.A.M.B.S. International	87
Discipleship / Leadership Booklets	90

RELATIONSHIP PILGRIMAGE

FORWARD

Over the years I have been blessed to travel to many different countries of the world and in these countries seen a variety of different types of religions that date back thousands of years. These religions and the people who make up these people groups know that there is something more outside of who they are personally. Their hope is that as they reach out to touch god he will touch them. They also tend to worship something that is external and even create images that will help them in their focus. They give a great amount of time and finances to appease their gods. Their desire is to be accepted and they hope that somehow that all they do here on earth will give them a better place after they die.

God has been for thousands of years reaching out to us, trying to show us that it is not through the external programs and methods that He desires to touch us but it is by coming into one's life in a personal relationship with each individual. Placing His very being inside us, this will result in a changed heart, which in turn will change our thinking and will even bring about changes to our outward actions.

Throughout time the Bible has been looked at through many different kinds of lenses for example a book of just history or one that is full of laws, a patchwork and collection of testimonies of people's lives. A book of Hebrew and Greek Scriptures telling and speaking about a people group known as the Jews. But the Bible is more than that, it is a letter and manual concerning present and eternal relationship. The drama of this book pictures for us the heart of God. It's a foundation stone of one's relationship to God and to each other. We have a relationship picture that begins to unfold in the book of Genesis and will conclude with the disciples of Christ gathering around the marriage supper of the Lamb where time will be no more.

RELATIONSHIP PILGRIMAGE

My hope is that this booklet will challenge the reader to pick up the Bible and look at it one more time as a book that is to help us to draw closer to a living and loving God, who desires to be in us and with us each step of our daily walk here on earth. It is a book full of grace and mercy and it has at its heart, to be a bridge for man and God to touch each other. Look at it as a gigantic mural or puzzle, picturing for us yes lots of little pieces with all kinds of themes and events. But the big picture has as its goal to bring you into a deep and personal relationship with God.

It will take faith and action on your part but it will begin for you a journey of relationship that you never thought possible.

A man name Paul wrote this,

*More than that, I count all things to be loss in view of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and count them but rubbish so that may gain Christ, and may be found in Him, not having a righteousness of my own derived from the Law, but that which is through faith in Christ, the righteousness which comes from God on the basis of faith, **that I may know Him** and the power of His resurrection and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death; in order that I may attain to the resurrection from the dead.*

Philippians 3:8-11

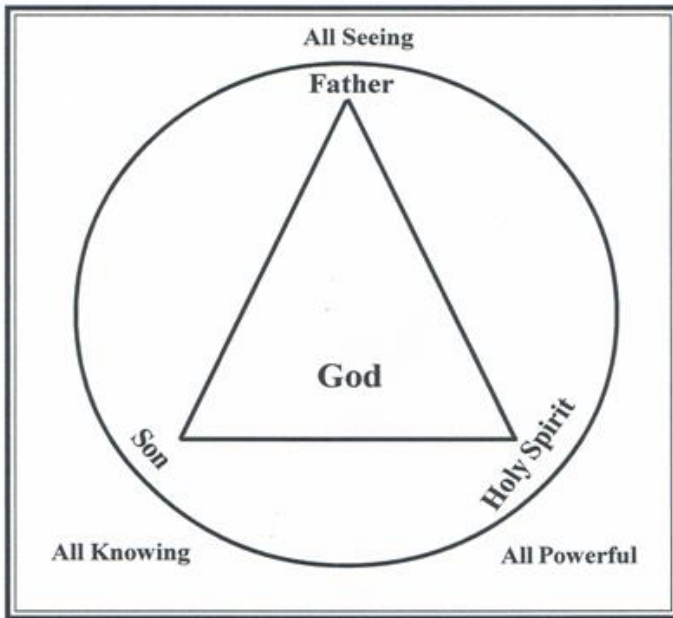
RELATIONSHIP PILGRIMAGE

SECTION ONE

INTRODUCTION

God

“The one who is and always will be God”



“I am the Alpha and Omega says the lord, who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty.”

Revelation 1:8

“God desires a personal Relationship with you.”

RELATIONSHIP PILGRIMAGE

WELCOME and thank you for taking the time to look at this booklet. It is our hope that you will take away new and valuable insights as you read. This book focuses on a word that is vitally important to our existence on earth – the word *relationship*. Relationship is defined as “the state of being connected”. Synonyms include “relation, association, link, alliance, bond, interconnection”. It is something we all desire and hope for. In order to make a strong relationship with others we need to follow a few key principles. The same applies when building a relationship with God. He desires with all His heart to have a relationship with us and we need to learn how to make that possible.

Today I want to take you on a wonderful journey that will change you from the inside out. It is a pilgrimage that can lead you to everlasting life.

Did you know that we are made up of three parts. First is the body, our physical tent or building that houses who we are. Second, we have a mind or soul that does the thinking and decision-making. Third, is the spirit part that remains dead until the door is opened up to house either the spirit of the world or the Spirit of God.

Many people are looking to knowledge and understanding to be enlightened, but find themselves walking in darkness. The New World Order is pointing people to look within themselves for a new self-consciousness, but they are becoming more confused or over-stressed. When all else fails they hope to become reincarnated into the next circle of life, where they will be able to empty themselves of everything and move into a higher plane of nirvana. It is then that their souls will be set free from suffering and will obtain the state of perfect bliss, so they hope.

RELATIONSHIP PILGRIMAGE

The challenge is in that we do not have to wait we can have it all now. People are tired of being alone, feeling empty inside and that nobody cares. Even though they try to fill the empty void with material things or pleasures, it still remains empty. The problem is that most people do not realize that there is only one key that will unlock the door of happiness. The key is called relationship, not to things or people, but to God.

This little booklet is a road map to help you find your way to a new truth, to bring you into a new life. God desires to have a personal relationship with you for all eternity. Who is this God, you may ask? We continuously hear that this god or that god is the truth. But the God that I want to introduce you to today is a real person, with a real name, that desires to love you and have a personal relationship with you.

Let me take you on a small journey that will lead you into a deep and fulfilling relationship with God. You will for the first time have a clear light for your pathway. Self-consciousness will be replaced with God-consciousness. By God's love, you will be taken off an endless cycle of reincarnation, to be put on a true path of hope – hope that will lead to everlasting eternity with God. He desires to move you from bondage to freedom.

I desire to use the Bible as the foundation stone for our look at what it means to have a personal relation with God and how God loves and moves in and through our hearts. The Bible is like a drama that spreads out over thousands and thousands of years. It speaks and gives testimonies of all kinds of nations and cultures. It gives to us a history and a time line that starts at creation and concludes with the destruction of all things as we know it and brings into being a new heaven and earth.

RELATIONSHIP PILGRIMAGE

In our first picture we see that God is one God who comes to us in three different aspects or functions. One is as a person who Fathers us. The second aspect is that He is God who comes to us as a Son and the third aspect is that He comes as the Holy Spirit who indwells and empowers us. This God is all seeing, all knowing and all powerful.

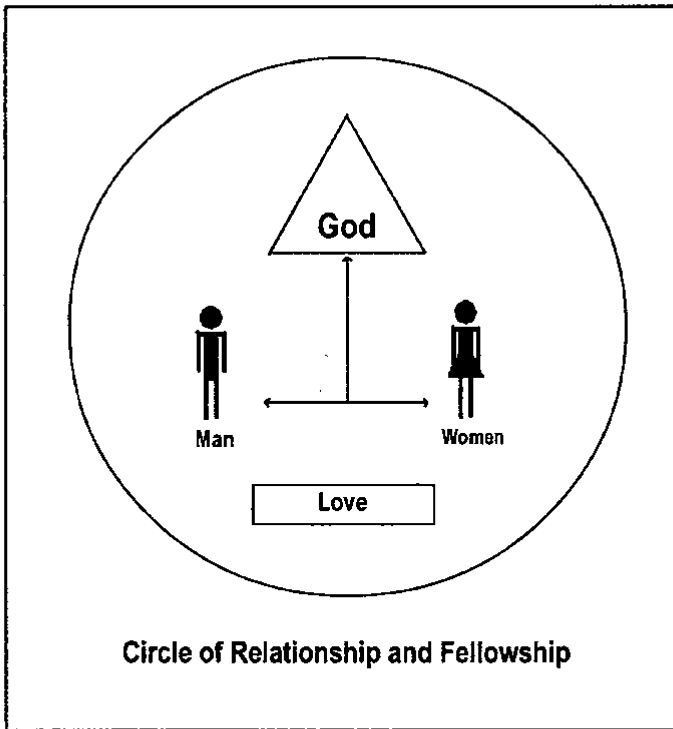
Just like we have three parts that make up who we are, He comes to us as one God who is the Creator of all things. He is the Almighty One, full of grace and mercy. To Moses He introduced Himself as the great "I Am".

I urge you to quiet down all the external voices and take a little time today to explore the Bible as a personal love letter from a God who wants to so desperately have an intimate and personal relationship with you.

What follows are steps that will open the door for yourself and others to having a personal relationship with God Almighty. We will start this journey by looking at it from the point of being a drama or play that one could watch at a theatre. We have divided it up into twenty scenes or little pictures that have happen over a period of ten thousand years or more.

RELATIONSHIP PILGRIMAGE

Relationship Created



"God created man in His own image, in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them."

Gen 1:27

"Man and God fellowshiped together face to face"

RELATIONSHIP PILGRIMAGE

The triangle represents God, Creator of heaven and earth. He lovingly fashioned man in His own image. The triangle also demonstrates the three parts of God's heart – the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. One God can function and minister to man in three different ways.

Going back to when God created all things, He had in mind the concept of making a world built on the promise of relationship. He desired all creation to be an example of His glory and oneness, modeling harmony and unity with each other. We see that God created everything for relationship.

At the end of the six days His final act of “relationship creation” was man. He said, “Let us make man in our own image” (Genesis 1: 26). After a period of time, He saw that man was alone and also desired relationship with one of his own kind. Therefore, out of man He created woman. Both would help and encourage the other and would have a unique and special fellowship with God.

This relationship was built on trust and obedience. Man and woman had a free will that would allow them to choose how to walk with the Creator. This relationship was to be sustained on a few basic principles. First, relationship needed to be pure and loving. Also, each had their own purpose, but could communicate with the other at any time. Man was not created to be an island unto himself, he needed others to fulfill his life.

The key to this three-way relationship (God, man and woman) would be communication. The lines in the picture demonstrate that man and woman could speak to each other but also had a direct line to God, as individuals or corporately as one. Communication is the lifeline for man and woman to be connected with their Creator and is also the channel which reveals to others

RELATIONSHIP PILGRIMAGE

the things that we are concerned with. We show our needs and desires with one another as we communicate.

Finally, the circle in the diagram represents completeness, demonstrating no beginning or end. It also encompasses the other parts, keeping them bound together. The circle illustrates that man was to have dominion over and be stewards of all that God created.

In everything, relationship was formed as the foundation for man to have fellowship with God. He would be connected entirely to God for all things physically, emotionally and spiritually. Only through relationships would he be complete and whole with God his Creator. God gave to man and woman significance and security through a relationship with Him. Their personal needs could be completely met through God. They could walk, work and talk in a unique relationship both among themselves and with Him. But the special relationship and pleasures were to be brief.

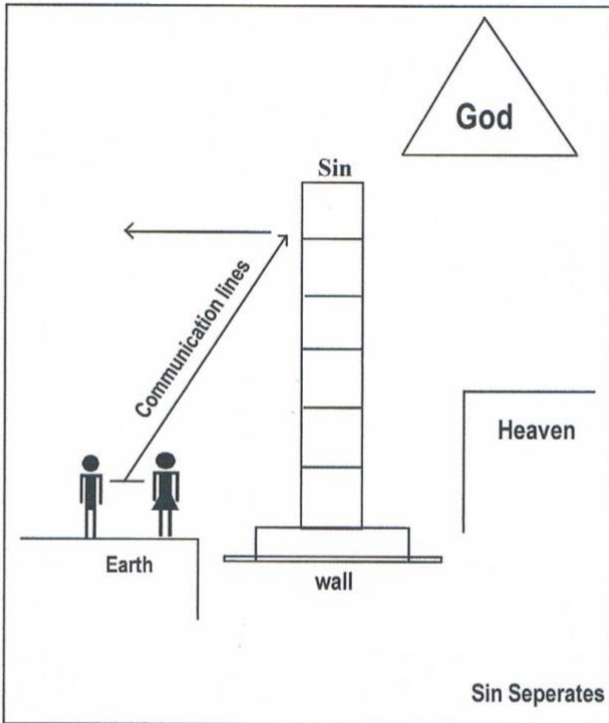
In conclusion, we see that relationship is at the very center of God's plan and it is His hope that it would be at the center of our hearts as well.

SCRIPTURE:

Genesis 1: 26 – 28, Genesis 2:7, Genesis 2: 18, 22 – 23

RELATIONSHIP PILGRIMAGE

Relationship Violated



The LORD GOD commanded the man, saying, “From any tree of the garden you may eat freely; but from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat from it you will surely die.”

Gen 2:16 - 17

“Sin of disobedience separated man from God”

RELATIONSHIP PILGRIMAGE

The second illustration shows to us that through sin a wall is built between God and man as a result of disobedience. Sin separates man from having an intimate personal relationship with Him.

WHAT HAPPENED?

Satan, in the form of a serpent, came to Eve. His goal was to break the fellowship of man and woman with God. Through cunning words, Satan caused Eve to walk down a pathway of deception and lies that eventually violated hers and Adam's relationship with God. The sin of disobedience separated them from God.

Satan appealed to Eve's thinking in three different areas. He first appealed to her body (good to eat), then her mind (to have wisdom and knowledge) and finally her spirit (to become like God). After, Eve went to Adam (who should have known better) and he ate of the fruit and tried to blame Eve for his actions. This disobedience brought a curse upon all mankind to follow.

It is interesting to note that Satan tried this same technique on Jesus Christ thousands of years later. Jesus followed the Father's leading into the wilderness to pray and fast (Matthew 4: 1-11). Again Satan appeared and offered Christ physical food, wealth and vanity as well as the ability to rule over the earth. In all three instances, Christ rebuked him with the Word of God. Satan still uses this method today on all who will listen, making promises which he has no ability to give or keep. As the Bible tells us, he is like a roaring lion seeking whom he may devour.

God gave all humanity a "free will" as well as principles for Adam and Eve to follow. Free will meant they could choose to walk their own pathway. The result of what man and woman did caused their eyes to be opened to things that were not known

RELATIONSHIP PILGRIMAGE

before they sinned. It affected their family and their two sons to the point that the sons fought and one killed the other. This brutality happened when sin caused them to fall out of fellowship with God. It also plunged all mankind who would follow into a sin nature that would be born within them, bringing death and destruction to man. Scripture tells us, *“Therefore, just as through one man sin entered into the world, and death through sin, and so death spread to all men, because all sinned... So then as through one transgression there resulted condemnation to all men...”* Romans 5: 12, 18a.

Adam and Eve were banned from the garden as God could not have sinfulness join with everlasting life. This new wall caused man to look to himself and other things to try to fill the void that was left in this heart as a result of sin.

Man and woman could still communicate with each other, but the personal fellowship with God was now broken. Sin brought a curse upon man and woman as well. For the woman, there would be pain during childbirth. The man would be cursed to toil over the ground and work hard to provide food and clothing for his family.

The wall of sin became more than just the above. Sin nature and desires of the will would cause man to be self-focused rather than God-focused. This seed of sin produced all sorts of results. *“Now the deeds of the flesh are evident, which are: immorality, impurity, sensuality, idolatry, sorcery, enmities, strife, jealousy, outbursts of anger, disputes, dissensions, factions, envying, drunkenness, carousing, and things like these, of which I forewarn you, just as I have forewarned you, that those who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God”* Galatians 5: 19-21. This is just a short list of the sins of the flesh resulting from disobedience. We have the potential to do one or more of these things if we are not very careful.

RELATIONSHIP PILGRIMAGE

From sin the seed of separation and death entered into God's creation. It continues to be passed on from generation to generation. Man has a spirit of rebellion and wickedness and desires to become equal with God. The moment we breathe life we enter into trespasses and sin. At that same moment comes a need for relationship with God which cannot occur until we accept God's plan of redemption. We as sinners cannot fellowship with a Holy God and it affects the relationships around us. Why? Because we are in a form of eternal spiritual bondage that needs to be set free. Essentially, our heart is dead.

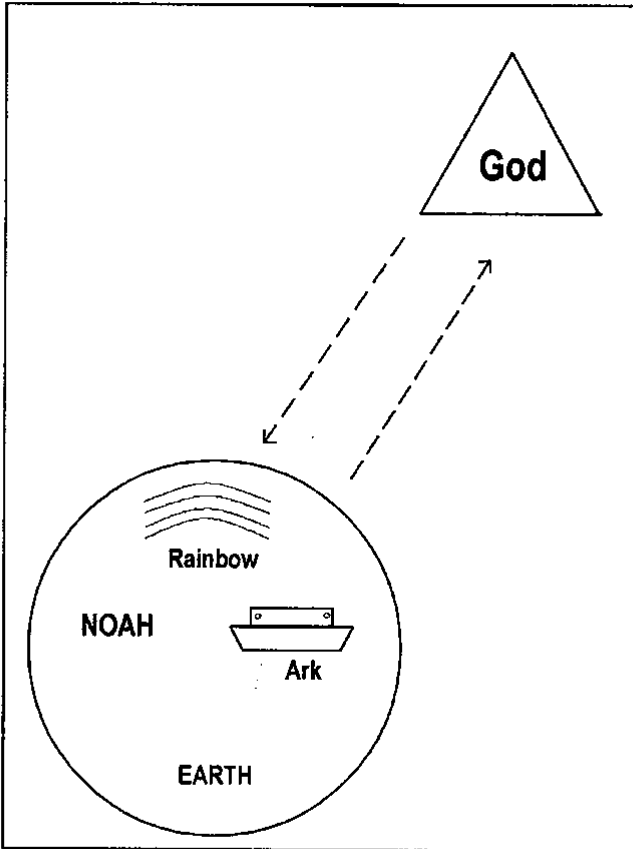
Fortunately, this picture does not need to stop here. God did not desire to leave us in a hopeless state, but had a unique plan that would redeem us from the curse of sin and death. This plan made a way for broken relationships to be restored.

SCRIPTURES:

Genesis 3: 1 – 24, Isaiah 59: 2, Romans 6: 23, Romans 3: 23, Hebrews 4:15

RELATIONSHIP PILGRIMAGE

Relationship Protected and Preserved



Noah was a righteous man, blameless in his time; Noah walked with God.

Gen 6:9b

“God Protects and Preserves those who love Him”

RELATIONSHIP PILGRIMAGE

A time had come when the world had become so full of corruption. The people had fallen far away from God's plan that something drastic had to take place. To change the direction of man on the earth all mankind and all the living animals would have to be destroyed. There was no other way to change the wickedness of man's heart.

But there was still one man who with his family had a personal relationship with God. The rest of the world had fallen deep into all kinds of perversion and sin. God called on Noah to build a boat known as an ark because God was about to destroy the earth with a flood.

In Genesis 6 we see the extent of man's sin and how it grieved the very heart of God. There was so much wickedness and violence on the earth but in the same chapter it states that there was a man who, "walked with God" (Gen.6:9). It seems that in the midst of this history, wickedness and sin was all around. But there is always a remnant of people whose hearts are personally in a deep relationship with God.

Noah and his family was going to see everyone and everything destroyed but in this great darkness a ray of light would come forth once again on the earth and its inhabitants. After this total destruction a covenant would be made and a symbol, known as the rainbow would be put in the sky to remind mankind of God's promises and commitment to them.

Sometimes things have to be broken up and reformed before the true vessel can come forth. In the midst of sin and destruction there is always a vessel that houses God's presence with man. Even God has limits and boundaries when it comes to people and sin, but His arm is always outstretched and His hand

RELATIONSHIP PILGRIMAGE

open to those who will receive Him. Relationship starts by putting your hand in the hand of your Creator.

Isaiah 40:11,

He tends His flock like a shepherd:

He gathers the lambs in His Arms

And carries them close to His heart;

He gently leads those that have young.

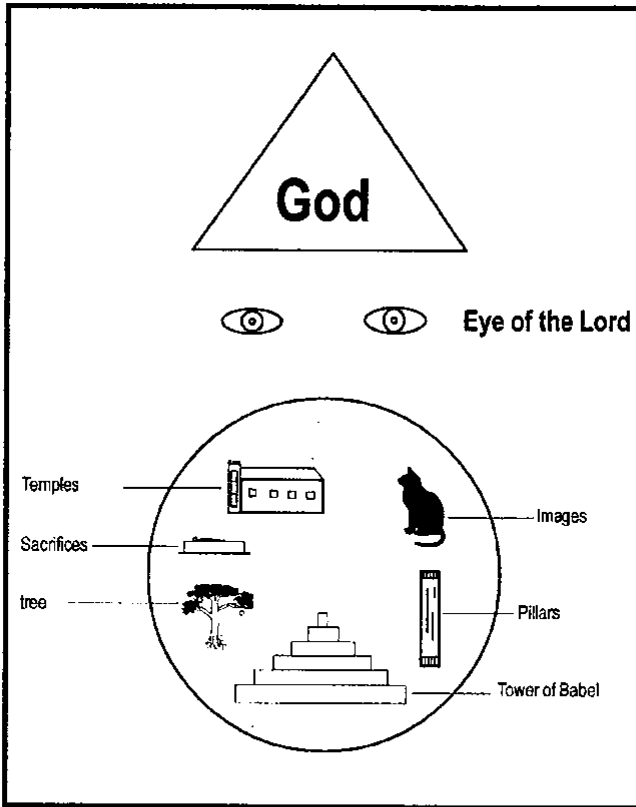
This is His desire for you today, to fill the empty longing of your heart with peace and joy. He wants to give you hope that come forth from His will and purpose for our lives, to state it one more time, relationship is at the very centre of His heart for us.

SCRIPTURES:

Deuteronomy 4:32-42, & 7:19, Psalm 44:3 & 98:1

RELATIONSHIP PILGRIMAGE

Relationship Restoration Attempts



The eyes of the LORD are in every place, Watching the evil and the good.

Prov 15:3

“One God who is all seeing and all knowing concerning man’s ways.”

RELATIONSHIP PILGRIMAGE

As time passed the earth became populated again and again man was trying to do things in their abilities and ways. After the flood again man fell into sin. Man attempted to reach back to God in a variety of ways. The most well known one was the tower of Babel. The people came together to reach out an up to God into the heavens. They thought and desired to enter back into a relationship with their God. They wanted to meet Him face to face. But God thwarted their attempts to become like god, by bringing upon them various kinds of languages so that they were not able to communicate. This caused them to spread and move throughout the land that God had created for them.

In time God showed the people that they could come into a extended relationship through a high priest, keeping of laws and sacrifices. They first had the tabernacle that they where to set up and take wherever they went. This tabernacle was a place where God showed Himself to man who He was. It was His way of reminding the people that He wanted to be with them at all times and in everything they faced.

Later the people demanded a king and they built a temple in Jerusalem. Again the presence of the Lord was there. Once a year and through many sacrifices a high priest could come into the presence of God on behalf of the people.

But again through this entire time people were developing all kinds of gods and making all kinds of graven images to worship. They did this in attempt to satisfy the longing in their heart to have an intimate and personal relationship with a god.

The world is thousands of years old and man has changed very little in their ways to reach out to god. They still use idols, fortune tellers, witch doctors, spells and trances. They even

RELATIONSHIP PILGRIMAGE

perform all kinds of rituals and ceremonies to fill themselves with all kinds of different spirits.

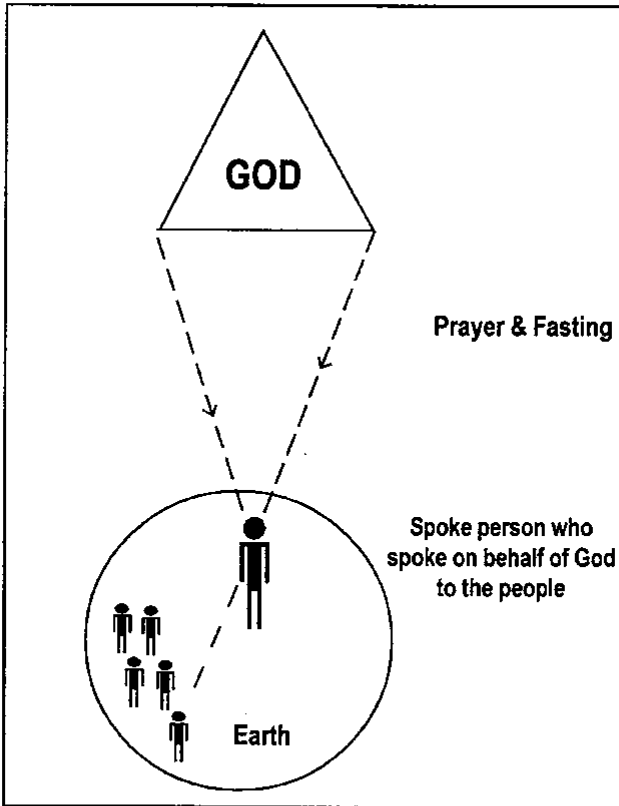
God has set down a way, a truth and a life that we are to follow if we desire to personally walk with Him. There is no other way that will bring us into that eternal relationship with God.

SCRIPTURES:

Genesis 11:19, Exodus 26, Exodus 32:1-30 Deuteronomy 9:7-29, Deuteronomy 16:21 to 17:7.

RELATIONSHIP PILGRIMAGE

Relationship Spokesperson



Then I heard the voice of the Lord, saying, "Whom shall I send, and who will go for Us?" Then I said, "Here am I. Send me!"

Isaiah 6:8

"God speaks through people whose heart belongs to Him"

RELATIONSHIP PILGRIMAGE

God used people throughout history to be His spokespersons. These people were always to remind and teach the people about how God desires to be in a relationship with them.

Here are just some examples:

Abraham: called by God with his family to leave the land of his birth and go with God to be a father of many nations. He needed faith in this relationship to believe and follow. God knew what was best for him and his family. He honoured God with all his life and possessions. God also changed his name from Abram to Abraham. (Gen. 12)

Jacob: a sub planter, a sneaky one who God called into a relationship to birth forth the 12 tribes of Israel. He was one who sometimes stole and cheated but God through relationship with him changed his life to the place he was renamed Israel. (Gen 25:19 & 35:27)

Joseph: a dreamer and interpreter of dreams, one of the twelve sons of Jacob. Given up by his brothers but used by God to build up two nations, Egypt and Israel. Israel would multiply and become a people within a foreign land. His pilgrimage was one of being a slave and then imprisoned but his relationship with God would never waver. God raised him up to be second only to Pharaoh.

Moses: the hand of God drew him out of the water and trained him in Pharaoh's courts and in time drove him out into the wilderness, because he wanted to do things his way and in his own timing instead of waiting upon God to work things out for the deliverance of the people of Israel. In the wilderness one day he encountered God through a burning bush, this started for

RELATIONSHIP PILGRIMAGE

him a personal walk and journey with God Almighty. It seems that throughout his life his relationship was so strong with God he would even challenge God in the way He was leading Moses and the people. God worked many mighty miracles through Moses.

Joshua: through the life of Moses, Joshua was mentored by him to know God in a personal way. He was used by God to lead the people into the promise land. He had in his heart the heart of God. He personally met the commander and chief of the Lords army on the eve of battle and humbled himself before Him (Joshua 5:13-15). At the end of his days he also proclaimed those famous words, “as for me and my house we will serve the Lord” (Joshua 24:15).

The Judges: thirteen men and women who had a personal relationship with God. God used them to deliver the nation from their enemies and from turning their backs towards God. Each time revival was birth forth in the land. The people would fall away but God would use these judges to draw them back to being a people of God.

Samuel: a gift to a mother who later because of her relationship with God, gave back her only son for service to the God she loved so much. She knew that there was no better place for him to be. He also had the heart of God within him. Through God’s leading he became a priest and prophet (I Samuel 1:3) of God and spoke on behalf of God both encouragement and judgments to the people. He also was used of God to anoint the first two Kings of Israel, Saul and David.

RELATIONSHIP PILGRIMAGE

Ezra: called of God to rebuild the temple of God. His personal relationship with God helped him to bring the Word of God and revival back to the land of Israel. God gave him insights, wisdom and understanding on how to teach God's Word to the people. He also led the people to a personal and public confession of their sin's before God. Plus when Nehemiah had finished the wall, Ezra led the choir and worship teams around the top of the wall as a victory praise and dedication to the God he so deeply loved.

Nehemiah: had a burden in a foreign land to go back and rebuild the walls of Jerusalem so the people of God would be safe and that they could worship God freely. He was a cupbearer for the King. He walked with great wisdom and strength and because of his relationship with God, he could see through all the enemies' schemes and attempts to kill him. He taught the people to take responsibility and ownership on rebuilding the walls. He also taught them how to work with one hand and have their weapon in the other ready for battle. He was able to complete the building of the wall in record time because he walked daily in a personal relationship with the heart of God.

Esther: a beautiful and committed woman, who chose to follow and serve God at all cost. She was a Jew living in a foreign land married to a foreign king. She was obedient to the king but when it came to God and His people she would not waver. She was a woman of prayer and fasting one who wanted to be in step to God's will for her life. We also know her as the one that Mordecai spoke of, "that maybe God has raised you up for such a time as this (Esther 4:14).

RELATIONSHIP PILGRIMAGE

Job: this man became the battle ground to prove to Satan that Job was committed personally to God in all his ways, whether good or bad. Things were all stripped away at the beginning and he was left with three counsellors who tried to get him to curse God but in the end God even spoke to them and told them to repent to Job and get him to pray for them. Through the book of Job we hear Job's heart testifying about God to his three and supposedly wise counsellors. But because of his relationship with God and after all Satan's testing was over God restored everything back to Job many times over.

David: another man that God eventually placed over Israel as king, had a journey that was not always the way that David would have planned it. Samuel anointed David as the next king at a young age but he had to spend years and years in waiting. David saw many victories but had to walk some deep valleys. King Saul loved him and hated him to the point that he tried several times to kill him. But David was a friend of God. He had a personal relationship that was expressed through songs of worship. Many of the psalms in the book of Psalms are a reflection of his personal relationship with God. He paid the price of disobedience but also was blessed for being faithful. He knew God as a loving shepherd who loved his sheep and cared for them to the place of giving his life for them. Because of this relation the line of kings never ended from the house of David and Jesus the King of Kings also came from the root of Jesse.

Solomon: growing up with a father who personally knew God helped King Solomon also to know and walk with God. When God offered him to ask of anything from the Lord, Solomon only asked for wisdom on how to lead these

RELATIONSHIP PILGRIMAGE

people. God granted that to him and he became known as the wisest man around. He wrote most of the book of Proverbs and the Song of Solomon, a love story. He also ruled Israel well and it became known in history as the golden years of that nation.

Isaiah: out of his relationship with God came a blazing coal of fire from the throne room of God that God touched Isaiah's lips with. Isaiah saw a need that was great and committed himself to the Lord by saying, "here am I Lord send me". God used Isaiah as a vessel to proclaim the coming of a Messiah a servant that would deliver His people, a shepherd of shepherds. He mourned for Jerusalem but knew that God had an eternal plan for the Jews and the Gentiles. Isaiah was also the one who prophesied about the sign of Immanuel. That He would be born of a virgin and he would be called Immanuel (Isaiah 7:14) which the New Testament tells us means, "God is with us". Personal relationship with God gives to us the will and plans of what He desires to do for us and with those around us.

Jeremiah: he could see all God's love and concern for the people and out of that personal relationship with God his heart was broken for the people. He became known as the weeping prophet. Again because of this relationship he could see how the people broke God's heart in the way they were living. The people had turned their backs against God. Jeremiah was a spokesperson to the nations of what God was about to do if they did not turn from their wicked ways. Judgment was coming on all nations.

Daniel: he was taken into slavery and became part of the king's court but he was a man who was devoted

RELATIONSHIP PILGRIMAGE

to God in all ways. He had a personal relationship that caused him to pray three times a day, seeking God's face and wisdom and will for his life. He was even thrown into a lion's den but in every challenge he faced his relationship with God kept him safe from all harm. Even the Kings knew the power of Daniel's God. He was also the one that God sent the angel Gabriel, after a long battle in the heavenlies. Daniel also saw in dreams what God was going to do to and with nations and kingdoms of the world in the future.

Joel: his relationship was also one of seeing into the future, he saw devastation and destruction, but one day he saw that there was coming a different way of having a relationship with God. Yes the nation would be judged but during that time God was going to pour out His spirit upon all men and women, to all nations to give them one more opportunity to come into a personal relationship with Him (Joel 2:28-29). Through all this Joel says, "then you will know that I, the Lord your God, dwell in Zion" (Joel 3:17). He also tells that the day of decision is near (Joel 3:14).

Jonah: the man who personally new God but tried to run from the will of God. He felt that God had it all wrong concerning Nineveh and that they should be destroyed because of their wickedness but God wanted to show Jonah about God's mercy and grace. He desired to give people a chance to repent but He needed someone to go speak to them. Jonah tried to run and ended up three day in a fish. He also complained all the time about how God was doing things but in the end submitted to God's ways and plans for him and for others. This relation he had with God shows us two sides of God's heart. One is to touch our own personal lives and secondly to touch the lives of those

RELATIONSHIP PILGRIMAGE

around. We need to be careful to do God's will and go where He chooses to send us.

Habakkuk: the book of Habakkuk seems to be a dialogue between himself and God. Habakkuk seemed to be complaining about how God had been doing things, so he would challenge God with a question, then God would respond. In the end he confessed his trust and joy in the Lord. His relationship could challenge the Lord's ways but his relationship was deep enough to listen to the Lord answer and know that God knows what is best for us.

Malachi: being the last writer of the last book in the Hebrews Scriptures we are now given one more opportunity to see what God was about to do. A change was coming in the way things were done in the past and something new was going to take place now in the future. He was going to bring a change both to the priest and to the people. This time the Lord Himself was going to personally come to change and set up a new way of relating to God. It would come through a personal relationship with Him. The last words of this book are ones of relationship. God will turn the hearts of the fathers to the children, and the hearts of the children to their fathers (Malachi 4:6).

When individuals would call, God would respond. These people became channels of God's voice to the people. God would tell them what to do and what to remove from their lives to be open up again for this personal relationship with Him. We may ask why, because goodness and righteousness can not dwell where sin and unrighteousness lives. God seems to reach out to these people in various ways and as they stepped out in faith and responded, a relationship was born.

RELATIONSHIP PILGRIMAGE

These spokespersons would attempt to tell others what they also could have with God if they would just change their ways and receive God's mercy and grace.

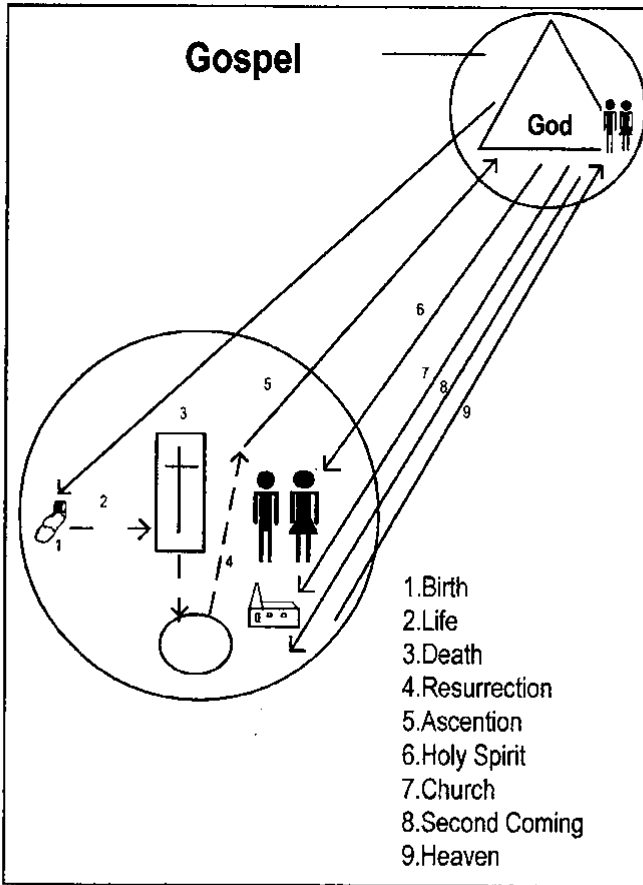
The key during this time is the people's need to try to live by the law. They had to offer sacrifices to build a bridge for relationship and this was all because of sin but it was also asked of them so that they could see how hopeless it was, to try to live a perfect life for God under the law. The law was to be a school-master to show and point people to a need of a Messiah. One who would come and pay the price for them. A perfect sacrifice that would be given once and for all for those who would receive it. One that would move the people from works and law righteousness which always failed to grace righteousness which would come through the shedding of the blood, by the one who was sent from God to redeem all mankind, Jesus Christ.

SCRIPTURES:

Exodus 33:7-11, Joshua 5:13-15, Judges 6:11-12.

RELATIONSHIP PILGRIMAGE

RELATIONSHIP OF LOVE AND GRACE (Good News)



And He said to them, Go into all the world and preach the gospel to all creation.

Mark 16:15

“God’s Son would bring Good News through His life to all mankind.”

RELATIONSHIP PILGRIMAGE

The next section is the coming of the “Good News” for all mankind. Although man tried, he was not able to keep the laws that God had given him. God’s chosen way to deliver man was through a baby that would grow and give His life for all people.

God’s plan to bring about restoration was birthed at the beginning of creation and carried out in the fullness of God’s time. The plan sent His Son Jesus Christ to earth, carrying the name **Emmanuel** or “God with us”. Christ’s birth was designed to fulfill the Old Testament prophecies. The goal was to bring to the world the opportunity to have a personal relationship with God and be able to walk and live in His presence once again.

The life of Jesus Christ has been recorded for us in the Gospels of the Bible. Matthew, Mark, Luke and John give testimony to this unique gift that was sent. These four books of the New Testament (known as the “Good News”) paints a unique picture of who Jesus Christ is, His nature and the purpose of His life.

Amazing grace is extended as God desires to take away the reliance on self-righteousness and put into man’s heart God’s righteousness. To give us a way, truth and life that is full and unique, with purpose and value.

The Gospel of Christ tells of nine events that would change the direction of all mankind.

1. Birth

The good news begins with God sending His Son to be conceived by a virgin woman through the Holy Spirit. He was born in Bethlehem and was heralded to the

RELATIONSHIP PILGRIMAGE

shepherds through a host of angels. Later, wise men came and presented Him gifts. As this was happening, the enemy was seeking to destroy Him.

2. *Life*

For the first thirty years of His life, Jesus lived as a carpenter's son in Galilee. Once the fullness of time was reached, He left home and was baptized by John the Baptist. This began His earthly ministry of proclaiming the Kingdom of God and illustrating how we as a sinful people could come into a personal relationship with God. He challenged the religious ways of His day and proclaimed that He was the light of the world. He told how the Father had a plan of redemption and grace, pouring out His life as a drink offering.

The people desired to make Him a king because of all the miracles he performed. Christ did not allow this to happen. His life modelled one of a servant. Our lives need to be one of service and commitment to Him as Lord and Saviour.

3. *Death*

The enemy constantly sought to destroy Christ. It seemed that he won when Jesus was beaten and hung on a cruel cross, like a criminal. Jesus shed His blood and gave His last breath into the hands of the Father in heaven. For three days He remained in the depths of the earth where the key of life and death (removed in the Garden of Eden) was taken back from Satan.

RELATIONSHIP PILGRIMAGE

4. *Resurrection*

If Christ remained in the grave he would have been no different than any other man. On the third day, death could not hold Him and God's resurrection power now filled His body and He rose from death, victorious of its hold. Jesus broke the chains of sin and death once and for all and the bridge was restored between God and mankind.

Relationship was no longer external but became internal. After His resurrection, He appeared to the disciples and many others to bear testimony of the things that had changed.

5. *Ascension*

Not only was Christ resurrected, He ascended to prepare a place for us and intercede to the Father on our behalf. Relationship was being restored on all levels.

6. *Holy Spirit*

Next came the fulfillment of a promise that Christ made to the disciples on the day of Pentecost – sending the Holy Spirit. God's very presence was now coming into the heart of every believer. The power that God granted to overcome the grip and strongholds of this sinful world would now be in man's heart. The Holy Spirit would become our teacher and comforter, never leaving or forsaking us. We could have life abundantly because of His presence in our lives.

RELATIONSHIP PILGRIMAGE

7. *Church*

On the Day of Pentecost, Christ sent forth the power of the Holy Spirit and at that moment the church was birthed. Christ not only wanted us to have a personal relationship with Him but also desired for us to build relationships with other believers. The church was to be His body, the organism that He would be head of and flow through as a witness to a lost world. It would be a light to all who would desire to give their lives to Christ; a place of refuge and safety for the pilgrim that was travelling through.

Jesus would empower His body in unity and harmony, equipping them for various types of ministries and service. The life blood of the body would be the Holy Spirit, evidenced by the fruit of the Spirit displayed through the church as a body and people as individuals.

The church was to be a place of rest and peace, a place to be restored, built up, trained and equipped for service. We do not have to feel alone or abandoned, as we are now part of a worldwide family. We have been adopted into the family of God, having brothers and sisters who can help and care for us as we walk with Christ.

8. *Second Coming*

Jesus told the disciples on the day of His ascension that just as they saw Him go, He would come back again to personally receive His own. We were now His children and joint heirs with Him. He is our King and we are His

RELATIONSHIP PILGRIMAGE

ambassadors proclaiming the grace, love and mercy of our God to all who would receive it.

9. Heaven

Jesus tells the disciples in John chapter 14 not to worry because, He was now going to prepare a place for us (John14:1-3) . What a beautiful day it will be, when we enter the gates into heaven, streets paved with gold and everywhere one looks, mansion prepared for our arrival. We will also for the first time meet Jesus face to face who will then welcome us personally into His eternal Kingdom.

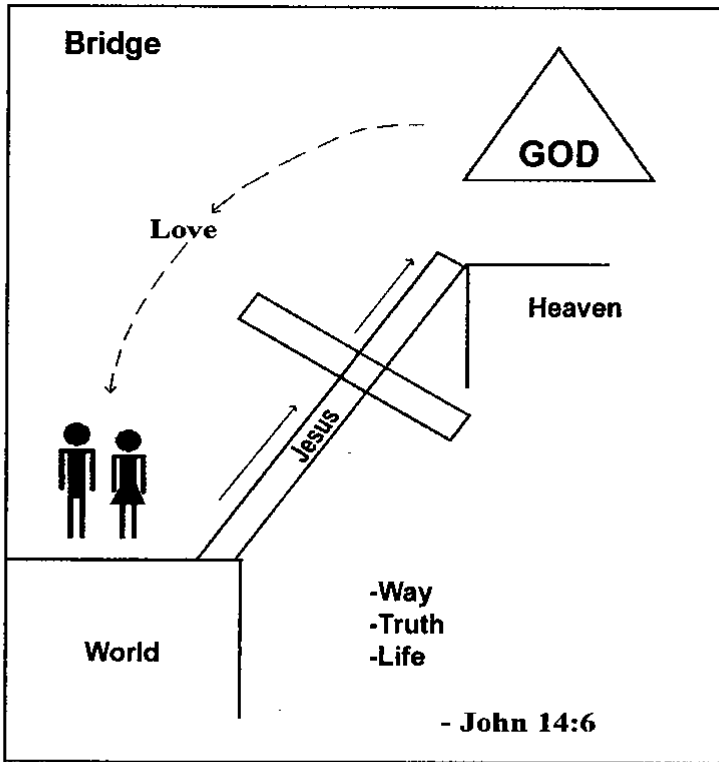
What Christ did for us was truly “Good News” for all mankind. It displayed a heart relationship of love and grace to all who would receive it as a gift (no strings attached). Out of the Gospels came two doors for us to journey through – One of restoration and the other of fellowship.

SCRIPTURES:

**I Corinthians 15:2, II Corinthians 9:13, Galatians 1:7, I
Thessalonians 2:4 Mark 16:15-18, Luke 24:45-49, Acts 1:1-11**

RELATIONSHIP PILGRIMAGE

Relationship Restored



“For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life.

John 3:16

“Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creature; the old things passed away; behold, new things have come.”

II Cor 5:17

“Christ becomes the bridge for those who believe, to living a new life”

RELATIONSHIP PILGRIMAGE

God desires to have relationship with man restored and He created a way of escape from the penalty of sin. This needed to come through a redeemer. God's perfect plan was to give His only Son Jesus Christ to intervene on our behalf. He was sinless, coming in the flesh to dwell among us. He shed His own innocent blood to pay the price for our sin. Jesus freely paid a debt that we could not pay.

Through Jesus, man was given a way of escape from this life of sin, loneliness and emptiness, restoring to him a life of significance, security and self worth. We are told "*He Himself bore our sins in His body on the cross, so that we might die to sin and live to righteousness; For by His wounds you were healed*" (1 Peter 2:24).

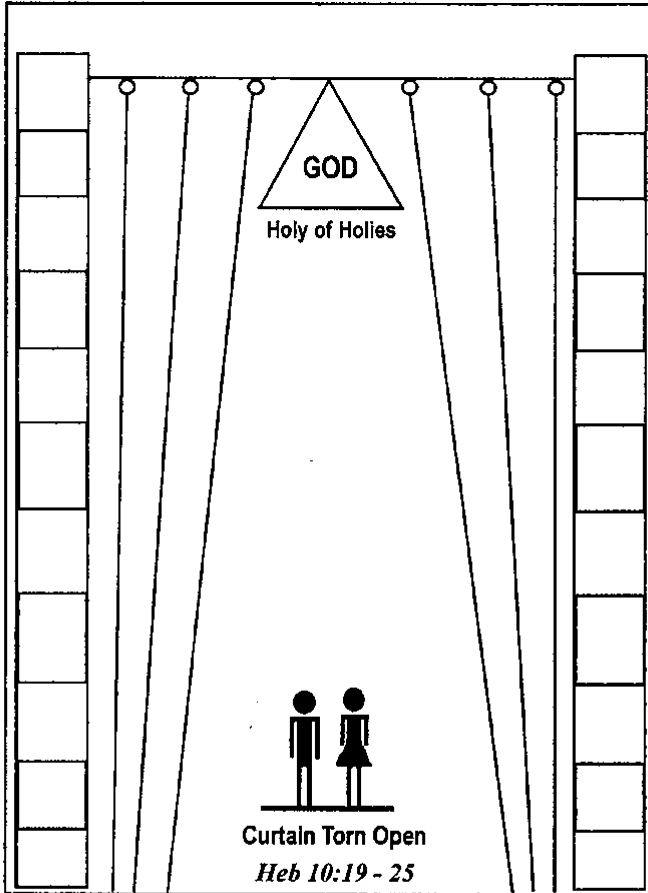
Restoration comes through believing in Jesus as the way, truth and the life. There would be no other way or access into the presence of God and His Kingdom. God could now build a bridge to a place of true life and freedom. Christ's death on the cross would become that bridge, the only bridge all people must cross to have eternal life. Jesus' sacrifice also connects us into a family of believers, joint heirs with Him.

SCRIPTURES:

John 14: 6, 1 Corinthians 15: 3 – 6, 1 Peter 3: 18, Romans 5: 8

RELATIONSHIP PILGRIMAGE

Relationship Door Open



And behold, the veil of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom; and the earth shook and the rocks were split.

Matt 27:51

“The door that was closed to man was open by Jesus Christ so that anyone who choose may enter in”

RELATIONSHIP PILGRIMAGE

After we see relationship created, violated and restored, another part of this picture is revealed. A door keeping man from God's holy presence was now open so that whoever believed in Christ could enter in.

In the Old Testament living, man could only come to God through a representative – a High Priest – selected and prepared to enter into the Holy of Holies (a place where God's presence exists) once a year to speak with God and seek atonement for the people. In order for the priest to enter the Holy of Holies the blood of an animal needed to be sacrificed on an altar. *“But only the high priest goes into the second (Holy of Holies), and he but once a year, and not without taking the blood that he offers for himself and for the sins committed unintentionally by the people.”* (Hebrews 9:7)

The word atonement means “reconciliation or divine act of grace”. Romans draws a picture of redemption *“For there is no distinction, since all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God; they are now justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, whom God put forward as a sacrifice of atonement by his blood, effective through faith. He did this to show his righteousness, because in his divine forbearance he had passed over the sins previously committed; it was to prove at the present time that he himself is righteous and that he justifies the one who has faith in Jesus”* (Romans 3: 22-26).

John tells us *“My little children, I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin. But if anyone does sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous; and he is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the sins of the whole world”* (1 John 2: 1-2).

RELATIONSHIP PILGRIMAGE

During the time of Adam and Eve, mankind was banned from the presence of God, due to the choices they had made. Sin had separated them from the very physical presence they had with God. When Christ hung on the cross, God showed mankind that things had now changed. Christ's shed blood became the perfect sacrifice and gift to mankind and the price between God and man was paid. Righteousness could be attained by clothing ourselves in the complete work of Christ. At Christ's death, the curtain in the temple was torn in two from top to bottom (Matthew 27: 51, Mark 15:38, Luke 23: 45). This was to illustrate that mankind could choose to come into the presence of God. No longer did we need to talk to God through a priest, but could now fellowship with Him personally.

Let us hear what the Scripture tells us about how relationship is central to the very heart of God.

*Therefore, brethren, since we have confidence to enter the holy place by the blood of Jesus, by a **new and living way** which He inaugurated for us through the **veil**, that is, His flesh, and since we have a great priest over the house of God, let us **draw near** with a sincere heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water. Let us hold fast the **confession of our hope** without wavering, for He who promised is faithful.*

Hebrews 10: 19-24

The door of relationship was now open to us to enter into a special fellowship with Christ and with other believers, His church. We can now personally walk into the Holy of Holies because Christ's blood made it possible.

RELATIONSHIP PILGRIMAGE

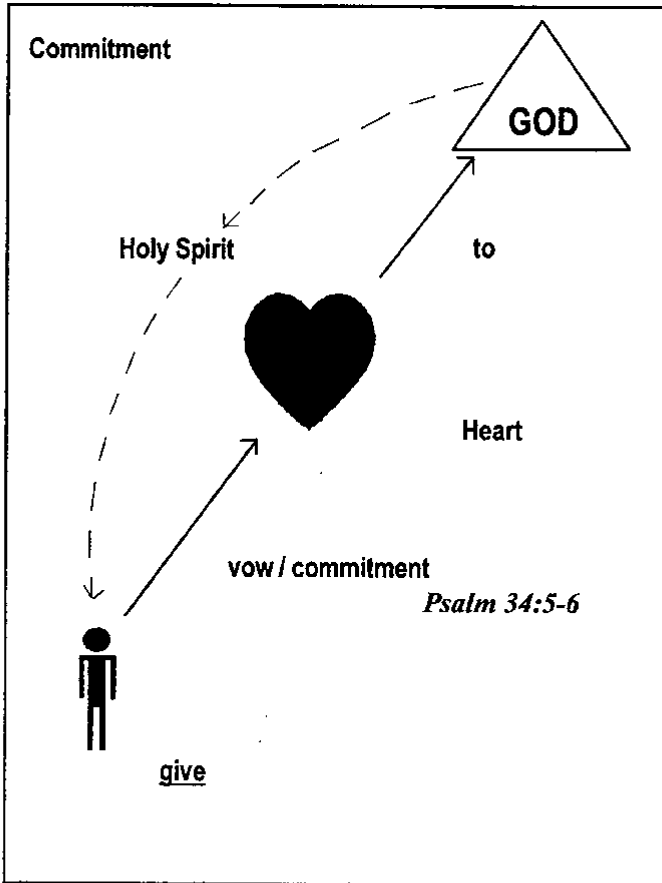
John tells us that Jesus said, I am the Door, and that He was the door to the sheepfold and all must come through Him (John 10:7,9). In the Book of Revelation He tells the world, "*Behold I stand at the door and knock; If anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and will dine with him, and he with Me*" (Revelation 3:20). Christ wants us to have a personal relationship with Him and if we want that kind of fellowship we must open the door and walk through it. He has made the way but by faith we must step through and into His presence.

SCRIPTURES:

Genesis 3: 22 – 24, Exodus 26:31-35, Matthew 27:51, Hebrews 9:1-14, Hebrews 10:19-25 John 3: 16 – 17, Revelation 3: 20

RELATIONSHIP PILGRIMAGE

RELATIONSHIP COVENANT



But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in His name,

John 1:12

**“Christ commits to us, then we must commit all to Him
as our Saviour and Lord”**

RELATIONSHIP PILGRIMAGE

In this section, we will break down into two illustrations which are key to the making of a relationship covenant.

The old English word often used between two parties making a binding agreement was the word “covenant”. We have seen how God has extended His hand to us. It is our turn to choose whether we will enter into a covenant with Him.

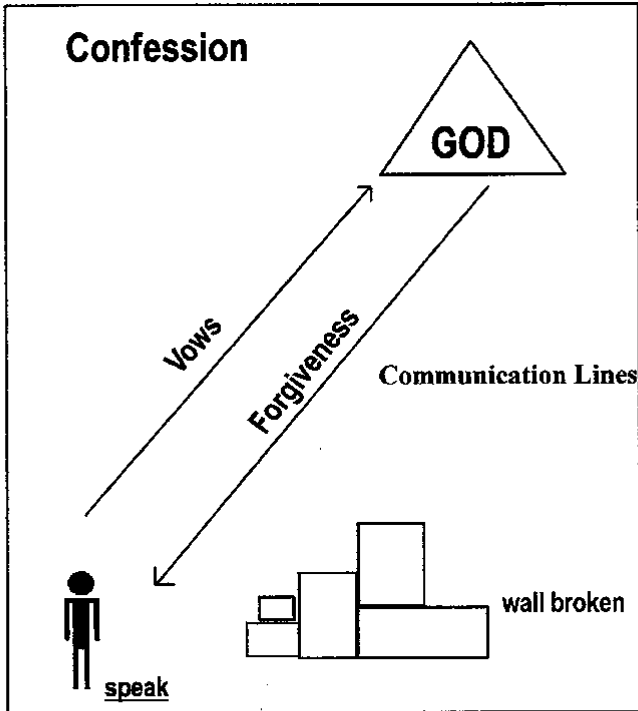
The dictionary defines covenant as “a pledge or undertaking”. *Synonyms* include “responsibility, dedication, vow, obligation, task, devotion, allegiance, faithfulness, promise, contract, discussion, guarantee, assurance”.

The challenge that people face today is being willing to make a divine commitment to God. God desires a commitment which becomes the bridge for a lasting relationship. Our hearts become the place that God makes alive spiritually. He is the key that unlocks the door to His love, grace and peace for all eternity. We become united together as one with Him.

But it is important to see that there are two key parts to a covenant – first is speaking (confession), the second is doing (commitment). When these both take place, you have a binding agreement.

RELATIONSHIP PILGRIMAGE

A. Relationship Confessed



Whoever confesses that Jesus is the Son of God, God abides in him, and he in God.

1 John 4:15

That if you confess with your mouth Jesus as Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved; for with the heart a person believes, resulting in righteousness, and with the mouth he confesses, resulting in salvation.

Rom 10:9-10

“Sin must be confessed before God’s forgiveness can be given”

RELATIONSHIP PILGRIMAGE

Confession is the first act of a covenant relationship with God. Confession is speaking out – telling what you see, feel and hear.

Words are very powerful. They have the power to bind and loosen people or things and can also build up or tear down. The picture illustrates that when we confess to God with our mouths, the wall of sin becomes broken and our fellowship with Him becomes restored. He not only speaks to us, but sets up a direct line of communication within our hearts.

Relationship works if two or more people enter into an agreement. In a wedding ceremony two things must take place. One is to confess or vow love toward one another. The key to any relationship is **communication**, the pivotal moment in a wedding (when the union becomes legally binding) happens at the point where confession and vows are made to one another. Each side has to confess to the other. In our relationship with Jesus, Christ has vowed and confessed to us. If we desire commitment with Him we must vow and confess as well. The second is to do something that shows that you have made a lifelong commitment, like signing a paper, giving of rings. Plus there is usually a group of people who witness the couple's words and actions.

In the book of Nehemiah, Ezra, after reading and teaching the Scriptures to the people, leads them in a personal prayer of confession to God for the forgiveness of sins. Two other people – Samuel (1 Samuel 7: 6) and King Solomon (2 Chronicles 6: 24, 26-27) also lead the people in public confession. This concept is also true when entering into a relationship with God. It starts by confessing our sins to Christ. As we do this, the cross of Christ becomes a bridge that we can use to walk into God's presence.

RELATIONSHIP PILGRIMAGE

One of our greatest challenges is admitting that we are sinners and humbly confessing the need to have Jesus as our personal Lord and Saviour.

This is what Paul was saying to the Romans in chapter 10 verses 8-10:

*But what does it say? "THE WORD IS NEAR YOU, IN YOUR **MOU**TH AND IN YOUR **HEART**" – that is, the word of faith which we are preaching, that if you **confess** with your **mouth** Jesus as Lord, and believe in your **heart** that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved; for with the **heart** a person believes, resulting in righteousness, and with the **mouth** he **confesses**, resulting in salvation.*

First we must confess Christ as Lord. Out of this step of faith He becomes our Lord and Saviour, freeing us from our past and the bondage we were in, because of sin. Romans tells us in the same chapter that if we call upon the name of the Lord, "we will be saved" (Romans 10:9, 13).

King David knew the importance of confession also. He states:

*I acknowledged my sin to You,
And my iniquity I did not hide;
I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the Lord";
And You forgave the guilt of my sin".*

Psalm 32:5

RELATIONSHIP PILGRIMAGE

We are promised that if we confess to God, He will hear, answer and come into our hearts as His dwelling place. *“If we confess our sins, he who is faithful and just will forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness” (1 John 1: 9)*. Jesus teaches us that, *“Everyone therefore who confesses me before others, I also will confess before my Father in heaven; but whoever denies me before others, I also will deny before my Father in heaven” (Matthew 10: 32-33)*. The result is a change that begins to take place in one’s heart and life. It begins to move us from our will to God’s will for our lives.

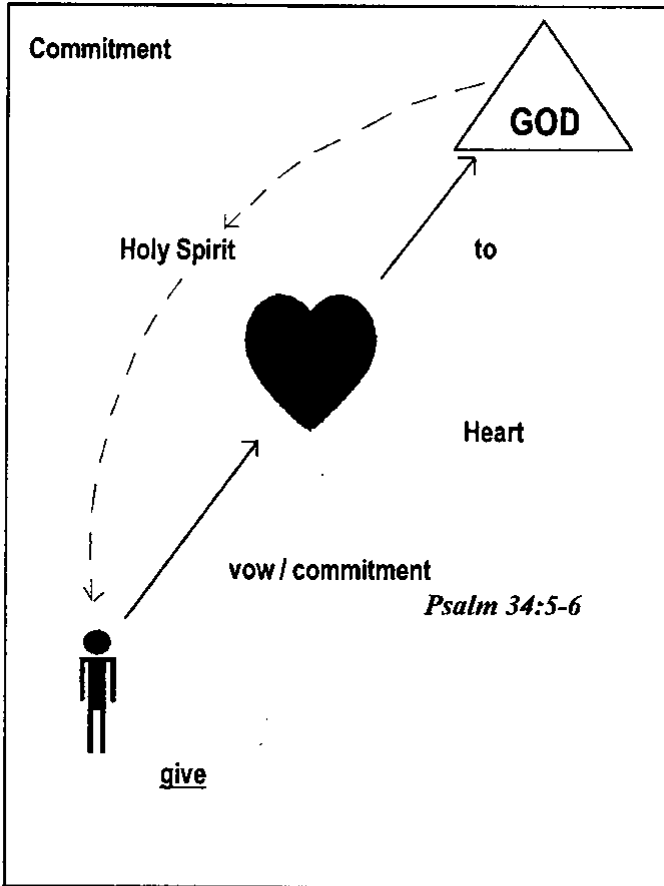
Our total value and self-worth becomes connected with God through our relationship with Him. We have to trust that He knows what we need and what is good for us. Once we speak it out He will hear us and join together with us.

SCRIPTURE:

Romans 10: 9-10, Psalm 32: 5, Philippians 2: 9-11, James 5: 16, I John 1:8-9

RELATIONSHIP PILGRIMAGE

B. Relationship Commitment:



But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in His name,

John 1:12

**“Christ commits to us, then we must commit all to Him
as our Saviour and Lord”**

RELATIONSHIP PILGRIMAGE

An agreement is only good when both parties commit to upholding and keeping it. For every coin, there are two sides that make it one entity. It is the same in relationship – there needs to be two joined together to make one. This brings us to the second part of a covenant, displayed by giving something to the other person.

In marriage, a couple will sometimes give each other rings to remind them of their daily commitment they have given to each other.

All relationships work on the basis of **commitment**. For example, two parties make a covenant of love between each other, vowing to help the other and walk together. They keep the **commitment** between each other not because of law, but out of love for the other person. In the same way, Christ committed to us by the way of a cruel cross. His shed blood was the price He paid, allowing us to have a deep relationship with God. John 3:16 says, *“For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life”*.

The Bible is known as the Old and New Testament but it could also be known as the Old and New Covenants. It was a record of God's commitment to mankind. If we confess our sin we now have committed to the New Covenant. We have entered into a personal agreement and relationship with Christ. John 1:12-13 tells us that we now become children of God. We are now family, joint-heirs with Jesus. This personal relationship commitment also opens up many doors of opportunity for service. Hebrews tells us that because of that mutual commitment to each other, He will never leave us or forsake us (Hebrews 13:5).

We need to accept that God is trustworthy and true. He never makes a promise that He does not keep. The Bible

RELATIONSHIP PILGRIMAGE

documents for man all God's promises and covenants He has made to us. Paul says, "*to be specific, that the Gentiles are fellow heirs and fellow members of the body, and fellow partakers of the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel...*" (Ephesians 3: 6).

We have talked about the two parts in making a covenant – confession and commitment. We need to turn ourselves over to Jesus to mould and make us into His image. Then, when people look at us, they will now see Christ shining through us.

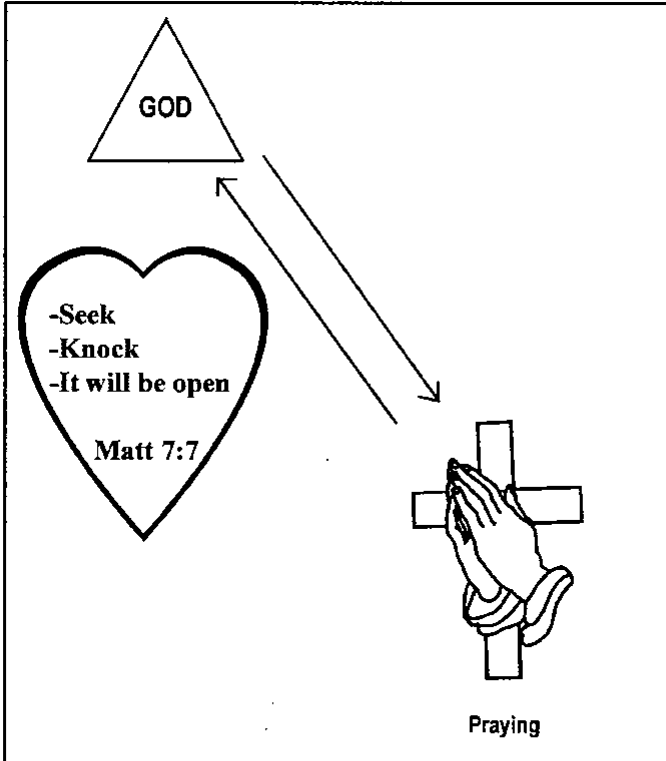
Still, the journey does not stop here. God continues to build on the meaning of relationships so that we can understand our position and joy that we have in Him. This brings us to our next point.

SCRIPTURE:

John 1:12, Hebrews 13:5, Matthew 26:27, I Corinthians 11:25

RELATIONSHIP PILGRIMAGE

Relationship Prayer and Pledge



If we say that we have no sin, we are deceiving ourselves and the truth is not in us.

If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

1 John 1:8-9

Be anxious for nothing, but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God.

Phil 4:6

“Prayer open the door of our heart so God can come in and be with you in a Personal Relationship.”

RELATIONSHIP PILGRIMAGE

Now is the time, not tomorrow or the next day but today. If you desire to enter into a personal relationship with Jesus Christ please take time to pray this prayer out to Him. Talk to Him as you would talk with a friend. He will hear you and will come into your heart, but you must invite Him into your life. It is now up to you, your choice. I encourage you today and to begin your eternal personal relationship with Christ Jesus.

Dear Jesus,

I confess that I am a sinner, having gone my own way, and that I need you as my Lord and Saviour. I believe that You paid the price for my sins when You died on the cross and shed Your blood for me, so that I might have eternal life. I am ready and willing to turn from my sin and return to You. I now invite You into my heart and surrender the control and direction of my life entirely to You. Help me to be a true disciple to You and to others. Thank you for taking my punishment and providing for me a way of escape from eternal death to an everlasting life. Thank you for coming into my heart so that I can now have a close, personal relationship with You.

Amen

RELATIONSHIP PILGRIMAGE

Relationship Commitment Certificate

My Confession:

I have confessed my sinfulness to God, turned from my sin and believe that Christ has forgiven me.

My Acceptance:

I now receive the living Christ into my life as Lord and Saviour.

My Commitment:

I surrender the right to my life to Jesus Christ. Jesus is my Lord.

Date of surrender to Christ:

Signature:

Witnessed by:

RELATIONSHIP PILGRIMAGE

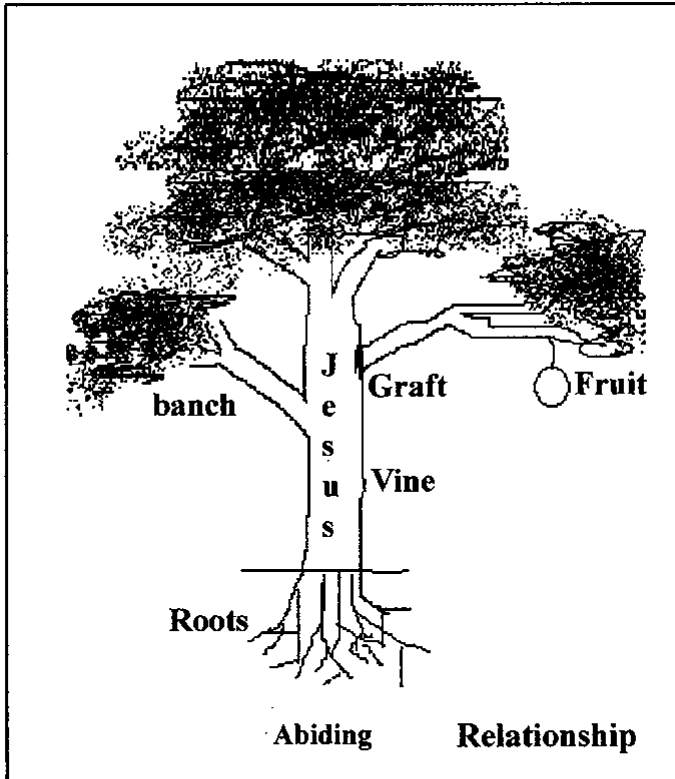
Welcome Home

Welcome into the personal family of Christ. Today is the first day of the rest of your life! You are now part of a world-wide family!

You no longer need to be empty or alone, no matter the circumstances or the trials that you may find yourself in. You now have a companion that sticks closer than a brother. He is with you 24 hours a day. All you have to do is call upon His name and share your heart openly with Him. He not only hears, but desires to communicate with you as a brother and friend would.

RELATIONSHIP PILGRIMAGE

RELATIONSHIP MIRACLE



Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself unless it abides in the vine, so neither can you unless you abide in Me.

I am the vine, you are the branches; he who abides in Me and I in him, he bears much fruit, for apart from Me you can do nothing.

John 15:4-5

“Fruit of God comes from a relationship with Jesus Christ”

RELATIONSHIP PILGRIMAGE

Now a true miracle has taken place. It is amazing and special, offered to all who will receive it. God tells us that He wants us to be connected to Him physically, emotionally and spiritually. We become united once again with our Creator.

When we move back to a relationship with God, a **miracle** does take place. Jesus tells us that we become united with Him, becoming a part of Him and He a part of us. We are no longer alone or bear the fruit of sin.

Jesus describes us as a wild branch living for the world. As we come to Him and confess our sin we become personally **grafted into Him**. As we become part of His vine we take on His nature, character and life. John 15: 4-5 tells us, *“Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself unless it abides in the vine, so neither can you unless you abide in Me. I am the vine, you are the branches; he who abides in Me and I in him, he bears much fruit, for apart from Me you can do nothing.”* This results in people seeing us as true disciples of Christ. Jesus holds us up and the power of the Holy Spirit flows through us to produce fruit that will last. The Holy Spirit comes through the vine that Christ has grafted us to, and we will begin to bear the fruit of His Spirit. Paul tells us that this fruit will manifest itself as *love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control* (Galatians 5: 22-23).

In order to graft a branch, the side of the vine is cut open and the new branch is fitted into the opening of the vine. Once in place, the vinedresser will bind it tightly. Over a period of time healing will take place and the two become one. The nourishment and nature of the vine comes up from the roots and flow out into the branch. We need to remember that the roots support us and it is not us supporting the root. It is also important that all branches remain attached to the vine because of belief and faith in Christ.

RELATIONSHIP PILGRIMAGE

This relationship with Christ not only grafts us into Him as a vine but we become part of Christ's roots system. Because we have joined in with Jesus through the miracle of being grafted in, we are part of His eternal family, making us joint heirs to Him. We are now part of God's family which gives to us a heritage that comes from the past and reaches into the future. At the proper time of maturity the new branch will produce fruit in the likeness of the vine. The fruit reproduces more plants that carry within it the character and strength of the vine.

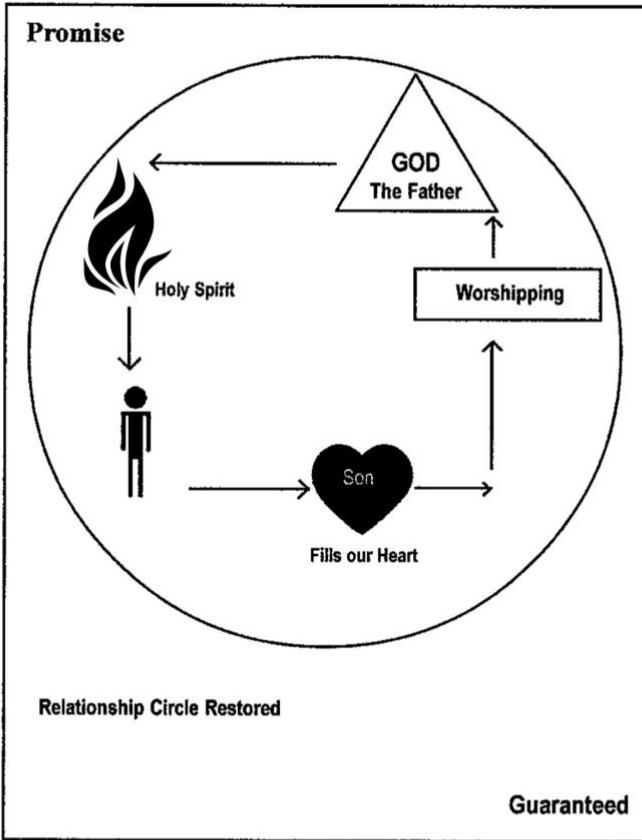
Similarly, as we accept Christ our nature and likeness become similar to the vine (Jesus). This is why Jesus told the disciples that by our fruit we will be known (Matthew 7: 16). In helping us to understand this miracle He has sent His Holy Spirit to help guide us.

SCRIPTURE:

John 15: 1 – 11, Acts 3: 19, Colossians 2: 13 – 14

RELATIONSHIP PILGRIMAGE

RELATIONSHIP GUARANTEED



Now He who establishes us with you in Christ and anointed us is God, who also sealed us and gave us the Spirit in our hearts as a pledge.

II Cor 1:21-22

“Jesus desires to cover you and fill you with His Spirit”

RELATIONSHIP PILGRIMAGE

As we continue to examine this personal relationship with God we see another miracle. As Jesus left the earth, He said He would ask the Father to send another comforter. This person would come and **seal** the relationship agreement together in our hearts. We are told, *“In Him, you also, after listening to the message of truth, the gospel of your salvation – having also believed, you were sealed in Him with the Holy Spirit of promise, who is given as a pledge of our inheritance, with a view to the redemption of God’s own possession, to the praise of His glory.”* Ephesians 1: 13-14

The Bible encourages us, *“Now He who establishes us with you in Christ and anointed us is God, who also sealed us and gave us the Spirit in our hearts as a pledge”* 2 Corinthians 1: 21-22. Christ wants to fill our hearts daily with the Holy Spirit (Ephesians 5:18). The Holy Spirit comes to empower, teach, strengthen, comfort and direct us in our daily walk, so that we can grow into a place of maturity. Jesus said, *“But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you everything, and remind you of all that I have said to you”* (John 14: 26).

Christ wants us to walk together in His presence daily. He accomplishes this by putting a part of Himself into our hearts, **guaranteeing** His commitment to our relationship. In 2 Corinthians 5: 5 we see, *“He who has prepared us for this very thing is God, who has given us the Spirit as a guarantee”*. We now can serve one another and be witnesses to this lost and sinful world, not because of our ability and power but because of His ability and power.

The illustration demonstrates several things. First, it shows the Holy Spirit coming as fire. Fire consumes that which is not real. In the same way the Holy Spirit helps to burn that which is useless in our lives. Second, it indicates the Holy Spirit desiring to

RELATIONSHIP PILGRIMAGE

fill our hearts. His filling needs to be a daily process. Just as gasoline in a car gets used and runs out, a believer (as they serve and give out) needs to go back to God for more of His power and strength. Finally, the circle signifies that we are complete with God, together and united with Him. We are yoked together in love and for service.

The Holy Spirit helps us to worship God in spirit and in truth (John 4: 24). Our walk with Christ is an empowered relationship through Him, walking and guiding us until we are called home. Galatians 5: 25 states, *“If we live by the Spirit, let us also walk by the Spirit.”* Until then, we are to be His temple. The Scripture says, *“Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and that you are not your own? For you have been bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body”* 1 Corinthians 6: 19-20.

To think that each day we do not have to walk alone in our strength and ability! We can have an empowered personal relationship with God each moment of the day.

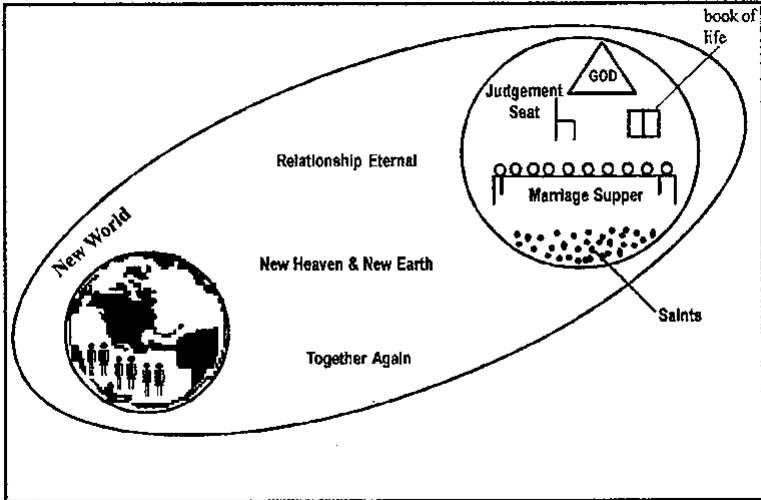
Let us now look at the last concept that we need to know concerning this personal relationship journey.

SCRIPTURE:

Romans 8: 9-11, Romans 5: 5, Romans 8:26-27, Galatians 5: 25, Galatians 6:8

RELATIONSHIP PILGRIMAGE

RELATIONSHIP ETERNAL



And the testimony is this, that God has given us eternal life, and this life is in His Son.

He who has the Son has the life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have the life.

These things I have written to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, so that you may know that you have eternal life.

1 John 5:11-13

“New relationship leads to a new life and a new eternal home”

RELATIONSHIP PILGRIMAGE

The good news does not stop! He is now preparing a place where He will take us and we can dwell together with Him for all **eternity**; a place where there is no more pain or suffering, a place where we will have new bodies, a place of great celebration, a place of unity and harmony between men and all creation, a place where we will be given a new name (Revelation 2: 17).

We will not only have a place with God, but with all believers who have entered by faith into a personal relationship with Christ. His kingdom is close at hand and soon our King will come for His people.

The diagram below indicates a variety of events that will take place as we go to be with Him. We see God over all things in a form of a triangle. We see a chair, representing the great white throne of God (the judgement seat). Below the triangle and circle is a table representing the wedding feast, and the dots and marks are the thousands upon thousands of saints who are at the Marriage Supper of the Lamb (Jesus Christ).

Encompassing the diagram are three circles. One illustrates heaven, the second indicates the new earth and the larger circle covers the other two, showing that all is together and complete as one. The picture has changed back to the way it was before the fall of Adam and Eve. Relationship with all things will be at peace again. The lion will lay down with the lamb and death and destruction will be no more.

The book of Revelation talks of the Marriage Supper of the Lamb. This is when we will be gathered together with Him to reign for all eternity (Revelation 19: 6-10). Our invitation comes as our names are written in Christ's personal relationship book. He knows us by name and will call us to join Him for all eternity.

RELATIONSHIP PILGRIMAGE

“And the testimony is this that God has given us eternal life, and this life is in His Son. He who has the Son has the life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have the life. These things I have written to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, so that you may know that you have eternal life.” 1 John 5: 11-13

SCRIPTURE:

John 3: 15 – 16, Romans 5: 21, Romans 6: 23, 1 Timothy 1: 16, 1 Peter 3: 18, 1 John 5: 13, Jude 21

Conclusion

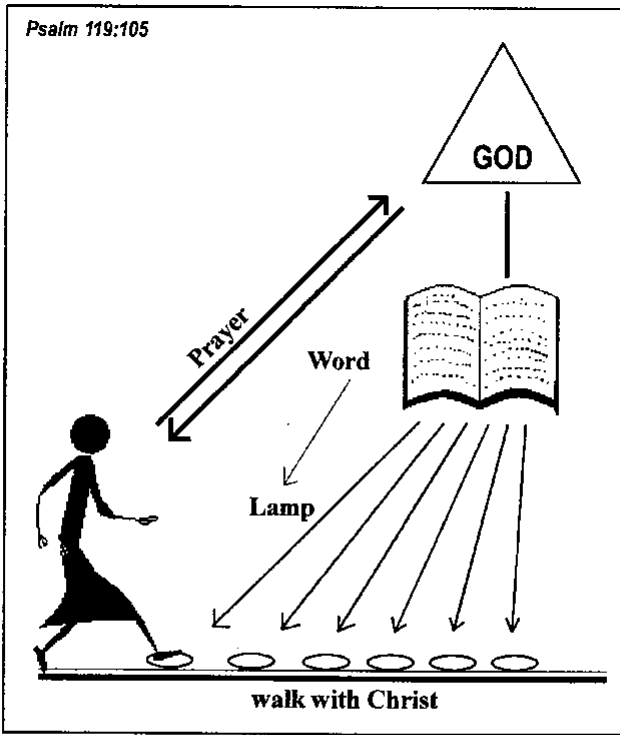
We have now journeyed through thousands of years of time and during all this time we have been given a glimpse of how God so desires through love, to have a personal relationship with each one of us. We become joint heirs with Jesus Christ for all eternity and it all comes about because of God's great love for His creation.

Today is your day! You can choose to have this personal relationship with Christ. It is never too late; God wants to hear from you.

RELATIONSHIP PILGRIMAGE

SECTION TWO

Relationship Lifestyle



For they themselves report about us what kind of a reception we had with you, and how you turned to God from idols to serve a living and true God, and to wait for His Son from heaven, whom He raised from the dead, that is Jesus, who rescues us from the wrath to come.

1 Thess 1:9-10

“God and His Word helps us to see the way to the truth and to the kind of life we should live.”

RELATIONSHIP PILGRIMAGE

Discipleship Lifestyle

What follows are some helpful hints to strengthen the new relationship that you now have with Christ Jesus as His Disciples.

Scripture: Reading and studying the Word of God daily.
2 Timothy 3:14 – 17

Prayer: For Christ's will and wisdom for others.
Philippians 4:6 – 7

Testify: Share your faith in Christ and tell others of God's love. Water baptism is one of the first ways to do this.
1 Peter 3:15 – 16

Fellowship: Go out and get involved with other believers – in worship, communion and giving – which will strengthen your personal relationship with God.
Hebrews 10:24 – 25

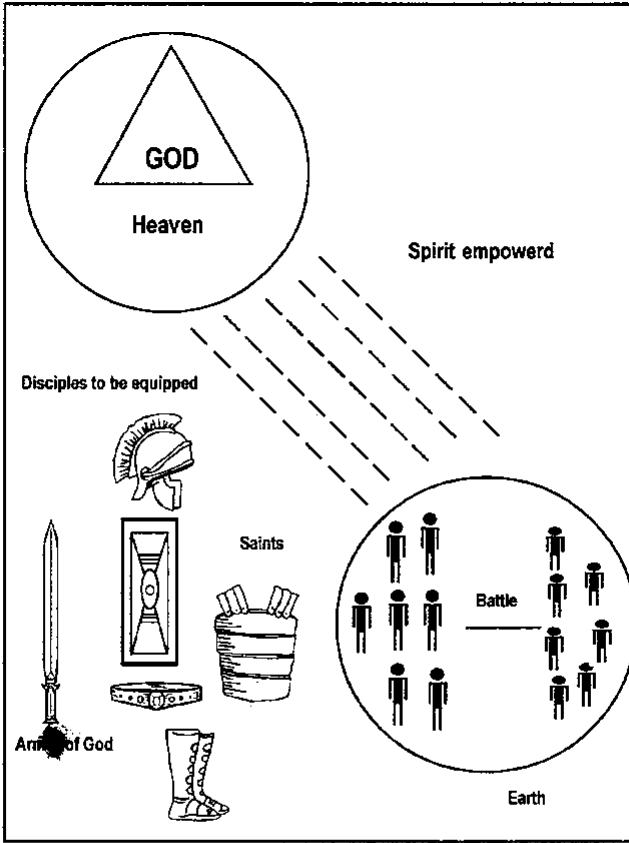
Walk: Let the Holy Spirit direct and guide your life each day. Allow the Holy Spirit to fill you and empower you for service.
John 14:26, Acts 2:38

Fruit: Grow each day while walking on a journey of maturity so that you may bear fruit that will last.
John 15:11

Seed Planting: Fulfill the call of the great commission by going, planting and reaping for God's glory. The seed is the Good News of the Gospel of Christ. Go tell and give to others what you have freely received.
Matthew 28:19 – 20, Mark 16:15 – 18

RELATIONSHIP PILGRIMAGE

Relationship Challenge



*You are from God, little children, and have overcome them;
because greater is He who is in you than he who is in the world.*

1 John 4:4

"We face a battle of good and evil but the Power of
Christ in us makes us overcomers."

RELATIONSHIP PILGRIMAGE

The book of Revelation picture for us the final battle for our hearts at the end of time. The battle will be over whom shall we worship and serve. Satan has been trying to steal that hearts of man into believing that his way is true and right. Whereas the Bible teaches that his way is a way of division, destruction and death. He wants you to sell your soul to him and does it through lies and deception. What God desires is that you give and entrust your life to Him and He will care and look after you for all eternity.

The church, Jesus' bride will have also undergone a lot of challenges because it chooses to follow sometimes after it own doctrines and teaching instead of staying firm to the truth. Everything will be shaken to see what foundations we have built upon, are made of. Only that which is built upon the rock of Jesus Christ will stand. There is no other foundation and there is no other way to this personal relationship with God.

We also must be warned about false teaching and things that the world may call truth. We need to beware of wolves who are dress in sheep's clothing and with goats that proclaim that they know Christ but in the end Jesus will say, " I know you not" (Matthew 25:37-46).

In these last days the earth is going to undergo a lot of birth pains, calamities, earthquakes and the people will go to war one against another all because they have been deceived into believing a lie from Satan and the Beast. The antichrist has one purpose, to get people to submit and worship him. His goal is to steal away from the Creator that which God had intended to be beautiful, unique and personal.

But we have a treasure in earthen vessels that cannot be touched and that is eternal because it is put there by God Himself.

RELATIONSHIP PILGRIMAGE

Paul tells this truth to the Corinthian Church. He states,

For God, who said, "Light shall shine out of darkness," is the One who has shone in our hearts to give the Light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Christ. But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, so that the surpassing greatness of the power will be of God and not from ourselves; we are afflicted in every way, but not crushed; perplexed, but not despairing; persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed; always carrying about in the body the dying of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus also may be manifested in our body. For we who live are constantly being delivered over to death for Jesus' sake, so that the life of Jesus also may be manifested in our mortal flesh.

II Corinthians 4:6-11

Paul also states, that as disciples of Christ we must put on the "Full Armour of God", (Ephesians 6:10-17) if we hope to stand in the last days. Each piece of the armour protects us from our spiritual enemies. They are,

1. Helmet of Salvation:

- a. To save our thoughts and attitudes from destruction.
- b. To protect our mind.
- c. To give our mind peace that passes all understanding.

2. Breast plate of righteousness:

- a. Our heart covered with Christ's blood.
- b. When God see us, He sees Christ's righteousness covering us.

RELATIONSHIP PILGRIMAGE

c. It protects all the vital organs.

3. **Belt of truth:**

- a. We need truth to be our guide and the Word of God is truth.
- b. It is the truth that sets us free.
- c. We need to be disciples of the truth.

4. **Shoes of Gospel of Peace:**

- a. Our feet take us everywhere.
- b. They carry us with a very important message.
- c. Bring the Gospel of peace to lost world.

5. **Shield of faith:**

- a. To protect us from the enemies fiery darts from his lies and deception.
- b. It shows the enemy that we believe in Christ Jesus.

6. **Sword of the Spirit:**

- a. The Word of God.
- b. Both an offensive and defensive weapon.
- c. If we know and understand it is very powerful with a skilled sword handler.

Again prayer is the key to the disciples' walk here on earth. Paul continues to remind the soldier of Christ of this important truth (Ephesians 6:18-20). Here are a few helpful thoughts to remember about prayer:

- Prayer is the key to all that we do.
- Prayer is our direct channel to God.
- Prayer is what wins the battle.
- Prayer is what builds unity and harmony.

RELATIONSHIP PILGRIMAGE

- Prayer should be at the heart of every disciple.
- Praying in the Spirit on all occasions v18.
- Prayer keeps us alert.
- Pray for your fellow disciples (saints).
- Pray for your teachers and leaders and the things that they speak.
- Pray for fearlessness and boldness when it comes to presenting the Gospel of Christ.
- Pray that we will be good ambassadors.
- Prayer is the key to a deep and strong relationship in Christ Jesus.

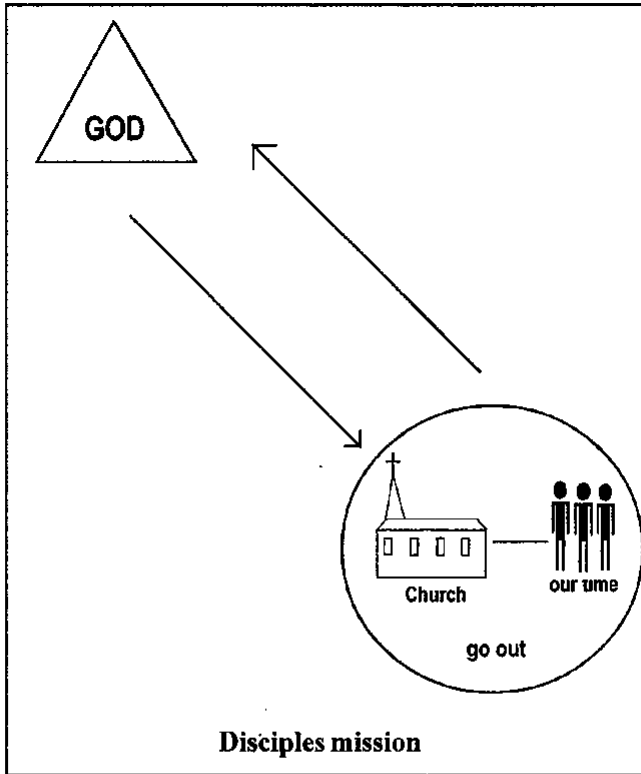
We have been given peace and hope that passes all human understanding. It can only be made known by the Spirit of Christ. Yes the relationship will often be challenging, but as we face these challenges we will become more like Christ knowing that His rope and anchor will remain firm.

SCRIPTURES:

Matthew 24:1-44, II Corinthians 10:4, Ephesians 6:10-18, I Timothy 1:18.

RELATIONSHIP PILGRIMAGE

RELATIONSHIP TORCH



*How then will they call on Him in whom they have not believed?
How will they believe in Him whom they have not heard? And how
will they hear without a preacher?*

*How will they preach unless they are sent? Just as it is written,
"How BEAUTIFUL ARE THE FEET OF THOSE WHO BRING
GOOD NEWS OF GOOD THINGS!"*

Rom 10:14-15

"Being a light helps others to become a light for Christ too."

RELATIONSHIP PILGRIMAGE

To many, this concept of having God with oneself in a personal relationship is a strange thought. Even the people in the Bible thought it was a real mystery. It just too hard to believe, it seems too simple yet profound. For many people in the world their heart remains closed and their eyes blinded and they cannot hear. But God has raised up men and women throughout the ages to proclaim and teach the message of personal relationship with God to as many who would listen. The Bible tells us that the end time will not take place until the whole world has had a chance to hear and had a chance to make a decision.

At the beginning God used people like you and me to go out. Somewhere apostles, others disciples, preachers, teachers and evangelists etc. He calls into our hearts so that we will respond and then go out to give our testimony of our personal relationship with God to others. How shall they hear unless someone goes and tells them (Romans 10:14-15). When men and women work together in harmony with the Holy Spirit and according to God's will, then people all around will also come to know God in a personal relationship also. We should not be afraid to take this step of faith ourselves and then go out and encourage others.

We need to be teachers that will help train and equip people for this ministry. Listen to some of the first torchbearers of this relationship message.

Paul: when Paul wrote to the Galatian church he was greatly troubled how that they had started out right with their relationship with Christ but were now back following traditions, culture and Jewish laws. They started their walk firmly based on the promise of Christ and now where moving from the freedom they have back into

RELATIONSHIP PILGRIMAGE

the bondages of the old ways. They had walked in grace righteousness and now were returning to self-righteousness. He took them through a history lesson to show from the life of Abraham and Sarah that their relation was one of grace and not built on the law. The law was a schoolmaster to show us our need for a Redeemer, one who could bring us back into a genuine relationship with God. One who could move us from hopelessness to true hope and love?

Peter: he wanted his reader to know that just like Christ is a living stone (the Rock) and that we can become living stones because of our personal relationship with Christ (1 Peter 2). We have also been called out of darkness into a living light. (2:11). There will be challenges and suffering but we are to remember that we serve a living God who is in our hearts and walking with us each moment of the day. We also have leadership that God has raised up in the church to help in our relationship with Christ. We get birthed into a new family and like all children there is a time for growing and maturing before we can produce fruit that will last. The last thing we all need to do is to stay firm to our calling in Christ. He will not leave us but sometimes we through self-desires will walk away from Him. Like any relationship it needs to be worked at and committed to before it can be strong, sure and lasting.

James: he shared with the believers how their relationship with Christ could be one of testing's and trials but if they persevered they would receive the crown of life (1:12). The personal challenges would take them deeper in their relationship with Christ and in stronger faith to pray and encourage others. Out of these trials we were going to become the first fruits of God's kingdom. Something very new and special because personal relationship could now

RELATIONSHIP PILGRIMAGE

be restored. All that we need to do is to humble ourselves and submit ourselves to God (4:7). We are encouraged to stand firm in our commitment (5:80).

John: much of the book of John is writing to the church. It is to try to teach people about God's beautiful love towards us. God is light and life to all who will receive and all that Christ does for us is bathed in love. John did not want the disciple to walk in sin but in the love of Christ, not to walk in the world but to be kingdom lovers. We have another home and King that we serve. We are children of God called to be part of His love and that the Father loved us so much.

I John 3:1 says it this way,

“How great is the love the father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God!”

The key to our personal relationship is to have faith in Christ Jesus (I John 5) and accept His love that He desperately wants to give to us.

There were also many others in the New Testament like Barnabas, Steven, Timothy, Silas, John Mark, Philip, Ananias, the Ethiopian, Cornelius, Tabitha, Lydia, Jason, Priscilla, Aquila, Apollos, Erastus, Sopater, Aristorachus, Secundus, Gaius. People you do not know but are part of our family tree, of the body of Christ. In the first, two to three hundred years, even with much persecution, thousands of people and hundreds of churches were birth forth into a personal relationship with Christ Jesus.

But it has not stopped with them, people are still carrying and sowing the message of having a personal relationship with

RELATIONSHIP PILGRIMAGE

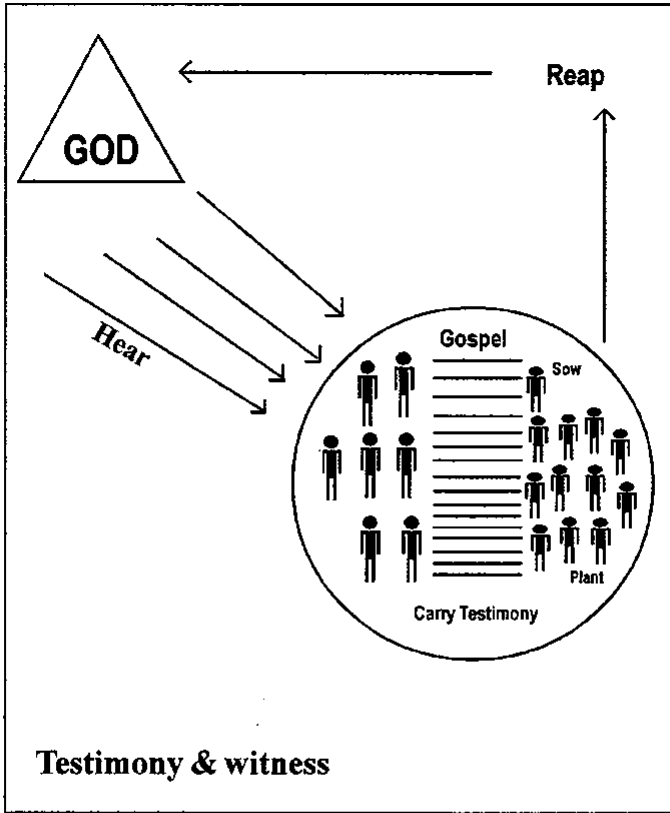
God. People are sowing this seed to this very day. People like Judson, Hanson, Wermbrant, Hildebrand, Fitchett, Issac, Torry, Tozer, Simpson, Moody, Billy Graham, just to name a very few. Thousands have gone before us and thousands will go on after us but it is important that we make sure we become a part of this task ourselves. We need to pick up that torch and pass it on to others so that all may know and have a opportunity to receive Christ also in a personal relationship within their hearts for all eternity.

SCRIPTURES:

I Corinthians 3:6, I Timothy 1:13-14, I Timothy 6:20, II Timothy 2:2, Matthew 9:37 to 10:1-20, like 10:1-24.

RELATIONSHIP PILGRIMAGE

Relationship Broadcasted



Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.

Matt 28:19-20

“We have freely recieved now we need to freely give.”

RELATIONSHIP PILGRIMAGE

From the book of Acts chapter one to the book of Jude the apostles and the disciples endeavoured to start from Jerusalem and then spread throughout the whole world this message of how God wanted to have a personal relationship with man and that He would work through this living organism called the church.

The book of Ephesians likens this relation to a bride and a bridegroom and in the end times the church would be presented as His bride. It pictures for us a couple who are married and how the two become one in relationship to one another (Ephesians 5:22-22). Christ desires this kind of relationship with us. He wants us to become one in thought and actions. To walk together daily in His Spirit.

Christ was now bringing people together under Himself. He shed His blood that would bind us together and then sent His Holy Spirit to be placed in us as a guarantee of what Christ has done and will continue to do in the future. The Holy Spirit brings unity and harmony into the body which Christ is the head of.

Paul tells the Ephesian church about this beautiful relationship that they can have, and that for many still remains a mystery, hard to understand. Sometimes our eyes can only see something difficult, but when we take a step of faith, we draw near to Him and He will draw near to us. (James 4:8)

It is also interesting to note that God wanted us to have a relationship with Him but after we become believers in Christ He also wants us to have a relationship with each other (I Corinthians 12:12- 28). We are to love, care for and work with each other in the same way that He does this with us. “Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it” (I Corinthians 12:27). For a body to function it has to work together in unity and harmony under the direction and control of its head.

RELATIONSHIP PILGRIMAGE

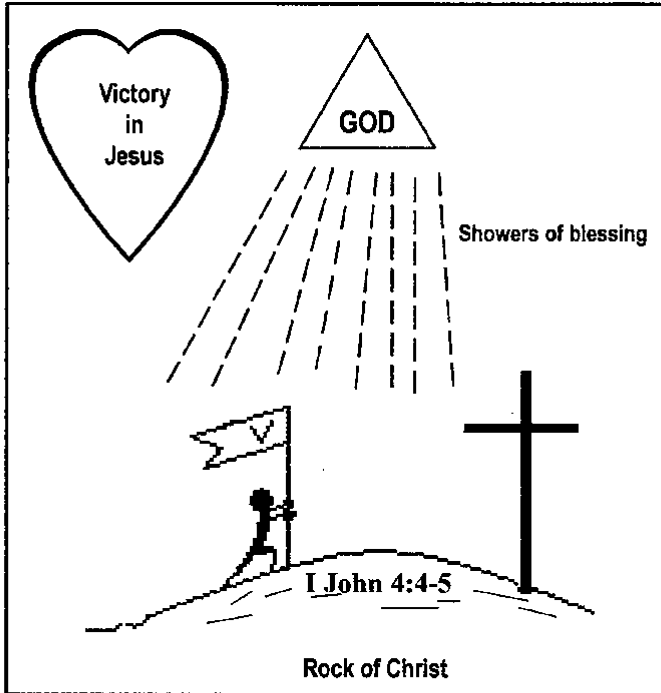
The church would be the agent, that Christ through His Spirit has testified down throughout time and to generations to come, about a God who desires to love and care for us. He wants, with all His heart, to have a personal relationship with all who will call upon His name.

SCRIPTURES:

Matthew 28:19-20, Romans 15:19, Colossians 1:23, II Timothy 4:17, Matthew 10:27, Luke 4:18.

RELATIONSHIP PILGRIMAGE

Relationship Victory



“I also say to you that you are Peter, and upon this rock I will build My church; and the gates of Hades will not overpower it.”

“I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven; and whatever you bind on earth shall have been bound in heaven, and whatever you lose on earth shall have been loosed in heaven.”

Matt. 16:18-19

“These will wage war against the Lamb, and the Lamb will overcome them, because He is Lord of lords and King of kings, and those who are with Him are the called and chosen and faithful.”

Rev 17:14

“The disciples need to stand firm on the rock and promise of Jesus Christ.”

RELATIONSHIP PILGRIMAGE

In the last days, the earth and all creation will be going through a time of great tribulation. There will be all kinds of challenges, but those who have entered into a personal relationship with Christ will overcome. The day that we committed to Christ as Lord and Saviour, was the day we began our **victory** dance. Yes there may be a times when our physical body ceases to exist, but our spiritual man will live on for **all eternity** with Christ (I Corinthians 15:54, 55).

The idea of the word "**victory**" can also mean, to be delivered, set free, released from an eternal bondage. We have triumphed and succeeded over our trials or enemies. The challenge is getting our minds filled up with the proper attitude about who we are in Christ. We must remember that we have been delivered and that we are a **King's Kid**.

The beauty of being a disciple of Christ is that we can have **victory** also here on earth. Jesus tells Peter, "*I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven; and whatever you bind on earth shall have been bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall have been loosed in heaven.*" (Matthew 16:19). Jesus has given to us all that we need to have the **victory** here on earth. We need to bind up those things that are hindering us for service and to loosen the power of Christ to break those strongholds of the enemy. Paul states that nothing can separate us from the love of God (Romans 8:35). As the illustration show, that we can climb the mountains before us and hoist the flag of **victory** because we are soldiers of Christ's army.

John goes on to tell us, "*You are from God, little children, and have overcome them; because greater is He who is in you than he who is in the world. They are from the world; therefore they speak as from the world, and the world listens to them*". (I John

RELATIONSHIP PILGRIMAGE

4:4-5) We need to remember that we are pilgrims that are just passing through this world. We have been called to be Christ's ambassadors. There is real peace that we can have in our hearts because of knowing that Christ is there and fills us with the power of the Holy Spirit. We are able through His strength to have the **Victory**. Sometimes, it may seem that we lose some battles but in the end "**we win the war**".

The final "**victory**" word comes from King David, "*So David blessed the LORD in the sight of all the assembly; and David said, "Blessed are You, O LORD God of Israel our father, forever and ever. "Yours, O LORD, is the greatness and the power and the glory and the **victory** and the majesty, indeed everything that is in the heavens and the earth; Yours is the dominion, O LORD, and You exalt Yourself as head over all". (I Chronicles 29:10-11)* The key to all battles and wars is to keep focused on whom we serve and fight for. We are children of the King of kings. It is no longer we that live but Christ who lives in us. We need to get up each day and put on the Full Armour of God and take our stand for Jesus and not be overcome by that which our enemy tries to do to us. We need to speak and live like King David praising God for all His love and grace that He so freely pours into us.

SCRIPTURE:

2 Samuel 23:10, 1 Chronicles 11:14, Psalm 98:1, Matthew 12:20, 1 Corinthians 15:54-55, I John 5:4

RELATIONSHIP PILGRIMAGE

CONCLUSION

As in the Garden of Eden, we have a free will to enter into relationship or keep wandering by ourselves empty-hearted. We see what God has done to reach out and have a personal relationship with us. It is a decision that will affect our eternal life and destination. The choice is up to us.

What this world offers is only a land that we are to pass through – a place where we are to live and make decisions about our future. We are on a pilgrimage journey to discover God as our Saviour, Lord and soon coming King (John 15: 11). If this is truly your desire to be a disciple of Christ, please pray the following prayer.

Dear Lord Jesus,

I have taken the first step to invite you into my heart as my personal Lord and Saviour, now I ask that you will help me in my everyday walk here on this earth. I know that all around me are temptations and trials and the enemy of my soul wants to destroy me if he can, but I pray that you will help me to keep my eyes focused on you. Jesus, the way ahead looks like a big mountain to climb but I know with your help to strengthen me and I will be able to overcome. Lord I want to truly be your disciple, that the things that I say and do will bring honour and glory to your name. Thank you that you have called me into your family of believers, the church and that you will lead me to a place where I can grow and have good fellowship with other disciples of Christ.

Your servant in Christ,

RELATIONSHIP PILGRIMAGE

Remember He will never leave you nor forsake you. If you stumble or fall, just ask Jesus Christ to help you up again.

Discipleship is relationship and relationship is a walk of discipleship in Jesus Christ. The two must go hand-in-hand if we are to have that personal, intimate relationship with our Lord Jesus Christ.

You have taken the first step – Christ will walk and fill you with the Holy Spirit for the rest of your journey here on earth and you will reign with Him for all eternity.

Remember what relationship is all about. There are at least three words within this one word:

Relate: The first word shows that we need to communicate with understanding.

Relation: The second shows that we are part of a family and are going through this journey with others.

Ship: The third is like being in a boat together and shows that we are knitted together – where one goes, so do the others.

These three words make up for us the total picture of what it means to have Christ personally in your heart and to be part of His body the Church.

Application

Relationship brings us into a deeper fellowship with Christ Jesus. We need not to grow weary in serving but enter each day that comes into the Holy of Holies, of His presence. It is very important to remember that if we have committed our life to Christ

RELATIONSHIP PILGRIMAGE

in a personal relationship, we now need to put actions to our words, not because Christ demands us to, but because He first loved us and gave His life for us. We now want to serve and give back to Him out of a heart of love and thankfulness.

Meditation

What am I doing to live a discipleship lifestyle here on earth? Are people just seeing me or are they seeing Christ shining through my words and actions? Am I standing up in the gap, in my home, church and job for Jesus Christ. Have I like those from the past picked up the torch and gone forth broadcasting the Good News of Jesus Christ? Finally and I focused on Christ to do what needs to be done to be part of the body, His church, that will soon hoist the **victory flag** on the mountain of our God?

Memorization

More than that, I count all things to be loss in view of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and count them but rubbish so that may gain Christ, and may be found in Him, not having a righteousness of my own derived from the Law, but that which is through faith in Christ, the righteousness which comes from God on the basis of faith, that I may know Him and the power of His resurrection and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death;¹ in order that I may attain to the resurrection from the dead.

Philippians 3:8-11

RELATIONSHIP PILGRIMAGE

Project L.A.M.B.S. International

Making disciples is the call and mandate of our Lord Jesus Christ. Jesus urged the disciples to follow Him. He laid down before us the teaching and the walk that we need to follow with Jesus as our supreme example. It is imperative for every believer and the church to know that disciples are not born but they are made. For the church to be strong in the last days, we must be about the business of equipping the saints (disciples) for the work of service.

Dr. James Humphries has been ministering for over 40 years, and has experience in a variety of ministries including church planting, children's ministry, street ministry, youth ministry, camp ministry, pastoral work and directing and teaching in schools all over the world. In addition, he has taken part in traveling and ministering in the USA, Mexico, Ukraine, Myanmar, Israel, Jamaica, Japan, Thailand and across most of Canada. He completed his B.R.E. and his M.A. from Briercrest, and his Doctorate of Ministry from Providence Theological Seminary in the spring of 1999.

In January 1996, Dr. James Humphries resigned as pastor of a local church with a vision to reach further abroad with the Word of God and to use it to train labourers for Christ (Matthew 9:36-38). He shared this with Dr. David Smith and Dr. Chuck Nichols of Providence Theological Seminary and they greatly encouraged Dr. James Humphries and his wife Irene to develop what God was laying on their hearts.

RELATIONSHIP PILGRIMAGE

In March 1997, they traveled to Jamaica where they met several pastors who were very concerned about the need for training and disciplining their young people as leaders in their churches. Dr. James Humphries and Irene did not know this would be the starting point to an international ministry of discipleship training around the world known as Project L.A.M.B.S. International.

To date, Project L.A.M.B.S. has ministered in Canada, Myanmar, Ukraine, Africa, Jamaica, Mexico, Israel, Thailand, Japan, Dominican Republic, Naga Land and China. We offer over 30 different courses. Our graduates number over 1000, and are serving worldwide. Out of this group of graduates, we have equipped and trained directors, teachers and pastors who in turn are carrying out II Timothy 2:1-2 to an even larger group of people.

In 2002 it was discovered that Irene had cancer again. God gave Irene another three years and because of that she was still able to travel and teach in many different countries. Shortly after what was to be her last trip, Irene was hospitalized in February, 2005. A few weeks later she went home to be with her Lord and Saviour on March 9.

My second wife Hkaw Win was raised and trained mostly in the land of Myanmar. She has earned B.th, University Degree and a master of Divinity Degree in Myanmar. In April 2007 she finished a second Master's Degree at Providence Theological

RELATIONSHIP PILGRIMAGE

Seminary in Christian Education. After July 1st, 2007 she headed back to Myanmar to head up the Christian Education Department for the Myitkyina Kachin Baptist Association and oversaw various ministries to 62 churches. After her four-year term was completed, she has been traveling and working as an interpreter and doing translations concerning various kinds of discipleship books and materials.

Over the last ten years we have lived in the countries of Myanmar and Thailand preparing a variety of resources in the Burmese (Myanmar) and Kachin Languages. To date we have published over 20 different kinds of books. Our goal is to equip and establish people as Disciples of Christ. Please pray for God's leading and wisdom. Our walk with Christ has taken us down many challenging pathways but we have seen the faithfulness of our Lord and Savior in every area. His grace has been sufficient.

Founder and Director,

Dr. James and Hkaw Win Humphries

RELATIONSHIP PILGRIMAGE

Discipleship / Leadership Booklets

1. My Call with Christ
2. Called to His Purpose
3. Abiding in the Vine
4. Knowledge, Wisdom and Understanding
5. Scripture: The Disciples' Anchor
6. Baptism: The Disciples' Testimony
7. The Disciples' Church
8. Servant Leadership
9. Teacher / Learner, Learner / Teacher
10. Being Wise Builders
11. Shepherds of God's Sheep
12. End Times
13. Relationship Pilgrimage
14. Christ's Disciple
15. Disciple's Prayer Life
16. Communion
17. Ambassadors for Christ
18. Full Armour of God
19. Good News for Challenging and Changing Times
20. Christ our Mediator
21. Jesus our Deliverer
22. Mission and Missionaries
23. Full Gospel Discipleship
24. Romans Road of Discovery

Bible Tools

1. Bible Information (18 different languages)
2. Bible Dictionary and Concordance (Kachin, Burmese)
3. Disciples' Principle of Faith (Kachin)
4. Called

RELATIONSHIP PILGRIMAGE

To order more LAMBS International books, please visit:
www.projectlambs.com

To get free downloads of materials and books, please visit:
www.discipleshipempowerment.com

Teaching Videos:
James Paul Humphries YouTube Channel