

AFFIRM: Grow in Grace

In September and October Our Saturday ladies bible study focused on the women of the bible, who are not named, but are recognized and set apart as an example of their faith, many of them by Jesus, himself. Grow in Grace is a bible study focusing on intrinsic virtues manifesting as we mature in our walk with God through Jesus Christ our Savior.

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

¹Divine power (Jesus our Lord) has been given to us (not earned), and is ALL SUFFICIENT

²godliness: God's abiding presence through faith, not a passive dependence upon an unseen power, but a stage of being that firmly attaches us to desire God's presence and to trust his plan. To trust his plan that He is the giver and maintainer of all joys, blessings, and the gift of eternal life.

Jesus added a human nature to his divine nature. When we receive Him, He adds God's nature to our human nature, (a fallen nature). This human nature is not gone but to be ruled over by the Holy Spirit in us. This is how we share fellowship with God and escape lust of the world. things

II Peter 1:4: Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises: that by these ye might be ³partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through ⁴lust.

³partaker's of the divine nature- God's abiding presence through faith, and divine power (Jesus) given to us through the Holy Spirit; dwells in us and we in Him, as the branch in the vine, and as members in the body. It manifests in the subduing of the desire of the flesh, and thirst for God's plan for us.

⁴lust-evil desires, not just sexual iniquity

II Peter 1:5-8: And beside this, giving all diligence, supplement to your faith, ⁵Virtue; and to virtue knowledge; and to knowledge, ⁶temperance; and to temperance, ⁷patience; and to patience, godliness; and to godliness, brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness, charity. For if these things be in you, and abound, they make you that ye shall neither be barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.

⁵Virtue-moral goodness, modesty, purity

⁶temperance-self control

⁷patience;-endurance (In the coming weeks we will explore these virtues further)

Peter ends this letter II Peter 3:18 with "But grow in grace and in the knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ" how do we grow in grace?

1. Renew your mind in the word of God-read the bible every day. **Romans 12:2- 2 And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God. Romans 6:4 Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life.**

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2. Pray -God loves you-he wants to hear from you. If you are struggling with something, give it to Him. If you are happy about something, thank Him. Pray for souls to be saved. **I Thes. 5:16-18:** 16 Rejoice evermore. 17 Pray without ceasing. 18 In every thing give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning *you*.

3. Worship, and commune with fellow saints.

Hebrews 10:23-25 ²³ Let us hold fast the profession of our faith without wavering; (for he is faithful that promised;)²⁴ And let us consider one another to provoke unto love (stimulate and incite, fervor) and to good works: (encourage love, helpful deeds, and noble activities) ²⁵ Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together(gather together as Christians), as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching. **Romans 12:15** Rejoice with them that do rejoice, and weep with them that weep. 16 Be of the same mind one toward another.

4. Obey his word. It makes things better- **Hebrews 5:9** 9 And being made perfect, he became the author of eternal salvation unto all them that **obey** him

Luke6:46 And why call ye me, LORD, and do not the things which I say?

5. You are his adopted child, live like it. **Romans 8:5** For ye have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear; but ye have received the Spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, Abba, Father. **John 1:12-13** But as many as received him, to them gave He power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name:¹³ Which were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God.

6. Learn to be content: **Philippians 4:11-13** ¹¹ Not that I speak in respect of want: for I have learned, in whatsoever state I am, therewith to be content.¹² I know both how to be abased, and I know how to abound: every where and in all things I am instructed both to be full and to be hungry, both to abound and to suffer need. ¹³ I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me.

7. Fast. Remain in need, rely on God. **Matthew 3:17-4:2** **17** And lo a voice from heaven, saying, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased. **1**Then was Jesus led up of the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted of the devil. And when he had fasted forty days and forty nights, he was afterward an hungred.

God had just recognized Jesus as his beloved Son (Beloved-agapemos) and then the Spirit led Jesus for his testing. Only after he fasted and was in a state of hunger, could he be in a human state of need and dependent on His father. This is an example to us. Every answer Jesus gives to the devil is scriptural. Another example.

8. Tell people about your loving God and the Good News of Jesus your Savior and Redeemer, so that they too may be saved. **Matthew 24:14** And this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations; and then shall the end come. **Ephesians 6:19 (NIV)** Pray also for me, that whenever I speak, words may be given me so that I will fearlessly make known the mystery of the gospel.

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His plan for you is good. Romans 8:28 And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to *his* purpose. Jeremiah 29:11-13¹¹ For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, saith the LORD, thoughts of peace, and not of evil, to give you an expected end.¹² Then shall ye call upon me, and ye shall go and pray unto me, and I will hearken unto you.¹³ And ye shall seek me, and find me, when ye shall search for me with all your heart.

Colossians 1:9-12 9For this cause we also, since the day we heard *it*, do not cease to pray for you, and to desire that ye might be filled with the knowledge of his will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding; 10That ye might walk worthy of the Lord unto all pleasing, being fruitful in every good work, and increasing in the knowledge of God; 11Strengthened with all might, according to his glorious power, unto all patience and longsuffering with joyfulness; 12Giving thanks unto the Father, which hath made us meet to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in light:

Ephesians 4:22King James Version (KJV)

²²That ye put off concerning the former conversation the old man, which is corrupt according to the deceitful lusts;

1 John 3:23 And this is his commandment: that we should believe on the name of his Son Jesus Christ, and love one another, as he gave us commandment (24) And he that keepeth his commandments dwelleth in him and he in him. And hereby we know that he abideth in us, by the Spirit which he hath given us.

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Our last bible study was delving into 2 Peter chapter 1, about divine nature & 3:18-Grow in Grace and knowledge. Today: John 15:1-17 Jesus teaches the “why” and “what to expect” of growing in grace. It describes the love of Jesus for the faithful.

John 15:1King James Version (KJV)**15 I am the true vine, and my Father is the husbandman.**

Husbandman [N]

one whose business it is to cultivate the ground. It was one of the first occupations, and was esteemed most honorable All the Hebrews, except those engaged in religious services, were husbandmen. Dictionaries - Easton's Bible Dictionary - Husbandman

Why did Jesus use the words “true vine”? -Who is the unfaithful vineyard?-

Isa. 5:1-7**Jesus calls himself the true vine. The unfaithful vine is Israel-see Isaih 5:1-7- note that in this parable God no longer prunes the vineyard and lays it to waste, and no rain shall fall on it.**

Why is it important to be a faithful vineyard of the true vine? Matthew 21:33- The KINGDOM is given to those who produce fruit. **God opened the door to all, not just Israel, but adopted children too.**

John 15:2King James Version (KJV)²**Every branch in me (in Jesus) that beareth not fruit he taketh away; and every branch that beareth fruit, he purgeth(prunes) it, that it may bring forth more fruit.**

Taketh away-two meanings, one is dead branches are removed but also in the Greek, also translates to “lift up” in the springtime –the time of this message in the upper room- this was the season to lift up branches to encourage production (staking up)

God prunes our tree. KJV Hebrews 12:6-8 ...'For whom the Lord loveth he chasteneth, and scourgeth (to whip)every son whom he receiveth. If ye endure chastening, God dealeth with you as with sons; for what son is he whom the father chasteneth not? But if ye be without chastisement, whereof all are partakers, then are ye bastards, and not sons.'

NIV **6**because the Lord disciplines the one he loves,and he chastens everyone he accepts as his son.”· **7**Endure hardship as discipline; God is treating you as his children. For what children are not disciplined by their father? **8**If you are not disciplined—and everyone undergoes discipline—then you are not legitimate, not true sons and daughters at all. **9**Moreover, we have all had human fathers who disciplined us and we respected them for it. How much more should we submit to the Father of spirits and live!

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¹⁰They disciplined us for a little while as they thought best; but God disciplines us for our good, in order that we may share in his holiness. ¹¹No discipline seems pleasant at the time, but painful. Later on, however, it produces a harvest of righteousness and peace for those who have been trained by it.

Deuteronomy 8: **⁵Thou shalt also consider in thine heart, that, as a man chasteneth his son, so the Lord thy God chasteneth thee.**

Proverbs 3:11 -12 **¹¹ My son, despise not the chastening of the LORD; neither be weary of his correction. ¹² For whom the Lord loveth he correcteth; even as a father the son in whom he delighteth.**

WHY ? Romans 8:17-18 ¹⁷And if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ; if so be that we suffer with *him*, that we may be also glorified together. ¹⁸ For I reckon that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us.

³ Now ye are clean through the word which I have spoken unto you. ⁴ Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, except it abide in the vine; no more can ye, except ye abide in me.

Clean-Greek (Katharos) is related to the Greek word to prune (Kathairo). The word Jesus spoke prepared the disciples for sacrificial service.

⁵ I am the vine, ye are the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing.

Verse 4 and 5- Jesus first states Abide in me, before Christ abides in you, you must first abide in Him.

ABIDE:Original Word: μένω, Part of Speech: Verb

Transliteration: menó

Definition: I remain, abide, stay, wait; with acc: I wait for, await. Clean-Greek (Katharos) is related to the Greek word to prune (Kathairo). The word Jesus prepared the disciples for sacrificial service.

He is conveying an intimacy. If you are connected with Him- you are able to bear fruit.

To Bear- φέρειν-pherein is used several ways-“to carry” “to produce”

⁵ I am the vine, ye are the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing. ⁶ If a man abide not in me, he is cast

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forth as a branch, and is withered; and men gather them, and cast them into the fire, and they are burned.

Fire and burned are not necessarily about hell here-but symbolic of the divine discipline and correction of believers-for a live plant if want it to be healthy you remove the dead branches, water it, fertilize it, for it to grow fuller you prune the top, for it to grow higher, you prune the sides.

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

Verse 7: the need for Christ's teaching to be internalized in our thoughts and mind and heart, so that we will be praying according to God's will. Ephesians 5:17 Wherefore be ye not unwise, but understanding what the will of the Lord is.

⁸ Herein is my Father glorified, that ye bear much fruit; so shall ye be my disciples. ⁹ As the Father hath loved me, so have I loved you: continue ye in my love.

When believers bear much fruit-outward proof of your inward discipleship to Jesus, and it is demonstrated as LOVE.

¹⁰ If ye keep my commandments, ye shall abide in my love; even as I have kept my Father's commandments, and abide in his love.

Obedience to his commandments is the way to remain in His love.

¹¹ These things have I spoken unto you, that my joy might remain in you, and that your joy might be full. ¹² This is my commandment, That ye love one another, as I have loved you. ¹³ Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends. ¹⁴ Ye are my friends, if ye do whatsoever I command you. ¹⁵ Henceforth I call you not servants; for the servant knoweth not what his lord doeth: but I have called you friends; for all things that I have heard of my Father I have made known unto you. ¹⁶ Ye have not chosen me, but I have chosen you, and ordained you, that ye should go and bring forth fruit, and that your fruit should remain: that whatsoever ye shall ask of the Father in my name, he may give it you. ¹⁷ These things I command you, that ye love one another.

Ordained-elected, appointed, chosen to abide in Christ through obedience and love.

This is a new intimacy because of obedience and His love, signifying our faith. He is our advocate, He is our advocate, and we are chosen, He intercedes for us.

Romans 8:27 and He who searches the hearts knows what the mind of the Spirit is, because He intercedes for the saints according to *the will of God*.

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To mature, we are to grow in grace and knowledge, and truth in Jesus, by learning more of what God wants through His word, and doing what God wants and living in love(**agápē**).

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1st study- 2 Peter chapter 1, about divine nature & 3:18-Grow in Grace and knowledge.

2nd Study- John 15:1-17 Describes the love of Jesus for the faithful, the new intimacy we have with Jesus as our friend and advocate.

Today we are studying-God's Character and Attributes

To grow in grace and knowledge, we need to trust the changeless truths of God. Colossians 1:9-12 ⁹For this cause we also, since the day we heard *it*, do not cease to pray for you, and to desire that ye might be filled with the knowledge of his will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding; ¹⁰That ye might walk worthy of the Lord unto all pleasing, being fruitful in every good work, and increasing in the knowledge of God

Omni present-God is Eternity-God sees everything at one time, past-present-future.

Revelations 1:8-I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the ending, saith the Lord, which is, and which was, and which is to come, the Almighty.

Immutable-God is UNCHANGEABLE-God doesn't change his purpose-He has predestined us to be conformed to the image of Christ

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

Omni potent-God has unlimited power and is able to do anything, almighty supreme-Matthew 8:27 But the men marvelled, saying, What manner of man is this, that even the winds and the sea obey him!

Omni science-Knows all things both ACTUAL and POSSIBLE
Jeremiah 29:11-13¹¹ For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, saith the LORD, thoughts of peace, and not of evil, to give you an expected end.

Wisdom-God chooses the best goals

Romans 8:28 And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose.

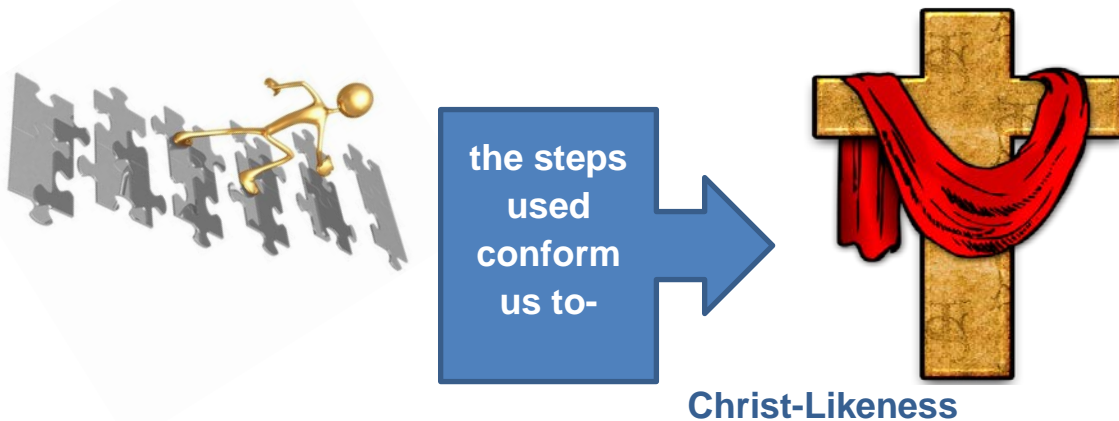
**GOD'S
ATTRIBUTES**

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Psalm 90:17 And let the beauty of the Lord our God be upon us, and direct thou the work of our hands upon us, even direct the work of our hands. (without God guiding us-we have no success)

Psalm 90

Proverbs 3:5-6--- 5Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. 6In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths.



Psalm 119:89 King James Bible

LAMED. Forever, O LORD, thy word is settled in heaven.

Hebrew ='Lāmed as written= ל in the Greek it is Lambda

from the representation of a [goad](#), i.e. a cattle prod, or a shepherd's stick, i.e. a [pastoral staff](#).

Represents the number 30, Acts as a preposition (to) (for)

UNLEASH THE TRUTH OF HIS UNCHANGEABLENESS

Psalm 119:98 Thou through thy commandments hast made me wiser than mine enemies: for they *are* ever with me.

Follow HIS will and be SANCTIFIED

2 Timothy 2:21-If a man therefore purge himself from these, he shall be a vessel unto honour, sanctified, and meet for the master's use, *and* prepared unto every good work.

We Must DENY fear (fleshly) to Trust God (heavenly/spiritually)

2 Timothy 1:7 For God hath not given to us the Spirit of fear but of power of love, and of a sound mind.

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“Fear not” is the most repeated negative prohibition in the word of God-why? Because it is where the enemy transports you, so that you won’t trust in GOD.

If we know, believe and trust in God’s attributes in our heart, then when we face these problems we can put them in the box surrounded by God and pray because-God is wise, God is Good, God is everywhere and God is all powerful.

If you have trials, sickness, troubles-put them in the box-remind yourself of the attributes of God.

GOD IS ALL POWERFUL-HE SPOKE THE WORLD INTO EXISTENCE!!



God's plan for you is GOOD-God is GOOD

(this drawing accredited from DTBM.ORG)

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Last study, we discussed the omniscient attributes of God. This week is study of the triune (3 in one) deity of God the Father, Jesus the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

1. Why is it important to know that Jesus was fully God and fully man and not half God and half man?

Colossian 1:15-19 and 2:9

NIV-15-The Son is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. 16-For in him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things have been created through him and for him. 17- He is before all things, and in him all things hold together. 18-And he is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning and the firstborn from among the dead, so that in everything he might have the supremacy. 19-For God was pleased to have all his fullness dwell in him,

John 1:17-And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth.

2. 1-Salvation is from the Lord Jonah 2:9-

Colossians 2:9- **Col 2:9 NIV For in Christ all the fullness of the Deity lives in bodily form,**

3. Jesus had to be fully man and fully Jesus as an infinite supreme being would be capable of bearing all the sin of man and redeeming it with resurrection.

We see this in the Jewish sacrifice.-when they shed the blood of an animal it was for atonement(to make amends) not redemption(restoration).

TWO NATURES FULLY GOD-FULLY MAN, one person-Jesus describes his Deity and power to the scribes-

Matthew 9:2-6 2And they brought to Him a paralytic lying on a bed. Seeing their faith, Jesus said to the paralytic, “Take courage, son; your sins are forgiven.”

3And some of the scribes said to themselves, “This fellow blasphemes.” 4And

Jesus knowing their thoughts said, “Why are you thinking evil in your hearts?

5“Which is easier, to say, ‘Your sins are forgiven,’ or to say, ‘Get up, and walk’?

6“But so that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins”—then He said to the paralytic, “Get up, pick up your bed and go home.”

7And he got up and went home. 8But when the crowds saw *this*, they were awestruck, and glorified God, who had given such authority to men.

also found in Mark 2:5-11 and Luke 9:2-6- they recognize superhuman power and they recognize that he is a man

SON OF GOD-a synonym for the Messiah, frequently applied to Jesus (Matt 3:17,26:63, 27:40)

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SON OF MAN-a title of Messianic significance which is ONLY used by Jesus himself in the Gospels(Matthew 12:8,32,40, Mark & Luke) Only one other time in the New Testament-Acts 7:56 (Stephen's stoning-sees the Son of Man as he is dying) –used in OT Dan 7:13 many times.../Ps.8:4/Ez 2:1

In Luke 4:34-the demon recognized Jesus as “the Holy One [**hagios**]of God” (*hágios*) means “*likeness of nature* with the Lord”; “sacred”-a claim to reverence

Luke 4:41- Jesus mute the demons after they call him “Christ the Son of God”



(drawing accredited from DTBM.org)

4. Why is it important that God is the Father, Son and Holy Spirit?

John: 6:29 Jesus answered and said unto them, This is the work of God, that ye believe on him whom he hath sent.

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1 John 2:23 KJV-Whosoever denieth the Son, the same hath not the Father: *(but) he that acknowledgeth the Son hath the Father also.*

II John 1:9- KJV-Whosoever transgresseth, and abideth not in the doctrine of Christ, hath not God. He that abideth in the doctrine of Christ, he hath both the Father and the Son.

Remaining what HE was, HE became what HE was not-HE did not give up his deity but took on humanity (human nature) so that he could die and be resurrected to conquer death (the wage of sin). Salvation comes from God

5. What is the purpose of the 3 person-the Holy Spirit?

Role of the Spirit John 14:16-27

16“I will ask the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may be with you forever; 17that is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it does not see Him or know Him, *but* you know Him because He abides with you and will be in you.

18“I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you. 19“After a little while the world will no longer see Me, but you *will* see Me; because I live, you will live also. 20“In that day you will know that I am in My Father, and you in Me, and I in you. 21“He who has My commandments and keeps them is the one who loves Me; and he who loves Me will be loved by My Father, and I will love him and will disclose Myself to him.” 22Judas (not Iscariot) said to Him, “Lord, what then has happened that You are going to disclose Yourself to us and not to the world?” 23Jesus answered and said to him, “If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word; and My Father will love him, and We will come to him and make Our abode with him. 24“He who does not love Me does not keep My words; and the word which you hear is not Mine, but the Father’s who sent Me.

25“These things I have spoken to you while abiding with you. 26“But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all that I said to you. 27“Peace I leave with you; My peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you. Do not let your heart be troubled, nor let it be fearful.

Paraklētos-Παράκλητος **-the helper/advocate**

Pneuma to Hagion- Πνεῦμα τὸ Ἅγιον-the Holy Spirit

As partakers of the divine nature, believers have the Holy Spirit indwelling them.

God declares that we are “more than conquerors” because of the **power** of the Holy Spirit within our hearts (Romans 8:37).

Our **Comforter** is with us wherever we go (John 14:16).

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We will never be **forsaken** (Hebrews 13:5).

Our last study reviewed Jesus-FULLY GOD & FULLY MAN and the purpose of the 3rd person –the Holy Spirit as a Helper, comforter, advocate and one who would teach us all things. (John 14:16-27) In Romans 8,

Life Through the Spirit

Roman 8:9-28

⁹You, however, are not in the realm of the flesh but are in the realm of the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God lives in you. And if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, they do not belong to Christ. ¹⁰But if Christ is in you, then even though your body is subject to death because of sin, the Spirit gives life because of righteousness. ¹¹And if the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies because of his Spirit who lives in you. ¹²Therefore, brothers, we have an obligation, but it is not to the flesh, to live according to it. ¹³For if you live according to the flesh, you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live....¹⁴For those who are led by the Spirit of God are the children of God. ¹⁵The Spirit you received does not make you slaves, so that you live in fear again; rather, the Spirit you received brought about your adoption to sonship. And by him we cry, “*Abba*, Father.” ¹⁶The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are God’s children. ¹⁷Now if we are children, then we are heirs— heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ, if indeed we share in his sufferings in order that we may also share in his glory. (Luke 24:26)

Present Suffering and Future Glory

¹⁸I consider that our present sufferings are not worth comparing with the glory that will be revealed in us. ¹⁹For the creation waits in eager expectation for the children of God to be revealed. ²⁰For the creation was subjected to frustration, not by its own choice, but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope ²¹that the creation itself will be liberated from its bondage to decay and brought into the freedom and glory of the children of God.

²²We know that the whole creation has been groaning as in the pains of childbirth right up to the present time. ²³Not only so, but we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for our adoption to sonship, the redemption of our bodies. ²⁴For in this hope we were saved. But hope that is seen is no hope at all. Who hopes for what they already have? ²⁵But if we hope for what we do not yet have, we wait for it patiently.

²⁶In the same way, the Spirit helps us in our weakness. We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us through wordless

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groans. ²⁷And he who searches our hearts knows the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for God's people in accordance with the will of God.

²⁸And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose. ²⁹For those God foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brothers and sisters. ³⁰And those he predestined, he also called; those he called, he also justified; those he justified, he also glorified.

1 Cor 3:16 Do you not know that you yourselves are God's temple, and that God's Spirit dwells in you?

Galatians 2:20

I have been crucified with Christ, and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself up for me.

Ephesians 3:17

so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith. And I pray that you, being rooted and grounded in love,

Colossians 1:27

to whom God has chosen to make known among the Gentiles the glorious riches of this mystery, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory.

I Thes. 5:21-23 ²¹but test all things. Hold fast to what is good. ²²Abstain from every form of evil. ²³Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you completely, and may your entire spirit, soul, and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ

Created- Body (Hebrew SOMA)-Soul(Hebrew=Nephesh)-Spirit(Hebrew=Ruach)

.....spirit separated by sin.....blood of Jesus & by our faith...God's Spirit joins with our soul and the Spirit seals us



We are Sealed by the Spirit-

NEW CREATURE-BORN AGAIN-COL 2:11-12 ¹⁰And you have been made complete in Christ, who is the head over every ruler and authority. ¹¹In Him you were also circumcised in the putting off of your sinful nature, with the circumcision performed by Christ and

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not by human hands. ¹²And having been buried with Him in baptism, you were raised with Him through your faith in the power of God, who raised Him from the dead.

To grow in grace and knowledge, we studied to understand the Attributes of God, Jesus-Fully man and Fully God, and the Holy Spirit in the last 3 studies.

The Works of the Flesh Galatians 5:16-21

16 This I say then, Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfil the lust of the flesh. **17** For the flesh lusteth against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh: and these are contrary the one to the other: so that ye cannot do the things that ye would. **18** But if ye be led of the Spirit, ye are not under the law. **19** Now the works of the flesh are manifest, which are these; Adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness, 20 Idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, variance, emulations, wrath, strife, seditions, heresies, 21 Envyings, murders, drunkenness, revellings, and such like: of the which I tell you before, as I have also told you in time past, that they which do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God.

Verse 16 through 18- The flesh represents unaided human nature, and law is the standard by which this unaided human nature struggles. UNAIDED-before the help of the HOLY SPIRIT. By the intervention of Jesus through the Holy Spirit, the law is fulfilled-and human nature ceases to be unassisted. As we grow in grace we are brought into direct contact with the divine nature (in a relationship with God), and the whole tenor/character/mood of our actions changes accordingly. Those who are led by the Holy Spirit develop an abhorrence of sin which cultivates a desire after holiness.

Mark 7:18-23 (Jesus tells us how man is defiled) **And he saith unto them, Are ye so without understanding also? Do ye not perceive, that whatsoever thing from without entereth into the man, it cannot defile him; Because it entereth not into his heart, but into the belly, and goeth out into the draught, purging all meats? And he said, That which cometh out of the man, that defileth the man. For from within, out of the heart of men, proceed evil thoughts, adulteries, fornications, murders, thefts, covetousness, wickedness, deceit, lasciviousness, an evil eye, blasphemy, pride, foolishness. All these evil things come from within, and defile the man.**

Adultery and fornication (sex outside of marriage)[greek=πορνεία (porneia) sexual immorality] **“it is God’s will that you should be sanctified(set apart for a sacred purpose, or free from sin): that you should avoid sexual immorality” (1 Thessalonians 4:3).**

Uncleanness or Impurity[Greek=ἀκαθαρσία (akatharsia)- moral, the impurity of lust

Rom.6:19-22: ¹⁹ I speak after the manner of men because of the infirmity of your flesh: for as ye have yielded your members servants to uncleanness and to iniquity unto iniquity;

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even so now yield your members servants to righteousness unto holiness.²⁰ For when ye were the servants of sin, ye were free from righteousness.²¹ What fruit had ye then in those things whereof ye are now ashamed? for the end of those things is death.²² But now being made free from sin, and become servants to God, ye have your fruit unto holiness, and the end everlasting life.

Lasciviousness—[ἀσελγεια (aselgeia) –indecency; or sensuality promoting lewd emotion

Jude ⁴For there are certain men crept in unawares, who were before of old ordained to this condemnation, ungodly men, turning the grace of our God into lasciviousness, and denying the only Lord God, and our Lord Jesus Christ.

We reap what we sow—

Gal 6:7-8--7Do not be deceived: God cannot be mocked. Whatever a man sows, he will reap in return. 8The one who sows to please his flesh, from the flesh will reap destruction; but the one who sows to please the Spirit, from the Spirit will reap eternal life....

II Samuel 12

God forgives David of his sin-but his sin has consequences.

Psalms 51 -1-17

Matthew Henry Commentary

51:1-6 (copied from biblehub.com)David, being convinced of his sin, poured out his soul to God in prayer for mercy and grace. Whither should backsliding children return, but to the Lord their God, who alone can heal them? he drew up, by Divine teaching, an account of the workings of his heart toward God. Those that truly repent of their sins, will not be ashamed to own their repentance. Also, he instructs others what to do, and what to say. David had not only done much, but suffered much in the cause of God; yet he flees to God's infinite mercy, and **depends** upon that alone for pardon and peace. He begs the pardon of sin. The blood of Christ, sprinkled upon the conscience, blots out the transgression, and, having reconciled us to God, reconciles us to ourselves. The believer longs to have the whole debt of his sins blotted out, and every stain cleansed; he would be thoroughly washed from all his sins; but the hypocrite always has some secret reserve, and would have some favorite lust spared. David had such a deep sense of his sin, that he was continually thinking of it, with sorrow and shame. His sin was committed against God, whose truth we deny by willful sin.

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Luke chapter 14:25-35



Luke 6:45-46 A good man out of the good treasure of his heart brings forth that which is good; and an evil man out of his heart brings forth that which is evil: for of the abundance of the heart his mouth speaks. (46) And why call me, Lord, Lord, and do not the things which I say?

The Works of the Flesh Galatians 5:19

Murder-intentional killing with malice

“You shall not murder” (Exodus 20:13). The Hebrew word for “murder” literally means “the intentional, premeditated killing of another person with *malice*.”

Drunkenness-[μέθαι, greek= methai]slave to drink

LUKE 21:34 **34**And take heed to yourselves, lest at any time your hearts be overcharged with **surfeiting** (wasteful expenditure and intemperate(not showing moderation) living especially excessive drinking),

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and drunkenness, and cares of this life, and [so] that day come upon you unawares. **35**For as a snare shall it come on all them that dwell on the face of the whole earth. **36**Watch ye therefore, and pray always, that ye may be accounted worthy to escape all these things that shall come to pass, and to stand before the Son of man.

Revellings-[Greek=Komoi]-binging on lustful pleasures, living in excess and lustful indulgence

1 Peter 4:3-4 **3**For the time past of *our* life may suffice us to have wrought the will of the Gentiles, when we walked in lasciviousness, lusts, excess of wine, revellings, banquetings, and abominable idolatries: **4**Wherein they think it strange that ye run not with *them* to the same excess of riot, speaking evil of *you*:

Idolatry[Greek= εἰδωλολατρία (eidōlolatria)]-anything more dear than Jesus –the deifying (making a deity) of self and other created things instead of God

Colossians 3:5-6 **5** Mortify (put to death) therefore your members which are upon the earth; fornication, uncleanness, inordinate affection, evil concupiscence (desire-passionate longing), and covetousness, which is idolatry: **6** For which things' sake the wrath of God cometh on the children of disobedience:

Witchcraft-practices of sorcery and enchantments, intercourse with the devil

21...as I have also told you in time past, that they which do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God.

Lasting Anger-Hatred-holding grudges

Leviticus 19:18 You shall not take vengeance or bear a grudge against the sons of your own people, but you shall love your neighbor as yourself: I am the LORD.

Ephesians 4:26 (KJV)²⁶ Be ye angry, and sin not: let not the sun go down upon your wrath: Is there acceptable Hate? Yes-Hate Evil: Amos 5:15 Hate the evil, and love the good, and establish judgment in the gate: it may be that the LORD God of hosts will be gracious unto the remnant of Joseph.

Wrath-Civil turmoil and lasting anger or anger that turns to bitterness- [Greek word thymoi]

Psalms 37:8 Cease from anger, and forsake wrath: fret not thyself in any wise to do evil.

Thessalonians 5:9 For God hath not appointed us to wrath, but to obtain salvation by our Lord Jesus Christ.

Emulations- [greek word=zelos] Uncurbed rivalry, jealousy & Envy's –ill will for other's blessings

Strife –[GREEK=eritheia] Angry contentions, holding on to "being right"; selfish rivalry

Sedition-[greek=dichostasia] stir up disorder, or acts of dissension –Pharisees against Stephen Acts 6:8-15

Variance-[greek word=eris] – strife, discord, contention or treating others like an enemy- **Romans chapter 14:13** Let us not therefore judge one another any more: but judge this rather, that no man put a stumbling block or an occasion to fall in his brother's way.

2 Timothy 2:23-26 **23** But foolish and unlearned questions avoid, knowing that they do gender strifes [breed quarrels]. **24** And the servant of the Lord must not strive; but be

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gentle unto all men, apt to teach, patient, 25 In meekness instructing those that oppose themselves; if God perhaps will give them repentance to the acknowledging of the truth; 26 And that they may recover themselves out of the snare of the devil, who are taken captive by him at his will. [doing what Satan wants]

ananēpsōsin	ἀνανήψωσιν	they might come to their senses
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Here we are being cautioned as Christians-as we can let Legalism, quarrels, interpretations, hinder us and become a snare of the devil by arguing over them.

2 Timothy 2:15 ...

... Study to show yourself approved unto God, a workman that needs not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.

Heresies (factions)-Opposite recognized beliefs of a church-false teachings-promoting disorder

2 Peter 2:1 But there were false prophets also among the people, even as there shall be false teachers among you, who privily (secretly) shall bring in damnable heresies, even denying the Lord that bought them, and bring upon themselves swift destruction.

RELIGIOUS HERESY- The Essentials

The doctrines of the Trinity, God is the creator of all things, Jesus Christ as the Son of God, the resurrection of Jesus Christ, and the Holy Spirit, are the cornerstone of Christian Biblical teaching. Heresies are teachings which openly deny any one of these fundamental doctrines. Examples of heresies include the Mormon doctrine that there are many gods, as well as the Jehovah's Witnesses, who clearly deny the Trinity and Jesus as the Son of God.

We are warned several times in the New Testament to beware of false teachings, especially in the last days. A prime example of this we find in Colossians.-This letter was written by Paul to the Church of Colosse when Paul learned that certain misguided teachers had introduced a false Gospel. The Colossian church was under the influence of Gnosticism which taught that angels had a part in redemption and creation and it worshipped Angels as intercessors between God and man.

Col 2:8-9 8See to it that no one takes you captive through philosophy and empty deception, according to the tradition of men, according to the elementary principles of the world, rather than according to Christ. 9For in Him all the fullness of Deity dwells in bodily form, 10and in Him you have been made complete, and He is the head over all rule and authority;

Heresy Vs. Aberration

Sometimes, a particular teaching does not overtly deny basic biblical theology, but is nevertheless, a danger as it is misconstrued by taking text or one scripture, out of context. (i.e. take one verse and misuse it) The inspired word of God is given in context and is supported in magnitude throughout the bible.

We are given an example of how to correct a fellow brother in Christ in Acts 18:24-28
And a certain Jew named Apollos, born at Alexandria, an eloquent man, and mighty in the scriptures, came to Ephesus. 25 This man was instructed in the way of the Lord; and being fervent in the spirit, he spake and taught diligently the things of the Lord, knowing only the baptism of John. 26 And he began to speak boldly in the

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synagogue: whom when Aquila and Priscilla had heard, they took him unto *them*, and expounded unto him the way of God more perfectly

Note here that they took him aside privately, as a loving brother, so that he could preach the gospel more perfectly.

READ 2 Peter 3:14-18

Matthew Henry Commentary(copied from biblehub.com): Those who are led away by error, fall from their own steadfastness (persistence, determination). And that we may avoid being led away, we must seek to grow in all grace, in faith, and virtue, and knowledge. Labour to know Christ more clearly, and more fully; to know him so as to be more like him, and to love him better. This is the knowledge of Christ, which the apostle Paul reached after, and desired to attain; and those who taste this effect of the knowledge of the Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, will, upon receiving such grace from him, give thanks and praise him, and join in ascribing glory to him now, in the full assurance of doing the same hereafter, forever.

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FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT-Galatians 5:22-24

First 3 ~inward and emanate from God- God wants us to be fruitful, produce good fruit, and carry good fruit.

Love- ἀγάπη/ transliteration=agápē: self-sacrificing and unchanging love, unconditional love that transcends regardless of circumstances.

1 Cor 13:7 (love) Bears all things, believeth all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

Phil 1:9 And this I pray: that your love may abound yet more and more and extend to its fullest development in knowledge and all keen insight (that your love may display itself in greater depth)

Ephesian 3:16-19 ¹⁶that He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with power through His Spirit in the inner man (the Spirit indwelling your innermost being and personality), ¹⁷so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith; and that you, being rooted and grounded in love, ¹⁸may be able to comprehend with all the saints (God's devoted people) what is the breadth and length and height and depth, ¹⁹and to know (practically through experience) the love of Christ which surpasses (mere) knowledge, that you may be filled up to all the fullness of God. (having the richest measure of the divine Presence and become a body wholly filled and flooded with God Himself)

- ♥ It is important how we walk-we are to walk in love. We are to be a light to the world.
- ♥ Our walk in love, through the presence of the Holy Spirit curbing our fleshly desires and cultivating our divine nature, is relational to all. Our relationship with God, with our loved ones, our friends, our families and those who are watching and are not saved. Is our love Christ-like?

Ephesians 4:24 (KJV)²⁴ And that ye put on the new man, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness.

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Matthew 12: 33 (amplified bible) Either make the tree sound (healthy and good) and its fruit sound, or make the tree rotten and its' fruit rotten; for the tree is known and recognized and judged by its' fruit.

- ♥ Turn in your bible to Mark 11:12-14 Jesus is hungry and spots a fig tree full of leaves. (in the fig tree the fruit appears the same time as the leaves). Once he gets to the tree-even though it is full of leaves, it has no fruit. Jesus cursed the fig tree. –the next morning in verse 20 Peter tells Jesus that the fig tree he doomed has withered away to the roots. –We wither if we are not fruitful in good works. This tree at a distance looked like a good tree-all leafy –but upon closer inspection-it did not bear fruit.
- ♥ The gifts are given freely, but the fruit is cultivated. Is the Holy Spirit changing you? Is the love of God manifesting in you? Are you giving God your time, your conversation, reading the word daily, praying, or are you expecting full time blessings with a part time, partial heart commitment and wondering why your attitude is bad? Let God move you in his time since he knows your heart and what you are ready to do for HIS glory.

Ephesians 5: 15-16 (amplified) 15 Look carefully then how you walk! Live purposefully and worthily and accurately, not as the unwise and witless, but as wise(sensible, intelligent people). 16 Making the very most of the time(buying up each opportunity), because the days are evil. 17 Therefore do not be vague and thoughtless and foolish, but understanding and firmly grasping what the will of the Lord is.

John 15:8-9 8“My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit, and so prove to be My disciples. 9“Just as the Father has loved Me, I have also loved you; abide in My love. 10“If you keep My commandments, you will abide in My love; just as I have kept My Father’s commandments and abide in His love. 11“These things I have spoken to you so that My joy may be in you, and *that* your joy may be made full.

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JOY-CHARA: inner rejoicing that is present regardless of outer circumstances, and has little to do with happiness; and joy still remains present in unhappiness. It comes from the relational nourishing satisfaction with God which remains through the valleys we endure.

John 15:8-9 8“My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit, and so prove to be My disciples. 9“Just as the Father has loved Me, I have also loved you; abide in My love. 10“If you keep My commandments, you will abide in My love; just as I have kept My Father’s commandments and abide in His love. 11“These things I have spoken to you so that My joy may be in you, and *that* your joy may be made full.

Phillippians 2:2 Fill up and complete my joy by living in harmony and being of the same mind and one purpose, having the same love, being in full accord and of one harmonious mind and intention.

Peace —EIRENE-inner trust in God’s sovereignty (He remains in charge of the universe in all things) even during tribulations. Humble and reverent worship of God is the stepping stone to peace. Peace is given.

Phillipians 4:7 7 And the peace of God, which passes all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus..

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- ♥ God's peace-that tranquil state of a soul assured of salvation through Christ-and so fearing no wrath of God and being content with our earthly lot

Romans 15:4

4For whatever was written in earlier times was written for our instruction, so that through perseverance and the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope. **5**Now may the God who gives perseverance and encouragement grant you to be of the same mind with one another according to Christ Jesus, **6**so that with one accord you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

7Therefore, accept one another, just as Christ also accepted us to the glory of God. **8**For I say that Christ has become a servant to the circumcision on behalf of the truth of God to confirm the promises *given* to the fathers,

9and for the Gentiles to glorify God for His mercy; as it is written,

"THEREFORE I WILL GIVE PRAISE TO YOU AMONG THE GENTILES,
AND I WILL SING TO YOUR NAME."

10Again he says,

"REJOICE, O GENTILES, WITH HIS PEOPLE."

11And again,

"PRAISE THE LORD ALL YOU GENTILES,
AND LET ALL THE PEOPLES PRAISE HIM."

12Again Isaiah says,

"THERE SHALL COME THE ROOT OF JESSE,
AND HE WHO ARISES TO RULE OVER THE GENTILES,
IN HIM SHALL THE GENTILES HOPE."

13Now may the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you will abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Phil 4:8-9

8 Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things *are* honest, whatsoever things *are* just, whatsoever things *are* pure, whatsoever things *are* lovely, whatsoever things *are* of good report; if *there be* any virtue, and if *there be* any praise, think on these things. **9**Those things, which ye have both learned, and received, and heard, and seen in me, do: and the God of peace shall be with you

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FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT-Galatians 5:22-24 After Love, Joy and Peace----

FIRST FOUR=HUMBLeness AND SELFLESSNESS

LONG SUFFERING-MAKROTHUMIA-the patient, persevering, diligent, endurance of irritating people and annoying circumstance. The Holy Spirit will increase our endurance and quiet us with even tempered response.

Romans 5:3-6³And not only so, but we glory in tribulations also: knowing that tribulation worketh patience; ⁴And patience, experience; and experience, hope: ⁵And hope maketh not ashamed; because the love of God is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Ghost which is given unto us. ⁶For when we were yet without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly.

Kindness-Chrestotes-Remaining charitable in responding to other's needs as God does to us.

Ephesians 4:32 And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you.

Goodness-Agathosune-benevolence, virtuous actions when undeserved. Not combative or reactive- but taking a positive action to offensive behavior

Romans 15:14 And I myself also am persuaded of you, my brethren, that ye also are full of goodness, filled with all knowledge, able also to admonish one another.

Meekness-prattues: kind indulgence, humble, humility, gentleness, submissive to God and appropriate in action.

Colosians 3:12 Put on therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, bowels of mercies, kindness, humbleness of mind, meekness, longsuffering;

Matthew 5:5 Blessed are the meek: for they shall inherit the earth

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Temperance—Egkrateia: Restraint over desire, self control to remain in God's will. The Holy Spirit will help us exercise temperance.

Titus 2:1-3 But speak thou the things which become sound doctrine: (2) That the aged men be sober, grave, temperate, sound in faith, in charity, in patience. (3) The aged women likewise, that they be in behavior as becometh holiness, not false accusers, not given to much wine, teachers of good things.

Act13:398 Through Jesus, everyone who believes is justified from all things, from which you could not be justified by the law of Moses



II Cor. 5:21 For he hath made him *to be* sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him.

Hebrews 10: 14 For by a single offering HE has forever completely cleansed and perfected those who are consecrated and made HOLY.

JUSTIFICATION Jesus=immediate

acceptance with God, as a free gift of grace (by faith alone we are united to Jesus Christ) Counts us as righteous by God because of Jesus.

SANCTIFICATION=RENEWING

DAILY, GOD'S WORD, WORKS, SEEKING, BEARING FRUIT-ACTS OF FAITH-RELATIONAL THROUGH THE HOLY SPIRIT—CONFORMING US TO THE IMAGE OF CHRIST.

Glorification -HEAVENLY DIGNITY –

PERFECT DIVINE NATURE –WE SHALL BE LIKE HIM

(ROMANS 8:30)

Faithfulness—Pistis: trustworthy, reliable, keeping their promises—even when we are in unfair conditions. The fruit of faith, or faithfulness, is revealed by our virtue of trustworthiness.

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Faith is the recognition and acknowledgment of mind, body, heart and soul relying on the credence of the resurrection of Christ for salvation.

BY FAITH-faith is our unshakable belief in God, and it is the root; Jesus, our advocate, is the trunk or vine, and we are the branches. The fruit of the Spirit manifests or reveals as qualities or attributes; faithfulness is the attribute of one who has faith.

We are born with natural faith, or what you might call human reasoning (i.e. the air we breath will continue to be there even though we can't see it). We have saving faith (JUSTIFICATION) imparted by the Word of God anointed by the Holy Spirit.

As we grow in grace and knowledge, the saving faith (JUSTIFICATION) becomes living faith-(SANCTIFICATION) unwavering trust in God ensuring we are not overcome by trials. There is also, the Gift of faith which can be given by the Holy Spirit. (1 Cor. 12:9) The fruit of faith, or faithfulness, is revealed by our virtue of trustworthiness.

Galatians 3:11-14 *11But that no man is justified by the law in the sight of God, it is evident: for, The just shall live by faith. 12And the law is not of faith: but, The man that does them shall live in them. 13Christ hath redeemed us from the curse of the law, being made a curse for us: for it is written, Cursed is every one that hangeth on a tree: 14That the blessing of Abraham might come on the Gentiles through Jesus Christ; that we might receive the promise of the Spirit through faith.*

Colossians 3:12 **12**Put on therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, bowels(the inward parts-heart/mind/emotions) of mercies, kindness, humbleness of mind, meekness, longsuffering; **13**Forbearing one another, and forgiving one another, if any man have a quarrel against any: even as Christ forgave you, so also [do] ye. **14**And above all these things [put on] charity(love), which is the bond of perfectness. **15**And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to the which also ye are called in one body; and be ye thankful. **16**Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom; teaching and admonishing(noutheteó: to admonish but not chastise, exhort-urge them to choose God) one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord. **17**And whatsoever ye do in word or deed, [do] all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God and the Father by him.

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1 CROWN OF REJOICING- Soul winning crown

I Thessalonians 2

- 19 *For what is our hope, or joy, or crown of rejoicing?
Are not even ye in the presence of our Lord Jesus Christ
at his coming?*
- 20 *For ye are our glory and joy.*

Phillippians 4:1

Therefore, my beloved and longed for brethren, my joy and crown, so stand fast in the Lord.

The Great Commission

...¹⁸Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to Me. ¹⁹Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰and teaching them to obey all that I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."...

- ♥ The difference between Apostles and Disciples-the apostles were appointed by Jesus (Mark 3:14), they physically walked with Him, followed him, they were anointed with the Holy Spirit and had supernatural healing powers and were Jews. Disciples are called into fellowship with Jesus (1 Cor.1:9), instructed by the teaching of God's Word(Jesus) and commanded to spread His Gospel.

- ♥ Divine Nature-Seeks-wants to win souls to Jesus

Matthew 6:33 But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness;
and all these things shall be added unto you

The Greek word here is----ζέτέω: to seek

Original Word: ζητέω; Part of Speech: Verb; Transliteration: zéteó

Phonetic Spelling: (dzay-teh'-o)

Definition: I seek, search for, desire, require, demand.

Matthew 16:27 For the Son of Man shall come in the glory
of his Father with his angels; and then he shall reward every
man according to his works.

2 Timothy 4:8 Finally, there is laid up for me the crown of
righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will give to me
on that Day, and not to me only but also to all who have loved His
appearing.



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- ♥ This is for those who want be found doing what God wants me to do because Christ may return at any time.
- ♥ If you are praying for safety, deliverance or the revelation of Jesus to the people of Israel, then you are “looking for” the return of Christ.

Jesus tells parable of the 10 virgins in Matthew 25:1-13 1“Then the kingdom of heaven will be comparable to ten virgins, who took their lamps and went out to meet the bridegroom. 2“Five of them were foolish, and five were prudent. 3“For when the foolish took their lamps, they took no oil with them, 4but the prudent took oil in flasks along with their lamps. 5“Now while the bridegroom was delaying, they all got drowsy and *began* to sleep. 6“But at midnight there was a shout, ‘Behold, the bridegroom! Come out to meet *him*.’ 7“Then all those virgins rose and trimmed their lamps. 8“The foolish said to the prudent, ‘Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out.’ 9“But the prudent answered, ‘No, there will not be enough for us and you *too*; go instead to the dealers and buy *some* for yourselves.’ 10“And while they were going away to make the purchase, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went in with him to the wedding feast; and the door was shut. 11“Later the other virgins also came, saying, ‘Lord, lord, open up for us.’ 12“But he answered, ‘Truly I say to you, I do not know you.’ 13“Be on the alert then, for you do not know the day nor the hour.

- ♥ In this parable-the wise virgins are sincere Christians (in their heart) and the foolish virgins are the hypocrites (in their heart).

Matthew 15:7-9 **“You hypocrites! Isaiah was right when he prophesied about you: ⁸“These people honor me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me. ⁹They worship me in vain; their teachings are merely human rules.”**

- ♥ Divine Nature retains grace unto the end; and God’s grace alone enables souls to meet the bridegroom JOYFULLY and expectantly, without consternation. Those who go to heaven hereafter are the same who are ready for heaven here and now.

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THE CROWN OF GLORY



- ♥ *Shepherding crown-when you serve because you want to...not because you were forced to, but eagerly for your LORD GOD. Teaching what you are living-being an imitator of Christ. To grow in grace and knowledge, show mercy and kindness, and they'll know you are a Christian by your love.*

1 PETER 5:2-10 **2**Be shepherds of God's flock that is under your care, watching over them—not because you must, but because you are willing, as God wants you to be; not pursuing dishonest gain, but eager to serve; **3**not lording it over those entrusted to you, but being examples to the flock. **4**And when the Chief Shepherd appears, you will receive **the crown of glory** that will never fade away.

- ♥ *There is always someone you can help. There is always some soul who doesn't know Jesus that you can help to find the path of righteousness. Maybe you don't think you can talk to someone, but you can help. Maybe it is the card of encouragement you write to the person you know is hurting. Maybe it is bringing food to a struggling neighbor or friend. .*

Matthew 25:31 **The Judgment**

31"But when the Son of Man comes in His glory, and all the angels with Him, then He will sit on His glorious throne. **32**"All the nations will be gathered before Him; and He will separate them from one another, as the shepherd separates the sheep from the goats; **33**and He will put the sheep on His right, and the goats on the left.

34"Then the King will say to those on His right, 'Come, you who are blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world. **35**'For I was hungry, and you gave Me *something* to eat; I was thirsty, and you gave Me *something* to drink; I was a stranger, and you invited Me in; **36**naked, and you clothed Me; I was sick, and you visited Me; I was in prison, and you came to Me.' **37**"Then the righteous will answer

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Him, 'Lord, when did we see You hungry, and feed You, or thirsty, and give You *something* to drink? 38'And when did we see You a stranger, and invite You in, or naked, and clothe You? 39'When did we see You sick, or in prison, and come to You?' 40'The King will answer and say to them, 'Truly I say to you, to the extent that you did it to one of these brothers of Mine, *even the least of them*, you did it to Me.'

- ♥ *Just helping others-These are teachable moments, you are demonstrating the love of Christ to a hurting person that just might need that reassurance of good things. Pray for guidance and God will lead you to what he wants you to do, to be a witness to another sinner. Isn't it amazing how God wants us to be involved with each other-help each other-love each other-cry with each other-feed each other. Jesus was our greatest example, when Martha was crying because Lazarus died, Jesus wept. When 5,000 were hungry, Jesus gave thanks and broke bread and fishes and fed them.*

HEBREWS 12: 1-3 1Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us, 2fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith. For the joy set before him he endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. 3Consider him who endured such opposition from sinners, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart.

- ♥ All of creation shows us how to we are created to help one another. All we have to do is to SEE the image God wanted us to be in creation, magnified in Jesus, and apply it to our lives.

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“Do you not know that those who run in a race all run, but one receives the prize? Run in such a way that you may obtain it. And everyone who competes for the prize is temperate in all things. Now they do it to obtain a perishable crown, but we for an imperishable crown. Therefore I run thus: not with uncertainty. Thus I fight: not as one who beats the air. But I discipline my body and bring it into subjection, lest, when I have preached to others, I myself should become disqualified.” (I Corinthians 9:24-27)



Paul is talking about "self discipline"-denial of self; aka Imperishable crown- the Holy spirit is leading over the desires of the flesh to do what God is prompting us to do.

In the sermon on the Mount, Jesus spoke of blessings that would be for

followers who are humble, and seeking righteousness. When Paul later wrote to the Church in Corinth, he described those running for the imperishable crown-having all the attributes described by Jesus in the Sermon on the Mount. (the Beatitudes) Note that all of these blessings start with being humble.

Matthew 5:3 –Blessed are the poor in spirit for their's is the kingdom of heaven. – Blessed meaning deep joy which follows from knowing one has received divine favor; Are the poor in spirit-the humble, one that is an empty vessel to be filled with God's will, spiritually bankrupt of one's own self and pride.

Matthew 5:4 Blessed are they that mourn: for they shall be comforted. Here mourn is the lament over sin itself and it's stain; they shall be comforted-God sends the Holy Spirit, the comforter.

Matthew 5:5 Blessed are the meek: for they shall inherit the earth. Meek=patient, longsuffering, they bear an insult and return a soft word. Their serenity helps them to find the maximum of true joy in all conditions of life; for to them the earth is not a stage for self-assertion and the grasping of desire, but an "inheritance" which they have received from their Father.

Matthew 5:6 Blessed are they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness for they shall be filled. An earnest and sincere desire for godly wisdom and for spiritual blessing will be abundantly satisfied.

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Matthew 5:7 Blessed are the merciful, for they shall obtain mercy. This is embodied in the Lord's Prayer. They who are forgiving towards others receive divine forgiveness. Jesus gives us the motive to be merciful in the recognition that we, ourselves, needed it and received it.

Matthew 5:8 Blessed are the pure in heart: for they shall see God. Here holiness and happiness are put together. The heart must be purified by faith, and kept for God. None but the pure are capable of seeing God.

Matthew 5:9 Blessed are the peacemakers; for they shall be called the children of God. Those who endeavor to promote peace in others: who are so far from sowing the seeds of discord between others that they avoid contention themselves, try to reconcile contending parties, and to restore peace wherever it is broken, as well as to preserve it where it is.

Matthew 5:10 Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. *(this is the previous crown from the last study-the crown of life)*

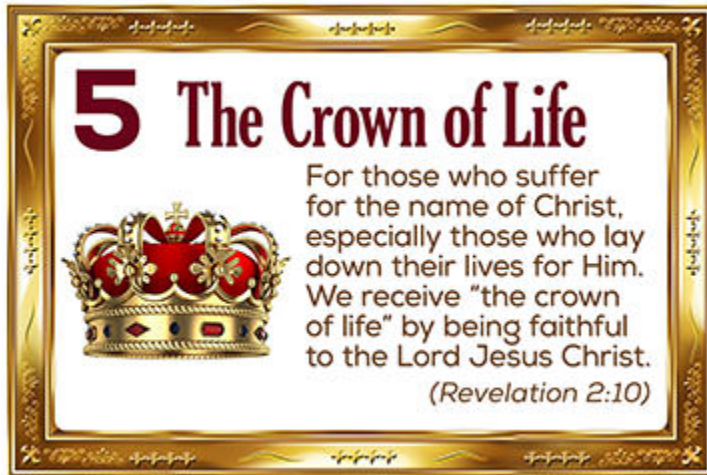
Matthew 5:48-(AMPLIFIED) You, therefore, must be perfect-growing in complete maturity of godliness of mind and character, having reached the proper height of virtue and integrity, as your Father is perfect.

They shall be called the children of God -they are his heirs, joint heirs with Christ; and, as they suffer with him, so shall they be glorified together.

The Holy Spirit conforms us (sanctifies) us helping us with conviction when we sin or stumble and strengthens us in our weakness. In those days, people would shave coins, shaving the gold you would amass money from the shavings but ruin the coin, by ruining the intrinsic value of the coin.

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Crown Of life-Enduring trials and tests:



We read of 5 crowns written in the New Testament.(The crown of rejoicing, the imperishable crown, the crown of glory, the crown of righteousness, and the crown of Life).

Reading: James chapter 1 verses 1-12 - [James 1:12](#) Blessed is the man that endureth temptation: for when he is tried he shall receive the crown of life, which the Lord hath promised to them that love him.

[Matthew 5:10-11](#) Blessed are they which

are persecuted for righteousness' sake: for their's is the kingdom of heaven. (11) Blessed are ye when men shall revile you , and persecute you, and shall say all manner of evil against you falsely, for my(Jesus) sake.

Rev 2:10 Do not fear any of those things which you are about suffer. Indeed, the devil is about to throw some of you into prison, that you may be tested, and you will have tribulation ten days. Be faithful until death and I will give you the crown of life.

Rev 3:10 I am coming quickly, hold fast to what you have so that no one may rob you and deprive you of your crown.

We know our trials help us to grow in grace, knowledge and Godly wisdom, and help to chasten us to be conformed to a Christ-like image, AND also are a test that we might endure to receive a crown as a demonstration to God our love for Him, our obedience, and to Glorify Him.

GOD loves you-you have a purpose. Ephesians 2:8-10 ⁸For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: (*Grace is a gift, we can't earn a gift.*) ⁹Not of works, lest any man should boast. ¹⁰For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them. *If we are reflecting the image of Jesus Christ, then we are projecting the good works, i.e. the fruit of the spirit. In Genesis, Adam and Eve were created in the image of God, but then sinned. We are born into sin, but we are reborn (obediently embodied in baptism) because faith of the gospel, transformed in Christ Jesus unto good works.*

II Timothy 3:16 All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine(useful for instruction), for reproof(conviction), for correction, for instruction in righteousness. 17 That the man

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of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works. *God is all sufficient and gives us everything we need to do his will.*

Matthew 25:14-30 “well done good and faithful servant” *Jesus teaching his apostles about rewards in heaven.*

Matthew 16:27 For the Son of Man shall come in the glory of his Father with his angels; and then he shall reward every man according to his works.

Rev 22:12 Behold I am coming quickly and my reward is with me to give to every one according to his work.

Rev 4:10-11 **10**the twenty-four elders (the heavenly Sanhedrin) fall down before the One seated on the throne, and they worship Him who lives forever and ever. They cast their crowns before the throne, saying: **11**“You are worthy, our Lord and God, to receive glory and honor and power, for You created all things; by Your will they exist, and came to be.”...