

Salvation with Questions

By Wayne R. Schmidt

More than 100 verses with questions

Many will choose not to take in truth when it begins to feel uncomfortable. This fact may be the main cause in false teachings. Who chooses to teach uncomfortable truth that will cause people to leave? Oh yeah, Jesus.

Why so much information?

Our minds have the tendency to seek information that will agree with our own understanding or twist information in order to make it more agreeable. To accept new information that challenges or disagrees with our beliefs, we will need to witness more evidence than usual. We will need to learn how our old beliefs may be wrong. We will need a degree of humility. An objective mindset may be necessary. If we are humble and honest we might be able to learn something new. We can choose to let our minds struggle and pray for guidance to the truth with open-mindedness and willingness for spiritual correction. Since none of us are perfect, we all could benefit from correction.

Studies have shown that changing beliefs often requires more convincing information than someone who does not yet have a belief. Fact— all of us sin. All of us have corrections to be made within our minds—minds that govern our choices. God wants us to grow and abide more with Him which means we need to choose God more. We can investigate ourselves as to how well we are growing and learn more how we can change.

This book is simply laid out to help the reader think deeper about salvation. There will be Bible verses and then there will be questions. It's okay not to know the answer. The goal is to begin a practice of thinking about scripture differently. The questions can guide us to think deeper about the verses and take it inwardly into our own hearts, minds, and souls. These questions can help us examine ourselves and our faith. (2 Corinthians 13:5, Galatians 6:4)

If you choose to read this book, please read it completely with patience, peace, and truth, with all heart, mind, soul, and strength. Discern between facts and opinions. Quick assumptions can easily lead to errors. False teachings exist. Be careful to test all things especially quick judgments and conclusions. See how you can improve with God, because you can. A good goal may be to walk away with some new improved understanding. See how you can grow more with God's goodness, grace, and righteousness.

Jeremiah 4:15 O Jerusalem, wash your heart **from** wickedness, That you may be **saved**. How long shall your evil thoughts lodge within you?

Question — What does this verse suggest we are saved from?

NKJV

What are we saved from?

Romans 5:9 Much more then, having now been justified by His blood, we shall be saved from wrath through Him.

We are saved from wrath. So what is wrath? Look at the lists below and ask yourself, "which of these does God want me to think, feel, and practice?"

Synonyms for wrath

connoption	displeasure	exasperation	flare-up
fury	hate	hatefulness	indignation
irritation	madness	offense	passion
rage	resentment	stew	temper
vengeance	boiling point	mad	

Antonyms for wrath

calm	calmness	delight	ease
glee	happiness	kindness	liking
love	peace	pleasure	

<http://www.thesaurus.com/browse/wrath>

Words in the Bible are translated. This next list offers some information about translating 'wrath.'

Strong's Concordance chemah: heat, rage

Definition heat, rage

NASB Translation anger (7), angry (1), burning anger (1), enrages (1), fury (9), heat (2), hot displeasure (1), hot-tempered (3), poison (2), rage (3), venom (5), wrath (86), wrath and raging (1), wrathful (2), wrathful* (1)

(#2534) chemah Translated to wrath 124 times <http://www.bibletools.org/index.cfm/fuseaction/Lexicon.show/ID/H2534/chemah.htm>

(#639) aph: a nostril, nose, face, anger. Translated wrath 8 times

Qetseph (#7110) foam, indignation, sore, wrath Translated wrath 29 times <http://biblehub.com/hebrew/7110.htm> Kaac (#3707) to be angry, be vexed, be indignant, be wrath, be grieved, provoke to anger and wrath translated 1 time to wrath <http://lexiconcordance.com/hebrew/3707.html>

Greek – New Testament

Thumos (#2372) 2372 thymós (from thyō, "rush along, getting heated up, breathing violently," cf. J. Thayer) – properly, passion-driven behavior, i.e. actions emerging out of strong impulses (intense emotion). (Translated) - angry tempers (1), fierce (2), indignation (1), outbursts of anger (1), passion (2), rage (2), wrath (9). <http://biblehub.com/greek/2372.htm>

Orge (#3709) anger, wrath, passion translated 30 times as wrath and 6 times as anger <http://biblehub.com/greek/3709.htm>

Questions — Have you ever witnessed someone who was violently angry, out of control, or just completely mad? Can anger drive a person to inward hell, misery, torture, and destruction? Can we be saved from such inward destruction?

John 3:36 He who believes in the Son has everlasting life; and he who does not believe the Son shall not see life, but the **wrath** of God abides on him.

Questions — Can deep anger, shame, self-condemnation and hate destroy the mind, heart, body, relationships, families, churches, communities, societies, or souls? Can the opposites like peace, forgiveness, mercy, compassion, patience, and love bring salvation from anger, fear, or self-pity?

Romans 1:18 For the **wrath** of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who suppress the truth in unrighteousness,

Romans 2:5-9 But in accordance with your hardness and your impenitent heart you are treasuring up for yourself wrath in the day of wrath and revelation of the righteous judgment of God, who “will render to each one according to his deeds”: **eternal life to those who** by patient continuance in doing good seek for glory, honor, and immortality; but to those who are self-seeking and do not obey the truth, but obey unrighteousness—indignation and wrath, tribulation and anguish, on every soul of man who does evil,

Questions — Can self-seeking behavior, bitterness, dishonesty, and resentments facilitate growth with wrath? Can we practice seeking God for help with such things? Can we turn from such things and toward their opposites?

Ephesians 5:6 Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of these things the wrath of God comes upon the sons of disobedience.

Colossians 3:6 Because of these things the wrath of God is coming upon the sons of disobedience,

Question — How does disobedience bring about anger and hurt?

1 Thessalonians 1:10 and to wait for His Son from heaven, whom He raised from the dead, even Jesus who delivers us from the wrath to come.

1 Thessalonians 2:16 forbidding us to speak to the Gentiles that they may be saved, so as always to fill up the measure of their sins; but wrath has come upon them to the uttermost.

1 Thessalonians 5:9 For God did not appoint us to **wrath**, but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, (Take note the word obtain)

Question — What does this mean “to obtain salvation?”

James 1:20 for the **wrath** of man does not produce the righteousness of God.

Questions — Can we choose the path of forgiveness instead of anger? How so or why not?

Personal Experience — wrath

There was a time in the late 1990's when I was working two jobs and going to school. I had a lot on my plate. (Getting through school on my own dollar without loans took some work.) Long-story short, I found myself angry at a new level. I had an out of body experience in my anger. I was furious with coworkers. The more I looked at the failures of others, the angrier I became. As I sat there stuck in my anger on the verge of saying things that could get me fired, I realized I was losing control. I became afraid of my anger.

I went back to the basics, to fully inwardly give myself to God. That meant giving up my expectations, wants, and entitlements. It meant putting an end to faultfinding in others. When things didn't go my way or the way I thought they should, I would choose to realize I didn't control others. I would let God and trust God. I would say thy will, not mine be done. This means I chose to inwardly operate from God's ways and set anger or bitterness thinking aside. I chose forgiveness. I prayed for help to do God's will and to be free of angry thinking. It went something like this, “God please help me not to be offended by anything people do. Please help me to keep a focus on my own work to ensure I do what is right and good.” I prayed the prayer daily. It worked and I soon got promoted.

I have learned that my choices of what I choose to inwardly cooperate with will either destroy me or save me. (Romans 7:22) Will I choose to inwardly practice good or evil. It's a choice. However, correction is always humbling and requiring a concentrated effort with new action. Self-examination and learning new things about my thoughts, beliefs, and faith is needed. I always need to humble myself to God's good, practice it, and let it develop within me.

Question - How has anger and wrath affected your love, peace, mercy, and forgiveness?

2 Corinthians 7:10 "For godly sorrow produces repentance leading to salvation, not to be regretted; but the sorrow of the world produces death."

Questions - How does sorrow produce repentance? How does that lead to salvation?

In my experience, real remorse and humble sorrow of wrongs can develop a willingness to make corrections, seek righteousness, seek or return to good, and obey God. Yet if I deny my inward condition that can bring sorrow or avoid taking responsibility, I would be ignoring the Godly sorrow that can bring me to repentance, that can lead me to salvation. Such avoidance may be the sorrow of the world that produces death.

Question - If we neglect feelings of guilt or shame from wrongdoings, what would lead us to repentance?

Clean House

2 Samuel 23:5 "Although my house *is* not so with God,
Yet He has made with me an everlasting covenant,
Ordered in all *things* and secure.
For *this is* all my salvation and all *my* desire;
Will He not make *it* increase?

"House not right with God" means inward condition of thought, attitude, and feeling. In twelve step programs there is a saying, "trust God, clean house, and work with others." The cleaning house is the seeking of spiritual correction with sinful errors.

Questions — How can we purify our hearts and cleanse our conscience of wrongdoings? What are the affect of living by pride, envy, bitterness and self-seeking ways? Can such things lead to an experience of wrath?

Seeking

Psalms 119:123-125

“My eyes fail from seeking Your salvation
And Your righteous word. Deal with Your servant according to Your mercy,
And teach me Your statutes. I am Your servant; Give me understanding,
That I may know Your testimonies. My eyes fail, looking for your salvation,
looking for your righteous promise.

Questions — How can we better practice “seeking” and “looking?” How can our eyes fail?

Trust

Isaiah 12:2-3 Behold, God is my salvation, I will trust and not be afraid;
‘For Yah, the Lord, is my strength and song; He also has become my
salvation.’ ” Therefore with joy you will draw water From the wells of
salvation.

Imagine salvation, like an emotion or state of being, it can seem temporary. If I am with God, seeking to be right with God, my heart, mind, and soul can experience salvation, like drawing “water From the wells of salvation.” As I draw from wells of love, peace, mercy, forgiveness, truth, justice, and compassion, my heart becomes more pure, my consciousness becomes more clean, I become more right with God, more Christlike, more good, and more with grace.

Trusting God and God’s ways is the continuous choosing to do God’s will instead of self-will. Thy will be done, not mine. With increased application and practice of inward obedience to God we can experience and witness what that brings; peace, freedom, love, and joy. We can experience God becoming our salvation as we grow our hearts and minds to be with God.

Experience - Trusting God

It took about a year of making many adjustments to my thoughts and actions before I became willing to completely trust God with all my heart, all my mind, all my strength, and all my soul. This completely trusting God came in spurts and did not last long, but the experience was powerful. Three decades later I can say the level of experience I have with God has everything to do with my spiritual conditioning with God's goodness, righteousness, and grace. I still must check myself continually to guide my inward being to love God with all heart, mind, soul, and strength. Distractions are constant. I always fail. I've never been perfect. Yet I continue to slowly raise the bar with new goals to grow further and life keeps bringing amazing grace. If I settle and do not press on to continue growing, I experience a withering or drying up of the heart, mind, and soul. It's always a choice and always begins with the humbling of self.

There exist constant influences within and around me prompting me toward self-seeking, falsehood, idolatry, pride, and many forms of evil. I need to redirect my inward being back toward God daily, to prioritize God's good in my heart and mind.

Repentance

Isaiah 30:15 NIV This is what the Sovereign Lord, the Holy One of Israel, says: "In repentance and rest is your salvation, in quietness and trust is your strength, but you would have none of it.

Questions — Do we want "Repentance", "rest", "quietness", and "trust" which is our salvation? Are we willing to seek these within our hearts and minds progressively and continually?

Rest and quietness, "Be still and know that I am God." Psalm 46:10.

Questions — How do you get still with God? How much time and thought do you put into this process? (Read Psalm 119 for guidance)

Isaiah 49:6 NIV he says: "It is too small a thing for you to be my servant to restore the tribes of Jacob and bring back those of Israel I have kept. I will

also make you a light for the Gentiles, that my salvation may reach to the ends of the earth.”

Jesus is the light—teachings and examples of what we ought to do for freedom and salvation. Jesus is the way and the truth. We still have a choice of following the teachings of Jesus or not. “Salvation ‘may’ reach to the ends of the earth” is different than Salvation will reach to the ends of the earth. The Bible clearly and repeatedly uses words like “if,” “may,” and “might” along with the phrases, “so that,” and “those who.” We are provided choices and the choices we make have consequences. It is still up to us, if we choose to receive the gift of grace through faith—our minds set upon it, that can bring Salvation. We can choose to cooperate with it, or not.

Rejecting Salvation

Acts 13:46-47 NIV Then Paul and Barnabas grew bold and said, “It was necessary that the word of God should be spoken to you first; but since you reject it, and judge yourselves unworthy of everlasting life, behold, we turn to the Gentiles. For so the Lord has commanded us:

‘I have set you as a light to the Gentiles,
That you should be for salvation to the ends of the earth.’ ”

Questions — What does this mean, “but since you reject it, and judge yourselves unworthy of everlasting life?”

Response

Romans 1:16 NIV For I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God that brings salvation to everyone who believes: first to the Jew, then to the Gentile.

Question — What is the difference between those who believe and those who don’t?

Ephesians 1:13 NIV And you also were included in Christ when you heard the message of truth, the gospel of your salvation. When you believed, you were marked in him with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit,

Questions — What happens inside us “when you believe?” What brings about this belief? Is this a faith that has action which brings about change? How so or why not?

Anyone who has functioning ears can hear the message of truth. But not everyone and inwardly understand the spiritual meaning of the words. We need some experience with sorrow and humility. If we hear and understand the teachings of Jesus, choose to give ourselves, our heart, mind, soul, and strength to God, we will change. We will inwardly be changed.

Mark 4:20, Luke 11:28, John 8:9, Acts 4:4, Romans 11:8

Regarding Belief and faith - [Short video](#) (Wheel barrow story)

Philippians 2:12 NIV Therefore, my dear friends, as you have always obeyed—not only in my presence, but now much more in my absence—continue to work out your salvation with fear and trembling,

Questions — How have you obeyed? Have you “always obeyed?” How do you, “continue to work out your salvation with fear and trembling?”

In my experience doing God’s will goes against many ideas within my mind and influences from the world around me. Resisting inward and outward ungodly influences is required. I walk in resistance as I walk by God’s grace. This requires concentrated effort, endurance, perseverance, and diligence.

Receive Salvation

1 Thessalonians 5:9 NIV For God did not appoint us to suffer wrath but to receive salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ.

Wrath is an inward anger which can destroy the heart, mind, and soul. It not only destroys those who choose the resulting condition and attitude, but also others around them. We can be saved from it, if we inwardly chose to respond with God’s grace. As we learn and practice forgiveness and mercy, we can learn how resentments we carry are often because of our own inward reactions—beliefs, thoughts, and faith.

“Receive” — A receiver in sports must catch the ball and hold it which requires focus and attention to the ball with the mind and body taking action, responding, and being ready.

Obtain Salvation

2 Timothy 2:10 NIV Therefore I endure everything for the sake of the elect, that they too may obtain the salvation that is in Christ Jesus, with eternal glory.

Question — What does “may obtain” mean? Salvation in Christ Jesus. Read John 15 and take note of verses 6 & 7.

Obtain - acquire - get. We ought to live more like Christ to get or acquire that which is in Christ.

2 Timothy 3:15 NIV and how from infancy you have known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus.

Questions — Is there a difference between knowing the scriptures and living by them? How so or why not?

“able to make”

Scriptures are able to make us wise, if we do what they say. How can we say we believe in Jesus if we choose to ignore or set aside what Jesus taught? Does it make sense to say we believe the Bible and yet do not behave as it instructs?

Offers Salvation

Titus 2:11 NIV For the grace of God has appeared that offers salvation to all people.

“Offers” Think of a gym that “offers” fitness to all people. Will believing in the gym make us physically fit? No. We will need to go to it and follow the fitness instructions. We will experience fitness to the extent we follow the instructions and give ourselves over to the training process.

Ignore Salvation

Hebrews 2:3 NIV how shall we escape if we ignore so great a salvation? This salvation, which was first announced by the Lord, was confirmed to us by those who heard him.

Questions — What is ignoring salvation? What does it mean “by those who heard him?”

Do a concordance search with the words “those who” ([Underlined is a link](#)) and digest slowly the pattern and learn what the Bible means with this phrase.

Those who are waiting

Hebrews 9:28 NIV so Christ was sacrificed once to take away the sins of many; and he will appear a second time, not to bear sin, but to bring salvation to those who are waiting for him.

Questions — What does it mean to wait for Christ? What is the difference between those who wait and those who don’t?

Far from the wicked

Psalms 119:155 NIV Salvation is far from the wicked, for they do not seek out your decrees.

Questions — Are you seeking out God’s decrees? How so or why not?

Saved

NKJV

1 Corinthians 15:1-2 Moreover, brethren, I declare to you the gospel which I preached to you, which also you received and in which you stand, by which also you are saved, if you hold fast that word which I preached to you—unless you believed in vain.

Questions — What is a real current life example of believing in vain? What is it like to hold fast to teaching? Are you holding fast to the Bible's teaching? How so or why not?

(Psychology & introspection - think about thinking. Are we checking to see if our beliefs match what we do and say? Do we compare our beliefs, attitudes, and actions with what the scripture teaches?)

2 Corinthians 2:14-17 Now thanks be to God who always leads us in triumph in Christ, and through us diffuses the fragrance of His knowledge in every place. For we are to God the fragrance of Christ among those who are being saved and among those who are perishing. To the one we are the aroma of death leading to death, and to the other the aroma of life leading to life. And who is sufficient for these things? For we are not, as so many, peddling the word of God; but as of sincerity, but as from God, we speak in the sight of God in Christ.

Questions - Are we following God's lead? Can we describe our aroma—the character and attitude we live by? How so or why not? How are we sincerely speaking in Christ? Can you describe the difference between those who are perishing and those who are being saved? How so or why not?

Endure

Matthew 10:22 And you will be hated by all for My name's sake. But he who endures to the end will be saved.

Mark 13:13 And you will be hated by all for My name's sake. But he who endures to the end shall be saved.

Question — How long have you endured and what has that been like?

He who endures to the end. It can be socially awkward having sincere love for the truth, acting with patience toward peace, and being spiritually attentive in all things while; driving, working, etc. To love others sincerely can really change the course of interactions with a group that is unwilling. They may decide to avoid us or become quite uncomfortable, even defensive or confrontational. Yet being spiritually right—grow in

righteousness is to choose over and over more participation in the gift of grace that saves. More practice of grace will be less practice of ungodliness.

For Christ's sake

Matthew 16:25 For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake will find it.

Question — What of yourself have you lost for Christ?

Matthew 19:29 And everyone who has left houses or brothers or sisters or father or mother or wife or children or lands, for My name's sake, shall receive a hundredfold, and inherit eternal life.

Question — What have you left for Christ's sake?

Mark 8:35 For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake and the gospel's will save it.

Luke 9:24 For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake will save it.

Luke 17:33 Whoever seeks to save his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life will preserve it.

Questions — How have you lost your life for Christ sake? What's that like?

Strive

Luke 13:23-30 Then one said to Him, "Lord, are there few who are saved?" And He said to them, "Strive to enter through the narrow gate, for many, I say to you, will seek to enter and will not be able. When once the Master of the house has risen up and shut the door, and you begin to stand outside and knock at the door, saying, 'Lord, Lord, open for us,' and He will answer and say to you, 'I do not know you, where you are from,' then you will begin to say, 'We ate and drank in Your presence, and You taught in our streets.' But He will say, 'I tell you I do not know you, where you are from. Depart from Me, all you workers of iniquity.' There will be weeping

and gnashing of teeth, when you see Abraham and Isaac and Jacob and all the prophets in the kingdom of God, and yourselves thrust out. They will come from the east and the west, from the north and the south, and sit down in the kingdom of God. And indeed there are last who will be first, and there are first who will be last.”

Questions — How have you strived to enter the narrow gate? Why is striving important? What is a worker of inequity? Why will the first be last and the last be first?

Luke 18:24-30 And when Jesus saw that he became very sorrowful, He said, “How hard it is for those who have riches to enter the kingdom of God! For it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of God.”

And those who heard it said, “Who then can be saved?”

But He said, “The things which are impossible with men are possible with God.” Then Peter said, “See, we have left all and followed You.”

So He said to them, “Assuredly, I say to you, there is no one who has left house or parents or brothers or wife or children, for the sake of the kingdom of God, who shall not receive many times more in this present time, and in the age to come eternal life.”

Questions — Why is it hard for a rich man to enter the kingdom of God? Do you want to be rich? Which do you strive harder for, money or God?

Mark 16:16 He who believes and is baptized will be saved; but he who does not believe will be condemned.

Question — Does belief include inward attitude, growth in character, how we set goals, and the way we live? How so or why not?

Luke 8:12 Those by the wayside are the ones who hear; then the devil comes and takes away the word out of their hearts, lest they should believe and be saved.

Questions — How can the word leave our hearts or minds? How might that impact being saved?

Sons of Abraham

Luke 19:9-10 And Jesus said to him, "Today salvation has come to this house, because he also is a son of Abraham; for the Son of Man has come to seek and to save that which was lost."

Questions — How do you define "a son of Abraham?" How does being a "a son of Abraham" save us?

May or Might be saved

John 3:17 For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved.

John 5:34 Yet I do not receive testimony from man, but I say these things that you may be saved.

Question — Why are the words "might" and "may" being used with salvation?

John 10:7-18 Then Jesus said to them again, "Most assuredly, I say to you, I am the door of the sheep. All who ever came before Me are thieves and robbers, but the sheep did not hear them. I am the door. If anyone enters by Me, he will be saved, and will go in and out and find pasture. The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy. I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly. "I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd gives His life for the sheep. But a hireling, he who is not the shepherd, one who does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and flees; and the wolf catches the sheep and scatters them. The hireling flees because he is a hireling and does not care about the sheep. I am the good shepherd; and I know My sheep, and am known by My own. As the Father knows Me, even so I know the Father; and I lay down My life for the sheep. And other sheep I have which are not of this fold; them also I must bring, and they will hear My voice; and there will be one flock and one shepherd. "Therefore My Father loves Me, because I lay down My life that I may take it again. No one takes it from Me, but I lay it down of Myself. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it again. This command I have received from My Father."

Questions — What have you laid down your life for? Have you tried giving your all to God—living completely by God’s good? Which do we work harder for, money or God? How so?

Abide

John 12:42-50 Nevertheless even among the rulers many believed in Him, but because of the Pharisees they did not confess Him, lest they should be put out of the synagogue; for they loved the praise of men more than the praise of God. Then Jesus cried out and said, “He who believes in Me, believes not in Me but in Him who sent Me. And he who sees Me sees Him who sent Me. I have come as a light into the world, that whoever believes in Me should not abide in darkness. And if anyone hears My words and does not believe, I do not judge him; for I did not come to judge the world but to save the world. He who rejects Me, and does not receive My words, has that which judges him—the word that I have spoken will judge him in the last day. For I have not spoken on My own authority; but the Father who sent Me gave Me a command, what I should say and what I should speak. And I know that His command is everlasting life. Therefore, whatever I speak, just as the Father has told Me, so I speak.”

Questions — What does it mean by “receive My words?” Why is receiving words so influential upon judgement? Why is it so important to do precisely what God wants?

Continue “Steadfastly” & “Daily”

Acts 2:21 And it shall come to pass That whoever calls on the name of the Lord Shall be saved.’

Questions — What does the saying “in the name of” mean? What are some examples of doing something in Christ’s or God’s name? Is it merely saying the words or does it pertain more to the inward attitude and faith of the person taking the action? If someone says “in the name of Christ” and then does evil, do the words have any power? If someone says “in the name of God” but is doing it more for self-seeking purposes, is it Godly or ungodly?

Acts 2:40-47 And with many other words he testified and exhorted them, saying, “Be saved from this perverse generation.” Then those who gladly received his word were baptized; and that day about three thousand souls were added to them. And they continued steadfastly in the apostles’ doctrine and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in prayers. Then fear came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were done through the apostles. Now all who believed were together, and had all things in common, and sold their possessions and goods, and divided them among all, as anyone had need.

So continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, they ate their food with gladness and simplicity of heart, praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily those who were being saved.

Questions — What does it mean “those who gladly receive the word?” What about those who sort of receive the word or even don’t receive the word? What’s the difference between receiving the word and not?

Questions — Why is it important to steadfastly continue in the doctrine? Why do they continue daily? Is it better to continue daily? How so or why not?

Acts 15:10-11 Now therefore, why do you test God by putting a yoke on the neck of the disciples which neither our fathers nor we were able to bear? But we believe that through the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ we shall be saved in the same manner as they.”

Questions — What is the purpose of putting on a yoke or yoke of Christ? Does it matter who or what we follow and obey? How so or why not?

Acts 16:29-32 Then he called for a light, ran in, and fell down trembling before Paul and Silas. And he brought them out and said, “Sirs, what must I do to be saved?”

So they said, “Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and you will be saved, you and your household.” Then they spoke the word of the Lord to him and to all who were in his house.

Questions — What sort of thinking involves belief? Is our mental attitude; how we perceive people, traffic, politics, money, work, school, friends, or ourselves part of our beliefs? How so or why not?

Remnant

Romans 9:27-28 Isaiah also cries out concerning Israel:

“Though the number of the children of Israel be as the sand of the sea,
The remnant will be saved. For He will finish the work and cut it short in
righteousness, Because the Lord will make a short work upon the earth.”

Question — What does this mean “The remnant will be saved?”

Partaker

Romans 11:16-24 For if the firstfruit is holy, the lump is also holy; and if the root is holy, so are the branches. And if some of the branches were broken off, and you, being a wild olive tree, were grafted in among them, and with them became a partaker of the root and fatness of the olive tree, do not boast against the branches. But if you do boast, remember that you do not support the root, but the root supports you. You will say then, “Branches were broken off that I might be grafted in.” Well said. Because of unbelief they were broken off, and you stand by faith. Do not be haughty, but fear. For if God did not spare the natural branches, He may not spare you either. Therefore consider the goodness and severity of God: on those who fell, severity; but toward you, goodness, if you continue in His goodness. Otherwise you also will be cut off. And they also, if they do not continue in unbelief, will be grafted in, for God is able to graft them in again. For if you were cut out of the olive tree which is wild by nature, and were grafted contrary to nature into a cultivated olive tree, how much more will these, who are natural branches, be grafted into their own olive tree?

Questions — What does the following statement mean to you, “remember that you do not support the root, but the root supports you?” When we receive grace, are we remembering that we are being guided and supported by grace? How so or why not?

Questions — What are the “natural branches” and why did God not support them? What is the goodness and severity of God? What is meant by, “if you continue in His goodness. Otherwise you also will be cut off.” Is belief continuing in His goodness or discontinuing?

Replace old understanding with new

1 Corinthians 5:4-8 In the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, when you are gathered together, along with my spirit, with the power of our Lord Jesus Christ, deliver such a one to Satan for the destruction of the flesh, that his spirit may be saved in the day of the Lord Jesus.

Your glorying is not good. Do you not know that a little leaven leavens the whole lump? Therefore purge out the old leaven, that you may be a new lump, since you truly are unleavened. For indeed Christ, our Passover, was sacrificed for us. Therefore let us keep the feast, not with old leaven, nor with the leaven of malice and wickedness, but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth.

Questions — What does it mean “your glorying is not good?” If we are the lump, what is leaven, and how do we purge it out? In what ways are you keeping sincerity and truth? If we keep sincerity and truth, how does that impact malice and wickedness?

Our spiritual condition & attitude affects others

1 Corinthians 7:16 Now to the married I command, yet not I but the Lord: A wife is not to depart from her husband. But even if she does depart, let her remain unmarried or be reconciled to her husband. And a husband is not to divorce his wife. But to the rest I, not the Lord, say: If any brother has a wife who does not believe, and she is willing to live with him, let him not divorce her. And a woman who has a husband who does not believe, if he is willing to live with her, let her not divorce him. For the unbelieving husband is sanctified by the wife, and the unbelieving wife is sanctified by the husband; otherwise your children would be unclean, but now they are holy. (Underline added) But if the unbeliever departs, let him depart; a brother or a sister is not under bondage in such cases. But God has called us to peace. For how do you know, O wife, whether you will save your husband? Or how do you know, O husband, whether you will save your wife?

Questions — What does the underlined mean about sanctification being involved with someone becoming holy? Does are participation with good or evil impact holiness of others? How so or why not?

Not self-seeking

1 Corinthians 10:23-33 All things are lawful for me, but not all things are helpful; all things are lawful for me, but not all things edify. Let no one seek his own, but each one the other's well-being.

Eat whatever is sold in the meat market, asking no questions for conscience' sake; for "the earth is the Lord's, and all its fullness."

If any of those who do not believe invites you to dinner, and you desire to go, eat whatever is set before you, asking no question for conscience' sake. But if anyone says to you, "This was offered to idols," do not eat it for the sake of the one who told you, and for conscience' sake; for "the earth is the Lord's, and all its fullness." "Conscience," I say, not your own, but that of the other. For why is my liberty judged by another man's conscience? But if I partake with thanks, why am I evil spoken of for the food over which I give thanks?

Therefore, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God. Give no offense, either to the Jews or to the Greeks or to the church of God, just as I also please all men in all things, not seeking my own profit, but the profit of many, that they may be saved.

Questions — Why is someone conscience important for salvation? Is our conscience part of our faith? How so or why not? Does the phrase, "that they may be saved" mean that they might not be saved? How so or why not? How are you seeking others' well being keeping in mind their conscience?

Walk Worthy

1 Thessalonians 2:10-16 You are witnesses, and God also, how devoutly and justly and blamelessly we behaved ourselves among you who believe; as you know how we exhorted, and comforted, and charged every one of you, as a father does his own children, that you would walk worthy of God who calls you into His own kingdom and glory. For you, brethren, became imitators of the churches of God which are in Judea in Christ Jesus. For you also suffered the same things from your own countrymen, just as they did from the Judeans, who killed both the Lord Jesus and their own prophets, and have persecuted us; and they do not please God and are contrary to all men, forbidding us to speak to the Gentiles that they may

be saved, so as always to fill up the measure of their sins; but wrath has come upon them to the uttermost.

Questions — Why is the focus upon “you who believe?” In what ways have you experienced being, “exhorted, and comforted, and charged?” Do we find these actions to be necessary? How so or why not?

Deception

2 Thessalonians 2:9-17 The coming of the lawless one is according to the working of Satan, with all power, signs, and lying wonders, and with all unrighteous deception among those who perish, because they did not receive the love of the truth, that they might be saved. And for this reason God will send them strong delusion, that they should believe the lie, that they all may be condemned who did not believe the truth but had pleasure in unrighteousness.

But we are bound to give thanks to God always for you, brethren beloved by the Lord, because God from the beginning chose you for salvation through sanctification by the Spirit and belief in the truth, to which He called you by our gospel, for the obtaining of the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ. Therefore, brethren, stand fast and hold the traditions which you were taught, whether by word or our epistle.

Now may our Lord Jesus Christ Himself, and our God and Father, who has loved us and given us everlasting consolation and good hope by grace, comfort your hearts and establish you in every good word and work.

Questions — What is it to have pleasure in unrighteousness? What is salvation through sanctification? How does this help obtain the glory of Christ? How are you being established in good work?

Obtain Mercy

1 Timothy 1:12-17 And I thank Christ Jesus our Lord who has enabled me, because He counted me faithful, putting me into the ministry, although I was formerly a blasphemer, a persecutor, and an insolent man; but I obtained mercy because I did it ignorantly in unbelief. And the grace of our Lord was exceedingly abundant, with faith and love which are in Christ Jesus. This is a faithful saying and worthy of all acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am chief. However,

for this reason I obtained mercy, that in me first Jesus Christ might show all longsuffering, as a pattern to those who are going to believe on Him for everlasting life. Now to the King eternal, immortal, invisible, to God who alone is wise, be honor and glory forever and ever. Amen.

Questions — What is meant by “that in me first Jesus Christ might show all longsuffering, as a pattern to those?” Are we to grow in Christ-likeness so that we can grow such likeness in others? How so or why not?

Truth

1 Timothy 2:1-7 Therefore I exhort first of all that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks be made for all men, for kings and all who are in authority, that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and reverence. For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Savior, who desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth. For there is one God and one Mediator between God and men, the Man Christ Jesus, who gave Himself a ransom for all, to be testified in due time, for which I was appointed a preacher and an apostle—I am speaking the truth in Christ and not lying—a teacher of the Gentiles in faith and truth.

Questions — What is it like to live a quiet and peaceful life in all godliness? How is doing this good? How might such behavior help others, even to be saved?

If

1 Timothy 2:15 Nevertheless she will be saved in childbearing if they continue in faith, love, and holiness, with self-control.

Questions — Notice the word “if.” What does this word mean in this sentence? Would she still be saved if they stopped in “faith, love, and holiness, with self-control?”

Be an example

1 Timothy 4:12-16 Let no one despise your youth, but be an example to the believers in word, in conduct, in love, in spirit, in faith, in purity. Till I

come, give attention to reading, to exhortation, to doctrine. Do not neglect the gift that is in you, which was given to you by prophecy with the laying on of the hands of the eldership. Meditate on these things; give yourself entirely to them, that your progress may be evident to all. Take heed to yourself and to the doctrine. Continue in them, for in doing this you will save both yourself and those who hear you.

Questions — How are you an example to believers in conduct, in love, in spirit, in faith, in purity?” How are you giving attention to reading, exhortation, and doctrine? How does someone neglect the gift? How are you meditating on these things and giving yourself entirely to them? Are you taking heed to yourself and the doctrine? Is your progress evident to all? How is doing this saving yourself and those who hear you?

Serve God with a pure conscience

2 Timothy 1:3-14 I thank God, whom I serve with a pure conscience, as my forefathers did, as without ceasing I remember you in my prayers night and day, greatly desiring to see you, being mindful of your tears, that I may be filled with joy, when I call to remembrance the genuine faith that is in you, which dwelt first in your grandmother Lois and your mother Eunice, and I am persuaded is in you also. Therefore I remind you to stir up the gift of God which is in you through the laying on of my hands. For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind. Therefore do not be ashamed of the testimony of our Lord, nor of me His prisoner, but share with me in the sufferings for the gospel according to the power of God, who has saved us and called us with a holy calling, not according to our works, but according to His own purpose and grace which was given to us in Christ Jesus before time began, but has now been revealed by the appearing of our Savior Jesus Christ, who has abolished death and brought life and immortality to light through the gospel, to which I was appointed a preacher, an apostle, and a teacher of the Gentiles. For this reason I also suffer these things; nevertheless I am not ashamed, for I know whom I have believed and am persuaded that He is able to keep what I have committed to Him until that Day. Hold fast the pattern of sound words which you have heard from me, in faith and love which are in Christ Jesus. That good thing which was committed to you, keep by the Holy Spirit who dwells in us.

Questions — What is the “power and of love and of a sound mind” working in you? How are you working “according to His own purpose and grace”

How are you holding “fast the pattern of sound words?” What good thing do you “keep by the Holy Spirit?”

Be ready for good work

Titus 3:1-11 Remind them to be subject to rulers and authorities, to obey, to be ready for every good work, to speak evil of no one, to be peaceable, gentle, showing all humility to all men. For we ourselves were also once foolish, disobedient, deceived, serving various lusts and pleasures, living in malice and envy, hateful and hating one another. But when the kindness and the love of God our Savior toward man appeared, not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy He saved us, through the washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Spirit, whom He poured out on us abundantly through Jesus Christ our Savior, that having been justified by His grace we should become heirs according to the hope of eternal life.

This is a faithful saying, and these things I want you to affirm constantly, that those who have believed in God should be careful to maintain good works. These things are good and profitable to men.

But avoid foolish disputes, genealogies, contentions, and strivings about the law; for they are unprofitable and useless. Reject a divisive man after the first and second [a]admonition, knowing that such a person is warped and sinning, being self-condemned.

Questions — What is it like for you to be “ready for every good work, to speak evil of no one, to be peaceable, gentle, showing all humility to all men?” What is your experience with the renewal of the Holy Spirit? How are you careful to maintain good works? How do you “avoid foolish disputes, genealogies, contentions, and strivings about the law?” How do you reject a divisive man?

Lay aside all filthiness

James 1:21-27 Therefore lay aside all filthiness and overflow of wickedness, and receive with meekness the implanted word, which is able to save your souls.

But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves. For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man observing his natural face in a mirror; for he observes himself, goes away, and immediately forgets what kind of man he was. But he who looks into the perfect law of liberty and continues in it, and is not a forgetful hearer but a doer of the work, this one will be blessed in what he does.

If anyone among you thinks he is religious, and does not bridle his tongue but deceives his own heart, this one's religion is useless. Pure and undefiled religion before God and the Father is this: to visit orphans and widows in their trouble, and to keep oneself unspotted from the world.

Questions — How do you “lay aside all filthiness and overflow of wickedness, and receive with meekness the implanted word, which is able to save your souls?” How does this save your soul? How are you a doer of the word? How do you look “into the perfect law of liberty” and continue in it? Who do you visit in their trouble? What are some examples where you have deceived yourself?

Restore truth

James 5:19-20 Brethren, if anyone among you wanders from the truth, and someone turns him back, let him know that he who turns a sinner from the error of his way will save a soul from death and cover a multitude of sins.

Questions — Have you ever wandered from the truth? Is turning from errors needed for a soul to be saved from death? How does helping someone this way cover a multitude of sins?

Good conscience toward God

1 Peter 3:18-22 For Christ also suffered once for sins, the just for the unjust, that He might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh but made alive by the Spirit, by whom also He went and preached to the spirits in prison, who formerly were disobedient, when once the Divine longsuffering waited in the days of Noah, while the ark was being prepared, in which a few, that is, eight souls, were saved through water. There is also an antitype which now saves us—baptism (not the removal of the filth of the flesh, but the answer of a good conscience toward God), through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, who has gone into heaven and is

at the right hand of God, angels and authorities and powers having been made subject to Him.

Questions — What does the phrase “might bring us to God” mean? What is meant by “who formerly were disobedient?” How is your “the answer of a good conscience toward God” and how does that save you?

Suffer as a Christian

1 Peter 4:12-19 Beloved, do not think it strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened to you; but rejoice to the extent that you partake of Christ’s sufferings, that when His glory is revealed, you may also be glad with exceeding joy. If you are reproached for the name of Christ, blessed are you, for the Spirit of glory and of God rests upon you. On their part He is blasphemed, but on your part He is glorified. But let none of you suffer as a murderer, a thief, an evildoer, or as a busybody in other people’s matters. Yet if anyone suffers as a Christian, let him not be ashamed, but let him glorify God in this matter.

For the time has come for judgment to begin at the house of God; and if it begins with us first, what will be the end of those who do not obey the gospel of God? Now

“If the righteous one is scarcely saved,
Where will the ungodly and the sinner appear?”

Therefore let those who suffer according to the will of God commit their souls to Him in doing good, as to a faithful Creator.

Questions — What is it like to “rejoice to the extent that you partake of Christ’s sufferings?” What is it like to “suffer as a Christian?” What “will be the end of those who do not obey the gospel of God?” “If the righteous one is scarcely saved, Where will the ungodly and the sinner appear?” How do you “suffer according to the will of God?”

Walk in light

Revelation 21:22-27 But I saw no temple in it, for the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb are its temple. The city had no need of the sun or of the moon to shine in it, for the glory of God illuminated it. The Lamb is its light. And the nations of those who are saved shall walk in its light, and the

kings of the earth bring their glory and honor into it. Its gates shall not be shut at all by day (there shall be no night there). And they shall bring the glory and the honor of the nations into it. But there shall by no means enter it anything that defiles, or causes an abomination or a lie, but only those who are written in the Lamb's Book of Life.

Question — What is meant by “there shall by no means enter it anything that defiles, or causes an abomination or a lie?”

Romans 5

Justified

Romans 5:1 having been justified by faith, we have peace with God

Justified by faith = peace

Justified: Definition: the act of pronouncing righteous, acquittal
Usage: acquittal, justifying, justification, a process of absolution.
<https://biblehub.com/greek/1347.htm>

Question — How well do you understand God's righteousness?

Access Grace

Romans 5:2 through whom also we have access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God.

Question — How has your faith provided access to grace?

Romans 5:3-5 Not only so, but we also glory in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; perseverance, character; and character, hope. And hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit, who has been given to us.

Questions — Do you glory in your sufferings? Do you seek the production of improved character through perseverance in doing good? How so or why not?

Romans 5:9 we shall be saved from wrath through Him (Christ)

Romans 5:10 we shall be saved by His life

Questions — How is your salvation? How is it similar to the way Paul describes it Romans 5?

Romans 5:17 those who receive abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness will reign in life through the One, Jesus Christ.

Questions — Can we receive the gift of righteousness if we ignore it? Do we need to persevere and inwardly grow in it? How so or why not?

Romans 5:21 grace might reign through righteousness to eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord

Question — How does grace reign through righteousness?

Romans 8

1 “no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus, who do not walk according to the flesh, but according to the Spirit”

Question — What is the difference between walking according to the flesh vs. according to the Spirit?

4 “that the righteous requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us who do not walk according to the flesh but according to the Spirit.”

Question — What is it like for you to walk “according to the Spirit?”

5 “For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit, the things of the Spirit.”

Questions — Do you set your mind more upon fleshly things or spiritual things? How so? Do you practice giving attention to what you think or to what you set your mind? How so or why not?

6 “For to be carnally minded is death, but to be spiritually minded is life and peace.”

Question — How are you spiritually minded? How does being spiritually bring to you life and peace?

8 “those who are in the flesh cannot please God.”

Question — Is anyone around you acting as if being in the flesh is pleasing to God? If so, how does this affect you?

10 “if Christ *is* in you, the body *is* dead because of sin, but the Spirit *is* life because of righteousness.”

Question — How does being in righteousness help us?

Romans 10

1 “that they may be saved”

Question — What does the word ‘may’ imply here?

3 “For they being ignorant of God’s righteousness, and seeking to establish their own righteousness, have not submitted to the righteousness of God.”

Questions — Are you wise in God’s righteousness or ignorant? How well can you explain how God’s righteousness is good? What is the difference between seeking your “own righteousness” and submitting to “to the righteousness of God?”

8 “But what does it say? “The word is near you, in your mouth and in your heart” (that is, the word of faith by which we preach):

Question — How is the word near you?

9 “that if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved.”

Questions — What does it mean by believe in you heart? Would believing in your heart affect how you think, speak, and behave? Is this an inward process?

10 For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.

Questions — Do we do what we say and practice what we preach? How good is our word? Do we confess things about ourselves that not true or only partially true?

13 For “whoever calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.”

Questions — How do you call on the name of the Lord? What is that like? How does that affect you? How does it influence you heart and mind?

1 Corinthians 3

1-3 “And I, brethren, could not speak to you as to spiritual *people* but as to carnal, as to babes in Christ. I fed you with milk and not with solid food; for until now you were not able *to receive it*, and even now you are still not able; for you are still carnal.”

Questions — What is the difference between milk and solid food? What is meant by “you were not able *to receive it*?” If we are acting setting our minds toward that which is carnal, would we be able to receive what is spiritual? How so or why not?

9 “For we are God’s fellow workers; you are God’s field, *you are* God’s building.”

Question — How are you God’s fellow worker, field, or building?

10-11 “According to the grace of God which was given to me, as a wise master builder I have laid the foundation, and another builds on it. But let each one take heed how he builds on it.

For no other foundation can anyone lay than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ.”

Questions — Can you describe your foundation, the character you practice, the beliefs that guide you, that actions that develop you, the principles you trust in?

12-13 “Now if anyone builds on this foundation *with* gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, straw, each one’s work will become clear; for the Day will declare it, because it will be revealed by fire; and the fire will test each one’s work, of what sort it is.”

Question — By what principles or character traits do you build your foundation?

14-15 “If anyone’s work which he has built on *it* endures, he will receive a reward. If anyone’s work is burned, he will suffer loss; but he himself will be saved, yet so as through fire.”

Question — What is it like to be saved “so as through fire?”

16-17 “Do you not know that you are the temple of God and *that* the Spirit of God dwells in you? If anyone defiles the temple of God, God will destroy him. For the temple of God is holy, which *temple* you are.”

Questions — Do you know “*that* the Spirit of God dwells in you?” How well do you keep this thought to help you each day? How might defiling our inward being be destructive? Isn’t it our choice to build God’s goodness or to defile ourselves?

18 “Let no one deceive himself. If anyone among you seems to be wise in this age, let him become a fool that he may become wise.”

Questions — How does becoming a fool bring wisdom? How might this relate to pride or arrogance? What helps us more into being humble, thinking we are wise or knowing we have foolishness?

19-20 “For the wisdom of this world is foolishness with God. For it is written, “He catches the wise in their *own* craftiness”; and again, “The Lord knows the thoughts of the wise, that they are futile.”

Question — How are the thoughts of the wise futile?

Ephesians 2

And you *He made alive*, who were dead in trespasses and sins, **2** in which you once walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit who now works in the sons of disobedience, **3** among whom also we all once conducted ourselves in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, just as the others.

Questions — How are people dead in trespasses and sins and how can they be made alive again? How does the way we walk have an impact on being dead or alive? How does our conduct impact being dead or alive?

4 But God, who is rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, **5** even when we were dead in trespasses, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved), **6** and raised us up together, and made us sit together in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, **7** that in the ages to come He might show the exceeding riches of His grace in His kindness toward us in Christ Jesus.

Questions — Keeping in mind that we have a choice and God won't make us do things, how can he make us alive? Might it be that God makes us alive when we choose to obey? If we are going to be made like Christ won't we need to choose to follow and develop more like Christ? Can we choose not to? What might happen if we choose not to?

8 For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, **9** not of works, lest anyone should boast. **10** For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.

Questions — Can we be saved by grace without faith? Can we have grace if we ignore or deny it? What would grace be like for us if we have no good works and do not walk in them? If we are "His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works," then wouldn't we be doing good works like Jesus or at least increasing good works like Jesus?

13 But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ. **14** For He Himself is our peace, who has made

both one, and has broken down the middle wall of separation, 15 having abolished in His flesh the enmity, that is, the law of commandments contained in ordinances, so as to create in Himself one new man from the two, thus making peace, 16 and that He might reconcile them both to God in one body through the cross, thereby putting to death the enmity.

Questions — Is Jesus your peace? How so or why not? Are you at peace? How so or why not? What is inward peace like?

20 having been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ Himself being the chief cornerstone, 21 in whom the whole building, being fitted together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord, 22 in whom you also are being built together for a dwelling place of God in the Spirit.

Questions — How are you inwardly being built? Are you inwardly building in peace, truth, compassion, gentleness, love, forgiveness, mercy, and generosity? How so or why not?

2 Peter 2

But there were also false prophets among the people, even as there will be false teachers among you, who will secretly bring in destructive heresies, even denying the Lord who bought them, and bring on themselves swift destruction. 2 And many will follow their destructive ways, because of whom the way of truth will be blasphemed. 3 By covetousness they will exploit you with deceptive words; for a long time their judgment has not been idle, and their destruction does not slumber.

Questions — What are destructive ways according to Jesus? Aren't hypocrisy, self-seeking, and evil practices destructive ways? Is condoning or encouraging others in such practices destructive? How are we correcting each other from such practices?

4-9 “For if God did not spare the angels who sinned, but cast *them* down to hell and delivered *them* into chains of darkness, to be reserved for judgment; and did not spare the ancient world, but saved Noah, *one of eight people*, a preacher of righteousness, bringing in the flood on the world of the ungodly; and turning the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah into ashes, condemned *them* to destruction, making *them* an example to those

who afterward would live ungodly; and delivered righteous Lot, *who was* oppressed by the filthy conduct of the wicked (for that righteous man, dwelling among them, tormented *his* righteous soul from day to day by seeing and hearing *their* lawless deeds)— *then* the Lord knows how to deliver the godly out of temptations and to reserve the unjust under punishment for the day of judgment,”

Questions — How important is it for us to carefully evaluate and understand our conduct to ensure we are doing the will of God? Is it not important, slightly important, moderately important, more important than most things, or the most important thing in our life? How are you evaluating yourself for conduct? How can God deliver us if we chase after ungodly ways?

10-11 and especially those who walk according to the flesh in the lust of uncleanness and despise authority. They are presumptuous, self-willed. They are not afraid to speak evil of dignitaries, whereas angels, who are greater in power and might, do not bring a reviling accusation against them before the Lord.

Questions — What is like to be presumptuous, self-willed? What is it like to speak evil of dignitaries?

12 “But these, like natural brute beasts made to be caught and destroyed, speak evil of the things they do not understand, and will utterly perish in their own corruption, 13 and will receive the wages of unrighteousness . . .”

Questions — What is it like to speak evil of things you do not understand? How can we perish in our own corruption? What are the wages of unrighteousness?

13-15 “. . . carousing in their own deceptions while they feast with you, having eyes full of adultery and that cannot cease from sin, enticing unstable souls. They have a heart trained in covetous practices, and are accursed children. They have forsaken the right way and gone astray . . .”

Questions — Are we speaking sincere love and truth to each other to learn and understand where we each are—our inward condition with God? If we barely know each other, how can we discern who is growing with God and

who is not? Why would we feast with people who are not interested in growing God's good?

2 Peter 2:14 They have a heart trained in covetous practices

Questions — What is your heart trained in? How are you training your heart to grow in good practices like Jesus teaches?

21 For it would have been better for them not to have known the way of righteousness, than having known it, to turn from the holy commandment delivered to them. 22 But it has happened to them according to the true proverb: "A dog returns to his own vomit," and, "a sow, having washed, to her wallowing in the mire."

Questions — What is it like to know God's love and then turn from it? What might be a person's reasoning to return to corruption?

Jude 1

Jude, a bondservant of Jesus Christ, and brother of James, To those who are called, sanctified by God the Father, and preserved in Jesus Christ:
2 Mercy, peace, and love be multiplied to you.

Question — How are you being multiplied in mercy, peace, and love?

3 I was very diligent to write to you concerning our common salvation, I found it necessary to write to you exhorting you to contend earnestly for the faith

Questions — Who has exhorted you or who have you exhorted? How so or why not?

4 For certain men have crept in unnoticed, who long ago were marked out for this condemnation, ungodly men, who turn the grace of our God into lewdness and deny the only Lord God and our Lord Jesus Christ.

Questions — How can we recognize ungodly men who are ungodly? What did Jesus do when he recognized such men? How can we do likewise?

5 the Lord, having saved the people out of the land of Egypt, afterward destroyed those who did not believe. 6 And the angels who did not keep their proper domain, but left their own abode, He has reserved in everlasting chains under darkness for the judgment of the great day; 7 as Sodom and Gomorrah, and the cities around them in a similar manner to these, having given themselves over to sexual immorality and gone after strange flesh, are set forth as an example, suffering the vengeance of eternal fire.

Questions — Is it good to ask personal and challenging questions with our spiritual family to better understand each other, for exhortation, rebuke, and encouragement around God's good? How can we better discuss good and evil with each other and walk humbly together in all sincerity, while being ready to cut off relations with others who grow corruption and are not ready, interested, nor willing to grow with God?

Good & Evil Quick Reference

Good

1. Truth, No partiality, Heeding the word
2. Humble, Serving, Contrite,
3. Seeking good, Knowing good, Abhor evil, Repentance
4. Peace, Love, Compassion, Mercy
5. Charitable deeds, Lending
6. Zeal, Perseverance, Labor
7. Forgiveness, Caring for enemies, Not to burden
8. Generosity, Sharing, Giving
9. Building sincere love with others

Evil

1. Deceit, False lips, Flattery, Hypocrisy
2. Pride, Arrogance, Vanity
3. Seeking evil, Thinking evil, Avoiding good, Covet, Envy, Rebellion, Ungodliness
4. Malice, Clamor, Bitterness, Wrath, Anger,
5. Not giving or helping others
6. Seeking comforts, Sloth, Avoiding struggle
7. Holding grudges, Vengeful thinking, Paybacks, Doing evil, Creating harm
8. Love of money, Debt, Oppressing
9. Withdrawing from others, keeping people

Malice - desiring ill will or misfortune of others

Clamor - making lots of noise to agitate

Hypocrisy (hypokrisis) - playacting,
“any person who was wearing a figurative mask and pretending to be someone or something they were not”

<https://www.merriam-webster.com/words-at-play/hypocrite-meaning-origin>

Romans 12:9 NKJV “Behave Like a Christian
Let love be without hypocrisy. Abhor what is evil. Cling to what is good.”

Daily Process

Ponder God's character traits, how to practice and serve them, for they are Good.

Humble ourselves away from self-seeking, pride, vanity, idolatry, or other ungodly distractions.

Meditate upon the feelings and sensations of our doing Good and evil.
Inwardly cling to the Good.

Pray for strength, courage, and direction to do Good.

Identify struggles with evil, confess and discuss them, have mercy, and walk in forgiveness. Psalm 34:14

Slow down, take it easy, practice patience, walk peacefully.

Look for opportunities to do God's good today. Be spiritually ready, observant, and discerning.

Take comfort in the Good experienced, find the joy in it, and feel the affects of God's Good.

Empathetically and sincerely; compliment, comfort, encourage, and support others with love and truth. Let conviction happen when necessary.

Progress, not perfection. Improve awareness of progress. Tally up the good each day. Identify errors to better learn how to make improvements.

Teach by example, demonstration, and shared personal experiences. Be ready to describe own progress with real life examples.