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BORN AGAIN ACCORDING TO JESUS



SALVATION MANUAL

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BORN AGAIN

According to JESUS

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1) Jesus - His Titles

As for Jesus, All His Claims Have Been Confirmed.

The claiming of His titles are all rightfully His. As the Son of God, Savior of the world, He clearly demonstrated that He is able to conquer death, forgive sin, save any soul, and satisfy the heart forever more!

Jesus - The Way, The Truth, and The Life.

Jesus says in **John 14:6**, “ I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man comes to the Father, but by Me.”, and in **Acts 4:12** Peter says, “ Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is no other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved.”

Jesus - Comes with Reconciliation, Sanctification and Redemption.

He is the only completed way to the Father. He is the True Light, the Word of God, the Wisdom of God, and Wonderful Counselor. He’s the King of the Jews, the King of Israel, the King of Righteousness, the King of the Ages, the King of Heaven, the King of Glory, the King of Kings, and He is the Lord of Lords, He is the Doorway of Deliverance, the Pathway of Peace, the Roadway of Righteousness, the Highway of Holiness, and the Gateway of Glory.

Jesus - There is no Mistaking His Identity when it comes to Salvation.

He is not only the way, but He is also the chief cornerstone, the foundation, the builder. Look at how He is portrayed in the Gospels!

In Matthew, Jesus is the King Revealed!

In Mark, Jesus is portrayed as the Redeeming One!

In Luke, Jesus is pictured as the Reconciler!

In John, Jesus is proclaimed as a Regenerator, one who makes all things new!

Outside of Jesus there is no wider, deeper, greater, broader, higher dimension known. His mercy is everlasting, His love never changes, His word is as solid as a rock, His grace is sufficient, His yoke is easy and His burden is light. He was wounded for our transgressions, crushed for our iniquities and by His stripes we are healed.

2) The Garments of Salvation

Note that the “ Garments of Salvation ” is plural.

Obviously when it comes to “ Righteousness ” there’s more we need to know !

Isaiah 61:10

“ I will greatly rejoice in the Lord, My soul shall be joyful in my God.”

Why?

“ For He has clothed me with the Garments of Salvation, and He has covered me with the Robe of Righteousness, — as a bridegroom decks himself, and as a bride adorns herself.”

The White “ Garments of Salvation ” represents “ Righteousness ”, while a soiled or missing Garments shows a “ lack of Righteousness ”.

God has clothed His people in a Garment that enables them to be in Covenant with God. Once we have entered into a righteous we are then empowered to persevere righteousness. In our right standing before God, our garment of righteousness was a gracious gift, but the deeds that follow, can defile that garment leaving it tainted or incomplete once again. **Revelation 3:2**

Revelation 19:3-8 States that the linen of the white garments in heaven is made from the “ righteous deeds of the saints.” The very fabric of these protective garments is made from our obedience and our faithfulness in our relationship with our Lord. The Bride needs to cloth herself in bright linen.

Because of what Jesus did, we are made “ Righteous” and we are to keep that “ Robe of Righteousness” on as directed by the Holy Spirit, — this is vital !

So Lets Define It !

1) Righteousness only comes by way of Atonement.

Genesis 3:21 Revelation 7:14

2) Only those who are Righteous can dwell in God’s presence.

Zechariah 3:7 Revelation 7:9, 22:14

3) Not only does Righteousness come only through Atonement, but under the New Covenant, Righteousness only comes through Jesus’s death.

Revelation 7:13-14; 22:14

- 4) Righteousness is necessary for Salvation.
Isaiah 61:10 Matthew 22:11-14 Revelation 19:7-8
- 5) Righteousness is a part of our Protection.
Isaiah 59:17 Ephesians 6:14
- 6) Our Righteousness can be stained, soiled or defiled.
Malachi 2:16 2 Peter 2:20 James 5:2 Jude 23 Revelation 3:4
- 7) Our Righteousness can be removed.
2 Corinthians 5:3-4, 10 Jude 23 Revelation 16:15
- 8) Only those who persevere in Righteousness will enter Glorification.
Ephesians 5:27 2 Peter 3:14 Jude 23 Revelation 3:5, 19:8
- 9) Our Righteousness will be a Permanent and Present Reality in Heaven.
Revelation 4:4, 6:11, 7:9, 7:13-14, 14:12, 19:6, 22:14

3) The Church / Ekklesia is the Bride

Revelation 19:7

“ Let us be glad and rejoice and give Him glory, for the marriage of the lamb has come, and His wife (the Bride) has made herself ready.”

How has the Bride made Herself ready ?

Ephesians 5:26

“ That He might sanctify and cleanse her with the washing of water by the word, that He might present her to Himself a glorious Church, not having spot or wrinkle.”

Matthew 24, Jesus tells the parable of the ten virgins. As the parable goes, ten virgins were waiting for the Bridegroom to come for the wedding feast. Five were ready and five were not. Only those who were ready went in. Once again, we see that only those who make themselves ready will enter in.

In Revelation again, the messages to the Churches at Sardis, Philadelphia, and Laodicea all suggest that only those who overcome will be prepared as a worthy Bride for Jesus. The Church, the Ekklesia needs to make herself ready.

4) Saved, Being Saved, and Shall Be Saved

This Salvation process for the Bride is called **Sanctification**.

Ephesians 5:26 " That He might **Sanctify Her**. "

1 Thessalonians 5:23

“ Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you completely; and may your whole Spirit, Soul, and Body be preserved blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.”

God wants to Sanctify You Completely, — Spirit, Soul and Body.

Notice that He mentions spirit first and ends with the body. He begins with the spirit. Sanctification is a process, and it begins in our spirit. We are born again in our spirit. God works from the inside out. Holy Spirit infused, then the Mind of Christ, then a body that gives glory to the Father.

Isaiah 28:9-10 says this,

“ Whom will He teach knowledge? And whom will He make to understand the message, (to understand doctrine?) Those just weaned from milk? Those just drawn from the breasts? For precept must be upon precept, precept upon precept, line upon line, line upon line, here a little, there a little.”

Garments of Salvation! Gods provision for us !

God gives His provision for every area of Man, — for our Spirit, for our Soul, and for our Body. He clothes us with His garment for each area of our being. This is not just head knowledge. God wants us to experience HIM! When we are born again, we have what is known as a born-again experience. This experience is sealed in the baptism of water, and with the Baptism of the Holy Spirit.

The Next Phase is the Sanctification of our Body.

1 Corinthians 15:42

“ So it is with the resurrection of the dead. The body that is sown is perishable and decays, but the body that is resurrected is imperishable immune to decay and immortal.”

1 Corinthians 15:44

“ It is sown a natural body; it is raised a supernatural spiritual body.
As surely as there is a physical body, there is also a spiritual body.”

Remember, it is Precept upon Precept, Line upon Line.

Historically, God has restored these truths to the church and to us individually in a systematic and progressive manner.
Precept upon precept, line upon line. God is a God of order,
and restoration has a process.

Acts 3:19-21

“ Repent therefore and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out,
so that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord.”
(referring to Isaiah 28:12 - this is the refreshing)

“ And that He may send Jesus Christ, who was preached to you before,
whom heaven must receive until the times of restoration of all things.”

Jesus Christ is received (retained, kept) in heaven until all things have
been restored back to the church (and to us individually). Every day,
we engage deeper into the things that God has for us, all through
restoration and sanctification.

5) Spiritual Maturity, Times of Refreshing

Isaiah 28:9-10

“ Whom will He teach knowledge and make to understand the message?
Those that are weaned from milk and drawn from the breast.”

Hebrews 5:12-14

“ For though by this time you ought to be teachers, you actually need
someone to teach you again the elementary principles of God’s word, and
you have come to be continually in need of milk, not solid food. For
everyone who lives on milk is doctrinally inexperienced and unskilled in
the word of righteousness, since he is a spiritual infant. But solid food is
for the spiritually mature, whose senses are trained, by practice, to
distinguish between what is morally good, and what is evil.”

Hebrews 6:1-3 (paraphrased)

“ Therefore, leaving the discussions of the elementary principles of Christ, let’s move on to perfection, towards a completeness and perfection that takes us to spiritual maturity, and not laying again the foundation of repentance, replaying the baptisms, and the laying on of hands, along with endless discussions on the resurrection of the dead, and eternal judgment. God help us that we’ll stay true to all that! But there’s so much more! And this we will do if God permits, but lets move on.”

What will we do if God permits ?

Getting on with a perfection that belongs to spiritual maturity. The whole idea is to stay in His presence as He refreshes daily, but if we need to backtrack, He will for the sake of our completeness.

Acts 3:19

Declares that, “ The Times of Refreshing ” comes from the presence of the Lord. It is in the presence of the Lord that His mind is revealed, and revelation flows. It is in the presence of the Lord that the rhema of God is revealed.

2 Peter 1:12

“ For this reason I will always remind you of these things, even though you know them and are firmly established in the present truth that you now have.”

So the question is: In what “ Present Truth ” are we being established in today? We need to be in His Presence to know what is the “ Time of Refreshing ” for us today, to know what He is restoring and maturing presently.

6) Wedding Garments

In **Matthew 22** We see that God the Father is putting on a wedding Feast for His Son Jesus Christ. Everyone has been invited. Everyone came, — both bad and good!

Let's look at it, **Matthew 22:10-11**

The King comes in, looks around, and takes a look at His guests. He sees there a man who did not have on a wedding garment. What you are clothed with is very significant to God. God says that a man's own righteousness is as filthy rags before God.

This Man was not Properly Dressed. This Man could be Any One of Us if we Stand before God in our Own Righteousness.

Isaiah 4:1 - Let's read what it says,

“And in that day (when it speaks of that day it is usually speaking of the end of the age) Seven women (women here speaks of churches) shall take hold of one man (that man is Jesus Christ) saying, " We will eat our own food and wear our own apparel; Only let us be called by Your name, to take away our reproach.”

Their only concern is to have the reproach of sin taken away. But they will pursue their own religion. They want to prepare their own meals, eat their own food. They want to pick out their own clothes and wear their own garments.

Matthew 22 Implies that all the other guests had on the appropriate wedding garments.

Isaiah 61:10

“ For He has clothed me with the Garments of Salvation, He has covered me with the Robe of Righteousness.”

1 Corinthians 1:30

“ But it is from Him that you are in Christ Jesus, who became to us wisdom from God [revealing His plan of salvation], and righteousness [making us acceptable to God], and sanctification [making us holy and setting us apart for God], and redemption [providing our ransom from the penalty for sin].”

He became all things for us.

Now just as we put on our own garments,

(under garments, shirt, pants, socks, shoes, over coat, etc.)

So there is an order to putting on the

“ Garments of Salvation ”.

Isaiah 28:10

“ For precept must be upon precept, precept upon precept; line upon line, line upon line; here a little, and there a little.”

God is a God of order and that He deals with us Progressively.

You experience being **Born Again**.

You experience **Repentance**.

You experience **Water Baptism**.

You really experience the **Baptism in the Holy Spirit**.

All of God's Teachings is to be Experienced! God plans to Define us Personally !

From Glory to Glory He is changing us! “ Let us go on to perfection - Maturity.” God wants us to go on to maturity. But He first requires that we lay a proper foundation. It's precept upon precept, precept upon precept, line upon line, line upon line.

This is God's order and this is God's purpose for each person as they go through the renewing, refreshing, refining and restoring process.

7) Washed by The Word

Before we dress, what is it that we do? We bath or wash ourselves.
First the natural then the spiritual, — a principle!

1 Corinthians 15:46

“ I forever, the spiritual is not first, but the natural, afterward the spiritual.”

Before we get into putting on the “ Garments of Salvation ”
let us deal with being washed.

Revelation 19:7 says,

“ Let us be glad and rejoice and give Him glory, for the marriage of the Lamb has come, and His wife (the Bride) has made herself ready.”

How has she made herself ready? By being washed and clothed
with the “ Garments of Salvation ”.

Ephesians 5:26

“ That He might sanctify and cleanse her (the Bride, the Church, the Ekklesia) with the washing of water by the word.”

Psalms 119:9

“ How can a young man cleanse his way? By taking heed according to Your Word.” After being washed and cleansed, the Bride is able to adorn herself.

Isaiah 61:10

“ For He has clothed me with the garments of salvation, He has covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decks himself with ornaments, and as a bride adorns herself with jewels.”

8) Doctrine - What We Believe is Important

What we believe is important. But To know what we believe is very important. What we believe will determine 3 things. Our character, our actions, and our destiny.

What We Believe is called Doctrine.

Doctrine , — It's the stuff that you are made up of. Everything that you believe, everything that has been taught, have all come from one or more sources.

Here are the Three Sources of Doctrine.

- 1) - The Doctrines of **Devils**
- 2) - The Doctrines of **Men** (Mans traditions taught as the precepts of God. Jesus said that the traditions of men makes the Word of God of none affect. It has no power to change us.)
- 3) - The Doctrine of **God**

We are all taught from one of these 3 sources.

A Doctrine received, believed, practiced and obeyed will determine:

- Character** - what you are
- Actions** - what you do
- Destiny** - where you go

9) The Purpose of Doctrine

1 John 5:20

“And we know that the Son of God has come and has given us an understanding, that we may know Him who is true.”

To set forth an order, God gives His Doctrine an order.

Isaiah 28:10 " For precept must be upon precept, precept upon precept, line upon line, line upon line, Here a little, there a little."

Proverbs 29:18

“ Where there is no vision (no redemptive revelations of God), the people perish; (dwell carelessly).”

Man is made in the image of God. We are a triune being.
We are a Spirit, a Soul, and a Body, — the three being one.

Through the Fall (the event that happened in the Garden of Eden), we became unregenerate beings who were dead to God. Our Spirit was dead until God quickened us on the very day when we became born again in the Spirit. Prior to that we were totally dead without God.

But God, through His Redemption desires to bring life back into our total being. God wants to restore us completely whole. And He has a process that includes the restoring of our Spirit, Soul, and yes our Body.

10) The Restoration Process is called Salvation

2 Thessalonians 5:23

“ Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you completely; and may your whole Spirit, Soul, and Body be preserved blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.” God wants to sanctify you completely.

The starting point of that process is called Salvation.

2 Corinthians 3:17

“Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone,”

2 Corinthians 13:11 “. . . strive for full restoration,”

It's a process that begins in our Spirit (born-again in the Spirit), then it's worked out in our Soul (our mind, our identity) and eventually the process will be completed in our Body.

The restoration process begins the moment of salvation.

11) The Word of God – Bible Part 1

- 1) The Bible contains the Mind of God, the state of Man, the Way of Salvation. Its doctrines are holy; its precepts and covenants are binding; its histories are true; its decisions are immutable.
- 2) Read it to be wise, believe it to be safe, and practice it to be holy. It contains light to direct you, food to support you, comfort to cheer you.
- 3) It is the traveler's map, the pilgrim's staff, the pilot's compass, the soldiers sword, and the Christian's charter. Here paradise is restored, heaven is opened and the gates of hell disclosed. Christ is it's grand subject, our good its design, and the glory of God its end.
- 4) It should fill the memory, rule the heart and guide the feet. Read it slowly, frequently, and prayerfully. It is a mine of wealth, a paradise of glory and a river of pleasure.
- 5) It gives life, will be opened at judgment, and will be remembered forever. It involves the highest of responsibility, rewards the greatest labor and condemns all who trifle with its sacred contents.
- 6) Completely inspired by the Holy Spirit; meaning that Holy Spirit breathed upon human vessels where the very thoughts and words He wanted written according to the kingdom of Heaven. Words that flowed through the human vessel, through various personalities, involving feelings, emotions, education and experience.
- 7) Holy Spirit guarded and preserved each thought and phrase, each word from any error or omission or inaccuracies as writers were acting under the flow of the Holy Spirit as they walked in the manifested word.

God not only gave His Thoughts but His Very Words. It was Inspired by Him and it was always meant to be Recorded.

Matthew 4:4 “ It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God.”

If God inspired His Word, moved on Holy men to write His Word, He is well able to preserve His Word.

God is a Jealous God. He is jealous over His Word. He watches out for His Word. He preserves His Word. He regards His Word very highly. He values His Word. He has placed a higher value on His Word than He has on His very Name.

Psalms 138:2 “ For you have magnified Your Word above all Your Name.”

Revelation of divine truth is impossible to understand unless God chooses to reveal it to us through the power of the Holy Spirit. It's the Holy Spirit that gives us understanding.

12) Revelation is the Revealed Will of God

2 Peter 1:20-21

“ Knowing this first, that no prophecy of the scripture is of any private interpretation. For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spoke as they were moved by the Holy Ghost.”

1 Corinthians 2:12-14

“ Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, that we might know the things that have been freely given to us by God. These things we also speak, not in words which man's wisdom teaches but which the Holy Spirit teaches, comparing spiritual things with spiritual. But the natural man does not receive the things of the Spirit of God for they are foolishness to him; nor can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned.”

Matthew 11:25-27

“At that time Jesus answered and said, "I thank You, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because You have hidden these things from the wise and prudent and have revealed them to babes. Even so, Father, for so it seemed good in Your sight. All things have been delivered to Me by My Father, and no one knows the Son except the Father. Nor does anyone know the Father except the Son, and he to whom the Son wills to reveal Him.”

Illumination - One might have revelation, but without illumination he is without understanding. It is the work of the Holy Spirit to reveal and illuminate.

Inspiration - Inspiration is the power or method by which man utters or writes this God given revelation to others, without error or defect.

Key Scripture: Isaiah 55:8-11

“ For My thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways My ways," says the Lord. “ For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are My ways higher than your ways, And My thoughts than your thoughts. For as the rain comes down, and the snow from heaven, And do not return there, But water the earth, And make it bring forth and bud, That it may give seed to the sower, and bread to the eater, So shall My word be that goes forth from my mouth; It shall not return to Me void, But it shall accomplish what I please, And it shall prosper in the thing for which I sent it.”

13) Jesus is the Word, the Mind of God

John 1:1 He is, as it were, the Mind of God the Father, made manifest in the flesh. Then we are told in **Philippians. 2:5** “ Let this Mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus.”

Then **1 Corinthians 2:16** says this, (and here we are going back to Isaiah again, quoting from **Isaiah 40:13**) “ For who has known The Mind of the Lord that he may instruct Him? But we have the Mind of Christ.”

Ephesians 4:23-24 says, “ and be renewed in the spirit of your Mind, and that you put on the New Man . . . ” This New Man comes with the Mind of Christ!

This New Mind is Yours for the Taking! You need to Contend for it !

We submit ourselves to the Word - The Logos - **The Written Word**.
Holy Spirit then takes that word - It becomes Rhema - **The Illuminated Word**.
Then Holy Spirit quickens the Word to our mind, as He renews our mind
and we need to make a serious effort to put on this New Mind.

Hebrews 4:12 The Word as a Two-Edged Sword.

“ For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.”
God's Word divides, — it always has.

Ephesians 5:26 The Word Washes Us Clean.

“ That He might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word.”
We are washed by the Word. Our conscience is made clean, and we are able to discern good and evil.

We Feed Ourselves on the Word.

We read and study the Word, and as we meditate and pray the Word, we feed ourselves and become strong and are able to overcome the wicked one.

Hebrews 5:12-14

“ For though by this time you ought to be teachers, you need someone to teach you again the first principles of the oracles of God; and you have come to need milk and not solid food. For everyone who partakes only of milk is unskilled in the word of righteousness, for he is a babe. But solid food belongs to those who are of full age, that is those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil.”

Having put on the Mind Of God, the Word becomes Alive in Us.

Then comes a flow from the Holy Spirit where we can prophecy, teach, exhort, edify, and testify. Testify in season and out, and testify of the hope that lies in us. The Word comes in, — we are washed and cleansed.
We feed on the Word, — we become strong and we overcome. The Word goes out of us, — and we begin to do exploits for God.

14) The Word of God – Bible Part 2

Is the Bible Inspired by God ?

2 Timothy 3:16 “All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for Doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: That the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.”

How do you know that the Bible is from God ?

2 Peter 1:20-21 “Knowing this first, that no prophecy of the scripture is of any private interpretation. For the prophecy never came by the will of man, but holy men of God spoke as they were moved by the Holy Spirit.”

Why is the Bible so Important to Living ?

Matthew 4:4 “It is written, 'Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God.'”

Is every Word in the Original Manuscripts Accurate ?

Proverbs 30:5-6 Deuteronomy 4:2 “Every word of God is pure; He is a shield to those who put their trust in Him. Do not add to His words, Lest He reprove you, and you be found a liar.”

Psalms 12:6-7 “The words of the Lord are pure words, like silver tried in a furnace of earth, purified seven times. You shall keep them, O Lord, You shall preserve them from this generation forever.” **Luke 16:17** “And it is easier for heaven and earth to pass away than for one tittle of the law to fail.”

Did the early Church believe in Inspiration ?

1 Thessalonians 2:13 “For this reason we also thank God without ceasing, because when you received the word of God which you heard from us, you welcomed it not as the word of men, but as it is in truth, the word of God, which also effectively works in you who believe.”

Why do you put so much Trust in the Bible ?

1 Peter 1:23 “Having been born again, not of corruptible seed but incorruptible, through the word of God which lives and abides forever.”

15) What is a Christian Foundation ?

Spiritually speaking, the foundation is the basis of Christian doctrine and experience. These two are never separate. God's doctrine was always meant to be experiential.

The First Principles - Foundation Stones.

The term “ Foundation Stones ” was coined to help us emphasize the distinctness of each truth to be believed and experienced.

Jesus is the only true foundation. There is no other when it comes to His Fathers Kingdom. This foundation needs be laid, and we do this in our practical experience through specific encounters with Him.

This building upon the Foundation is assisted by the Holy Spirit and through the ministry of those who labor with God.

1 Corinthians 3:9-11

“ For we are God's fellow workers; you are God's field, you are God's building. 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 be careful how he builds on it, for no other foundation can anyone lay than that which is already laid, which is Jesus Christ.”

The foundational doctrines were brought to us through the Apostles and Prophets who received the Holy Spirit inspired Word of God.

Ephesians 2:20

“ Having been built on the Foundation of the Apostles and Prophets, Jesus Christ Himself being the Chief Cornerstone,”

1 Peter 2:4-8

You are coming to Him who is the living stone, rejected by men, but chosen by God for great honor . . . “ Behold, I lay in Zion a Chief Cornerstone, elect, precious, and he who believes on Him will never be put to shame.”

16) The Six Foundational Stones

The writer of Hebrews lists the six basic experiences we must have with Christ before we are allowed to go on to maturity.

We are not given a “Building Permit” to erect the house until the Holy Spirit, God's building inspector, finds our foundation to be correct and ready.

The 6 Transforming Encounters with the Risen Jesus in Hebrews 6:1-3

- 1) **Repentance** from dead works.
- 2) **Faith** toward God.
- 3) **Baptisms** (baptism in water, baptism of Holy Spirit, baptism of Fire)
- 4) **Laying** on of hands.
- 5) **Resurrection** of the dead.
- 6) **Eternal** Judgment

Why is it Dangerous to neglect our Spiritual Foundations ?

When we fail to put into practice what we have heard from God, we only fool ourselves. He will require of us an accounting of what we did with everything we heard. God tests our commitment to Him on the basis of obeying His Words, and laying each of the foundational stones as command. **Matthew 7:21-23**

We become a part of God's people, His Church, His Ekklesia by being joined to Jesus through foundational experiences. Only as we experience Christ in these foundation truths can we become more like Him. **2 Timothy 2:19**

We face not only the tests during this present life, but the judgment of God that takes us into the next life. **1 Timothy 6:19** “ Storing up for themselves a good foundation for the time to come, that they may lay hold on eternal life.”

We will not continue growing if we fail to lay some foundation stones in our lives; we will remain babes on “milk”. **Hebrews 5:12-13**

Why the Emphasis of a Foundation

The Bible gives us clear evidence that trials and tribulations will come against each believer to test his faith. It is incumbent upon each of us to insure that our life in Jesus is built on solid rock and not on shifting sand.

Matthew 7:21-27

“ Not everyone who says to Me, Lord, Lord, shall enter the Kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven. Many will say to Me in that day, ' Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Your name, cast out demons in Your name, and done many wonders in Your name ? ”

And then I will declare to them, ‘ I never knew you; depart from Me you who practice lawlessness ! ’

Therefore whoever hears these sayings of Mine, and does them, I will liken him to a wise man who built his house on the Rock: and the rain descended, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house; and it did not fall, for it was founded on the rock.

Now everyone who hears these sayings of Mine, and does not do them will be like a foolish man who built his house on the sand: and the rain descended, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house; and it fell. And great was its fall.”

17) The Basis for Repentance

Why must Man be Reconciled to God through Repentance ?

We must realize the seriousness and gravity of sin. It cost the shedding of blood. Sin broke all relationship with God - and still does each time we sin. Man was created for the pleasure of God, but both his fellowship with God and his ability to serve God were lost through sin. God's purpose for man can only be realized by mans reconciliation to God involves restoration in the spirit, soul and body, — and it's usually in that order.

This Reconciliation, this Restoration, this Salvation - Brings Life!

God, — in His Holiness, does not allow Him to Tolerate the Presence of Sin.

Repentance Was Needed.

Man in his sinful condition cannot approach God directly and be accepted.

Before Father God can look upon Man, the Sin Question needed to be Solved.

God has done this by means of A substitutionary sacrifice, — taking the place of another. During the Old Testament times, the blood of sacrificial animals was accepted as a covering for sin. But this was temporary.

Not until Jesus Christ became the Lamb of God sacrifice, taking our place, was sin completely removed and dealt with. His Sacrifice was accepted by God as full payment for all sin forever. **2 Corinthians 5:21**

Sin, ruined man's capacity to please God. It totally destroyed the family. The Bible describes man's ruin as spiritual death and full of corruption.

18) What Is Sin ?

Sin steers us to walk our own ways instead of allowing ourselves to be led by Holy Spirit. Sin is a selfishness that opposes what God has for us. Sin can be of “commission” – Where we send ourselves off thinking it’s God, or sin could simply be “omission” – Where we neglect to step into what God has for us.

Sin is the choice of our own will coming against God's will.

The use of our capacity to make decisions to rebel instead of to obey.

Isaiah 53:6 sums it up like this:

"All we like sheep have gone astray; We have turned everyone to his own way; And the Lord has laid on Him the iniquity of us all."

That is the essence of sin! What does not come out of a living relationship with God and His Word, — is sin. Many of our present day religious activities are smothered in sin. The simplest definition of sin is “ Going about things our own Way ”.

The whole thing about Salvation is that the Family now moves forward all in the same direction without getting fragmented. We've got to get this definition of sin into our new operating system so that we can all head in the right direction.

19) Definitions of Sin

Both the Hebrew and the Greek languages use several words to describe the condition and the expression of man's basic selfishness and rebellion against God. Among the more common words for sin in the New Testament are the following:

Sin is Missing the Mark. (Hamartia)

This word summarizes sin as our failure to be the person God intended us to be; God did not make us to sin, God created us for righteousness. It means 'to miss the mark; to be in error; to fall short.' We have missed the target of fulfilling God's glorious plan-for us.

Romans 3:23 “ For all have sinned and come short . . . ”

“ Hamartia ” describes sin in a three-fold way:

- 1) The power source behind wrong actions.
- 2) A power, which acts through the members of our physical bodies.
- 3) And the wrong actions themselves.

Sin is Moral Wickedness. (Kakos)

Sin is more than doing the wrong thing. Mistakes without the wrong motives are not necessarily sin. Sin involves the corruption of character. The Greek word for sin “ Kakos ” is often translated as sinfulness, because it emphasizes the moral badness or evil of disposition within man. It is from within that sin arises, because of man's basic corruption.

Mark 7:21-23

Sin is Willful Transgression of the Law.

Transgression is the deliberate stepping across the border between right and wrong, the violation of God's law. This stepping across is not accidental or without knowledge; it presupposes our knowledge of an objective moral law, a law outside of ourselves. Transgression - is man's invasion of forbidden territory or crossing over the moral boundaries that God has established. **Romans 4:15**

Sin is Lawlessness. (Anomia)

Lawlessness is the temper of our times. This aspect of sin not only includes the indwelling source of sin and its many manifestations, but the guiding principle of life.

Lawlessness (anomia) is a life style of refusing to be subjected to God's laws. It is more than disobedience; it is a total disregard for the existence of law. **Romans 2:12**

20) What Does Sin Do To Us?

The most Critical Point about Sin is that it Breaks our Fellowship with God

But it also does things to our own inner workings. When we say that the wages of sin are death, this does not just speak of the final accounting of life. Sin produces results now. The death process is set in motion the moment we sin. Sin must be washed out of us before it destroys us from within.

Sin makes us less of a Person.

Each time we sin, we become less the person we were intended to be. Something dies within us. We lose confidence both before other people and especially before God. **1 John 3:21** “ Beloved, if our heart condemn us not, Then we have we confidence before God.”

Sin creates Guilt.

God has built into us an inner alarm system to tell us the difference between right and wrong. We call it a conscience. It is possible to alter the conscience until it is no longer accurate, but its purpose is to give us basic moral guidance. When the alarm is sounding, telling us something is wrong, we call it “ Guilt ” This feeling of “ Inner Conviction ” demands attention. We must deal with it.

Two Ways we can respond to Guilt.

Either by confessing the sin and receiving forgiveness, or by seeking punishment – where we feel that we have to punish ourselves.

God's answer to Guilt is the Way of Repentance.

Confess, ask for forgiveness, receive His cleansing, and walk away from the sin. **1 John 1:9** “ If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.”

Sin Begets More Sin.

Each time we do a sinful act, this makes it easier for us to do the same thing again habits are created through repetition and reinforcement. We must allow God to interrupt our sinful patterns through giving us repentance and enabling us to renounce them. When we renounce something, we are stating that it's over. That's all part of sanctification. **2 Corinthians 4:2**

21) What it Means to Walk in the Light

God is Light. If we remain in fellowship with Him, He exposes us to ourselves. Little by little, as we can bear it, He brings to surface the things we need to change if we are to be conformed to His Image, and His Likeness.

Light Exposes.

As the light exposes, it requires that we face ourselves and make the decision whether or not we will allow God to change us. When we cooperate with the Holy Spirit, we then start to make serious progress, We experience constant cleansing and growth. This is really another way to describe a life of continual repentance and growth. **Ephesians. 5:13**

What Problems hinder our Walking in the Light ?

There's more to Salvation than just the initial repentance. Many of us do not understand that salvation not only has a past meaning for the forgiveness of our sin, but it also has a present and future application where we are continually being shaped to be more like Jesus as we become that amazing light that glorifies the Father. We lay the foundational stone of initial repentance in order to move forward as we make those adjustments needed in our lives.

To go on changing requires the On-Going Repentance.

A realization of our constant need of the Lord in our practical daily walk. We have been confused about the nature of sin and of repentance of making straight our paths. This confusion hinders us from simply accepting God's light and cleansing on an up-to-date basis. **Acts 3:19-21**

We confuse Temptation as Sin.

Temptation is not sin. Jesus was sinless, but He experienced every kind of temptation. Temptation is a strong pull or push towards sin, but it is not sin itself unless we give in. It is not the feeling of temptation but the decision of our will that results in sinful action. **Hebrews 2:18**

James 1:14-15

“ But each one is tempted when he is drawn away by his own desires and enticed. Then, when desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, brings forth death.”

We confuse Condemnation for the Reproof of the Spirit.

The Holy Spirit's reproof comes as truth and as light. It makes manifest both the problem and the solution. **Romans 8:1-2**

We Try to Earn our Forgiveness.

Repentance is a Gift from God. Man is enabled to repent because God works upon and within him. God uses both external and internal means to turn a man to Himself.

The Revelation of God's Goodness leads to Repentance.

God reveals the goodness of His character to men in order to lead them to repentance. **Romans 2:4** “ — not knowing that the goodness of God leads you to repentance ? ”

God's call Draws Men to Repentance and into the Light.

Matthew 9:13 “ I am not come to call the righteous but sinners to Repentance.” God uses the ministry of His Word to create repentance in the heart of man. **Acts 2:37** “ Now when they heard this, they were pricked in their heart . . . ”

God uses Reproof, Rebuke, and Chastening to Prod Men to Repentance.

Revelation 3:19 “As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten.”

Jeremiah 31:18 “ You have chastised me, and I was chastised, Like a bull unaccustomed to the yoke or an untrained calf; Bring me back that I may be restored, For You are the LORD my God.”

What are the Manifestations of Repentance ?

Repentance is an inner matter, an inward action of the soul. But it also has several outward expressions through our actions. God's purpose in repentance is to turn us around. For this reason, all genuine repentance will be seen in the change of direction it produces in the daily life.

22) Basic Manifestations of Genuine Repentance

Specific Confession of Sin to God. Psalm 32:3-5

When we come to Christ for the first time, our acknowledgment must include the fact that we are sinners. From this point on, we merely need to mention the specific areas in which we have offended Him. Our repentance needs to be more than just a religious experience. Confession means speaking to the Lord, with an outpouring heart, that you are truly sorry.

Restitution to Man. James 5:16

“ Confess your faults one to another, and pray one for another, that you may be healed. The fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much.”

The Forsaking of Sin. Proverbs 28:13

True repentance means turning away from sin and leaving it behind. We must not only confess our sins, but forsake them.

1) Water Baptism.

Initial repentance prepares a person for water baptism. If the repentance is deep and thorough, and the individual has been properly instructed about water baptism for the remission of sins, he will express his repentance by submission to water baptism, which was standard in the early church.

Acts 2:38 “ Then Peter said to them, Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.”

The complete renunciation of our life as a sinner includes water baptism. It is in the waters of baptism that we make this choice final by burying the person we were, in order to rise up in the newness of life.

2) Forgiveness and Pardon.

Repentance prepares and qualifies us to receive God's forgiveness and pardon. Repentance in no way earns God's favor. In His grace and mercy, He promised to forgive and cleanse us when we open ourselves to Him in repentance. As He does this for us, we experience a deep inner peace and assurance - We know our sins have been washed away.

Acts 3:19 “ Repent therefore and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, so that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord,”

3) Reception of the Holy Spirit.

When we repent, God pours out His Spirit upon us and gives us spiritual understanding of His Word, preparing and cleansing us as a vessel to be filled with the Holy presence of God in the person of the Holy Spirit.

Proverbs 1:23 “ Turn you at my reproof: behold, I will pour my Spirit unto you, I will make known my words unto you.”

4) New Life Patterns.

Repentance is the beginning of an entire life of turning to God. After our initial turning from sin to God, there is a progressive repentance which continues throughout our whole lifetime as God separates us to Himself.

During this process, (a process called Sanctification), we are made aware of things that displease God and we need to make those changes. Our response is to repent when He sheds light upon these things. Little by little, we are changed into His image as we cooperate with the Holy Spirit as grafts us into His holiness.

23) How Essential is Repentance ?

We cannot Begin a New Life without First Turning from our Old Life.

Repentance is the inner transition from self-dependence and self-government to submission to God. Our eternity in heaven begins with repentance. And this heavenly Kingdom of God comes with the King of kings, Lord of lords.

Repentance is our acknowledgment that we are done with the way we have been living and are ready to step into this new life. This transference of dependence was considered so basic in the New Testament that every major teacher introduced the gospel with the message of repentance.

John the Baptist	Matthew 3:1-2
Jesus	Matthew 4:17
The Twelve Disciples	Mark 6:12
The Apostle Paul	Acts 26:20
The Apostle Peter	2 Peter 3:9

All preached repentance. Both the Lord's great commission to His disciples, and the application of that commission emphasized repentance.

Repentance is only an Initial Experience.

Laying the foundation of repentance includes the initial repentance which transitions us from darkness to light. We see ourselves as sinners where we have truly missed it and turn from our life of darkness to God as we engage in the light. But repentance does not end there; this is only the beginning.

Initial, repentance is like a door that sends us into a whole new world. As we come to know God's love more and more, we see ourselves in an ever increasing need to change where we change from our old image and lifestyle into something that is more Christ like. To walk away from what we are so accustomed to.

Why must Repentance Precede any Other Foundation ?

Repentance is the preparation of our hearts for God. Before God can build in our lives, He must first clear away the debris and clutter. Before He can plant good seed, He must remove the weeds. Otherwise we will always be a mixture. The seeds of sin will choke the good seed, — the lines are blurred, the water muddied.

24) What is Faith ?

Faith is the ability to believe God: both to trust His character and to take His word as true and reliable. Faith is our response to the persuading and convincing work of the Holy Spirit as He enables us to bear God's Word. Such persuasion results in an unshakable conviction and confidence that God's Word is true.

2 Timothy 1:12

“ For I know I have believed, and am persuaded that He is able to keep that which I have committed unto Him against that day.”

Faith is Substance and Reality.

Hebrews 11:1

“ Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.”

Faith is not imagination, or the wishing of things into being. It is the conviction of truth by the inner working of the Holy Spirit, who only persuades us to believe what actually exists. If God gives us the faith for something, we can be sure that in the mind of God, that thing really exists, and is ours to behold.

Faith is a Gift from God.

Ephesians 2:8

“ For by grace are you saved through faith: and that not of yourselves: it is a gift of God.”

We cannot work ourselves up into believing. The Holy Spirit must place the ability to believe God within our hearts.

Faith is the Response to Hearing.

Romans 10:17

“ So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.”

God communicates His thoughts through His Word. When He enables us to hear what He is saying to us by the Spirit, this creates within us the response of believing, of being persuaded that what He is saying is indeed true.

25) What is Redemption ?

Redemption is the effective power of salvation resulting from our faith toward God.

Redemption is the actual transaction resulting in our deliverance from sin.

Justification is a legal decree of acquittal from guilt and penalty.

Sin demands the payment of a penalty.

Hebrews 9:22

“ Without the shedding of blood there is no remission of sin.”

Dictionary list of meanings for Redemption.

- 1) To redeem.
- 2) To buy back or repurchase; to regain title by purchase.
- 3) To liberate from slavery or captivity by paying a price.
- 4) To release from alien claims or clear from debt.
- 5) To repossess upon fulfillment of an obligation.

Romans 3:24 - by Grace.

“ Being justified freely by his grace, through the redemption that is in Jesus.”

Romans 5:9 - by The Blood of Christ.

“ Being justified by his blood, we shall be saved from wrath through him.”

Romans 4:24-25 - by The Resurrection of Christ .

“ Who was delivered for our offenses, and was raised for our justification.”

Romans. 5:1 - by Faith.

“ Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through Jesus.”

James 2:24 - by Works.

“ You see then that by works a man is justified, and not by faith only.”

Redemption is the full recovery of God's people. Redemption is the full recovery of God's people, a complete restoration to His possession. To make this possible, Christ strips every competing claim from power and cancels every lien or debt. Deliverance in Christ is total and complete.

Recovery of Gods People

Christ redeemed us from sin. **Psalms 130:7-8**

Christ redeemed us from the law and its curses. **Galatians 3:13-14**

Christ redeemed us from death. **Hosea 13:14**

26) Faith - The Just Shall Live By Faith

This statement occurs four times in the King James Version. In each context more meaning is added to make the statement more complete.

Basically, it means that we not only begin our walk with God by exercising faith toward God, but we continue walking with Him in the same way. Faith, like repentance, is something we will go on using the rest of our lives.

Once the Foundation has been laid, Faith becomes our New Principle of Life.

The basic attitude of faith is in our trustful receptivity.

Colossians 2:6-7

“As you have therefore received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in Him: Rooted and built up in Him, and established in the faith, as you have been taught, abounding therein with thanksgiving.”

Living by Faith means Living Expectantly toward God.

Habakkuk 2:4

“ For the vision is yet for an appointed time, but at the end it shall speak, and not lie: through it tarry, wait for it, because it will surely come, it will not tarry. Behold, his soul which is lifted up is not upright in him: but the just shall live by faith.”

Living by faith means growing in reliance on God. The more revelation of God we receive through His Word, the more we have to lean upon or trust in the Lord. Each time we experience the faithfulness of God, the easier it becomes to anticipate that He will fulfill the other things He has for us.

Faith begets Faith.

Romans 1:16-17

“ For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believes; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek. For therein is the righteousness of God revealed from faith to faith: as it is written, The just shall live by faith.”

Living by Faith, is the Mixing of Believing, with Patience.

Hebrews 10:35-38

“ Cast not away therefore your confidence, which has great recompense of reward. For you have need of patience, that, after you have done the will of God, you might receive the promise. For yet a little while, and He that shall come will come, and will not tarry. Now the just shall live by faith: but if any man draw back, my soul shall have no pleasure in him.”

27) Understanding Water Baptism

John preached a similar gospel that Jesus ended up preaching, — The Gospel of The Kingdom. John's whole message could be summarized as “ The Kingdom is upon you, repent, and demonstrate your repentance with a public water baptism.”

To enter this Kingdom you must prepare yourself by means of repentance and baptism. Once you believe the message of the Kingdom, then you go for the baptism, — that’s a given!

John the Baptist had closely related repentance, water baptism, and the Kingdom being at hand. Jesus continued with that message as He added the Salvation message making it a more complete message.

When Jesus commissioned His disciples to continue His work after His departure, He included the ministry of water baptism as an integral part of their ministry.

Water Baptism is essential to the New Birth.

Regeneration or the new birth is not something we can do for ourselves. It is something that is established by the Lord. Water baptism is an expression of genuine repentance, a spiritual awakening that results us to enter into a whole new dimension of life called the Kingdom of God.

Water Baptism is an expression of True Faith.

When we truly believe something and are deeply persuaded it is true, we give ourselves wholly to it. Water baptism is an important step of commitment required of all who would enter the Kingdom of God.

Through water baptism the believer renounces his former allegiance to the world and its systems, and declares himself subject to the Lordship of Jesus Christ. **Mark 16:15-16**

Water Baptism marks us as a Part of God's People.

Back in the day, one of the early markings that identified you as part of the early New Testament Church was submitted to water baptism. The Greek word for baptism itself means “Immersion.” A complete dunking !

The Disciples took Jesus Seriously Regarding Baptism.

As you carefully study the book of Acts, you will find that all who considered themselves to be Christian all engaged in water baptism.

Water Baptism was a Command, it was not Obligatory. Acts 2:38

Even when the Holy Spirit sovereignly baptized people, the disciples required baptism in water as well. **Acts 10:47-48**

In Water Baptism, we are commemorating the burial and resurrection of Jesus Christ. He not only died, but was buried and rose again for our justification. As we are identified with Him in His death, His burial, and His resurrection, we too can live in newness of life.

Baptism is the Memorial of Christ's Triumph over Sin and Death in Resurrection.

- 1) **Repentance** - is the change of ourselves toward God about sin and ourselves.
- 2) **Faith** - is the transfer of reliance from dead works to the living God.
- 3) **Water Baptism** - is the inner cutting away and burial of the old life of sin.
- 4) **The Baptism in the Holy Spirit** - is the impartation of God's own abiding presence, the basis of all our living in Christ.

Baptism is a Burial.

Through repentance and faith we have agreed with God that we are dead in trespasses and sins. In baptism, we consent to His burial of all we have been. The “carnal nature” or “old man of sin” is cut from us and left behind at baptism.

Romans 6:3-4 “ Or do you not know that as many of us as were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into His death? Therefore we were buried with Him through baptism into death, that just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life.”

Baptism is a Resurrection.

Baptism should provide a clean break with sin. We are then free to be raised as brand new people by the power of the Holy Spirit. **Romans 6:5-9**

Baptism is a Stripping Away of the Carnal Nature.

Romans 8:7 “ Because the carnal mind is enmity against God.” The carnal nature is an enemy of God and cannot please God. It always resists God.

Colossians 2:11-12 “ In Him you were also circumcised with the circumcision made without hands, by putting off the body of sins of the flesh, by the circumcision of Christ, buried with Him in baptism, in which you also were raised with Him through faith in the working of God, who raised Him from the dead.”

Baptism declares a Solemn Determination.

When we rise from the waters of baptism, it is a declaration and determination to be finished with sin. We are embracing a new life and leaving the old behind.

Baptism announces a Separation.

When the waters rolled back by God's intervention, Israel marched through on dry land. But the armies of Pharaoh pursued them. God then allowed the waters to return. All the horses with their riders were drowned. The power behind our habitual sin is broken. But these same waters, which give deliverance, also cut us off from going back into the world. We may die in the wilderness if we rebel against God, but we cannot return to Egypt. Baptism should and must be our announcement of separation from sin and from the world.

Exodus 14:30

Baptism means Accepting our New Identity.

We no longer belong to ourselves but to Jesus Christ to whom we present ourselves as living sacrifices in water baptism. Our Spirit, Soul, Body, everything belongs to, and identifies with Jesus.

Water Baptism is an Act of Identification by Faith.

We receive a new status or identity in God. We are Christians because we belong to Christ. Baptism effectively joins us both to Christ and to His people. But this change also means the surrender of our old identity. Before putting on Christ in water baptism, our identity was defined in terms of who we were in this world. But this all become meaningless once we are thoroughly identified with Christ. We are no longer on our own. We have been caught up into the plans and purpose of God. We are now part of a much bigger family.

Colossians 3:2-3 “ Set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth.”

God desires a corporate expression of Himself in the earth. He picks us out of the world and makes us not only members of Himself, but of each other.

1 Corinthians 12:13-14 “ For by one Spirit we were all baptized into one body, whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free and have all been made to drink into one Spirit. For in fact the body is not one member but many.”

The Disciples were Authorized to continue the work on earth “ In His Name ”

As agents having power of attorney, both the power of His presence and the legal authority of His position at the right hand of God are resident in His name. All through the Bible, God has manifested Himself by name. The name needed in water baptism is one showing the completeness of the entire Godhead.

Acts 2:36-38 “ Therefore let all the house of Israel know assuredly that God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Christ.”
Now when they heard this, they were cut to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, “ Men and brethren, what shall we do ? ” Then Peter said to them, Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.”

The Fullness of the Godhead is Expressed in the Lord Jesus Christ.

Jesus told His disciples to Baptize “ in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost ” **Matthew 28:19**. Notice this says “**name**” not “**names**.” What is the name? Only in the Lord Jesus Christ is the full power and presence of the Godhead invoked.

Colossians 2:9-10 “For in Him dwells all the fullness of the Godhead bodily; and you are complete in Him, who is the head of all principality and power.”

All things are to be done in the name of Jesus. Everything His people do is to be done in His name. Healing the sick, casting out demons, preaching - all extension of His work is done in the name of Jesus.

Colossians 3:17 “And whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him.”

When should Baptism be Administered ?

As we look at the record of the early church, we find that people were baptized as soon as they heard and responded to the gospel message.

Their only requirement was a true repentance and a living faith in Jesus Christ, the Son of God. As soon as repentance and faith were evident, people were instructed as to the meaning of, and the necessity of, water baptism.

What is the relationship of water baptism to the New Covenant? As the circumcision of the flesh was to the Old Covenant, so the circumcision of the heart received in water baptism is to the New Covenant.

Is Circumcision of Heart a Symbol or a Real Experience ?

Under both covenants, circumcision is real. In the first Covenant, it is a natural or fleshly circumcision, involving only the physical body. Under the New Covenant, circumcision changes the innermost part of our being.

Under the New Covenant something spiritual is removed from us, but it is something equally real. Our old “fleshly” nature, called “the old man” or “the body of sin” is cut away from us when we are buried with Christ in baptism. The enmity between us and God comes to an end.

What are the Results of Receiving a Circumcised Heart ?

- 1) We are free to love God and live.
- 2) We can worship in Spirit and Truth.
- 3) Our inner rebellion, stubbornness, and hostility is destroyed.
- 4) We begin to hear God and to respond with cooperation.
- 5) God can now write on the fleshly tables of our hearts.
- 6) We become receptive to the Holy Spirit.

What is God's Main Purpose in Circumcising Our Heart ?

God has always wanted a people all His own. But God is not only Spirit, but love. Man could not love God without a deep inner change, a radical operation upon his heart. By changing man's heart toward Himself, God has now made the possession of His people a reality. It is now possible for them to respond in the language He knows best, — the language of Love

Ezekiel 11:19-20

“ Then I will give them one heart, and I will put a new spirit within them, and take the stony heart out of their flesh, and give them a heart of flesh, that they may walk in My statutes and keep My judgments and do them; and they shall be My people, and I will be their God.”

28) Laying of Hands

Why is the Hand so Important ?

Throughout Scripture the hand is considered deeply significant. It is the extension of the person himself. It is in the hands that man carries gifts to bestow upon others or he brings sacrifices to God. His hands are his strength and power to do.

God speaks of His active power in the earth as His Hands.

The Father speaks of Jesus, the Messiah, as His Hand.

- 1) The hand is the vehicle of blessing. We lift our hands to bless God. We lift our hands, extend our hands, and lay hands upon others, to communicate and extend the blessing of God.

- 2) It is with our hands that we withhold or release benefits to others.
- 3) Lifting up the hand in praise and worship means surrender to another. **Psalms 141:2**
- 4) The Priests communicated God's favor to the people through an uplifted, open hand. **Leviticus 9:22**
- 5) Lifting up hands to God's words meant commitment. **Psalms 119:48**
- 6) One would impart blessing to another by laying hands upon him and praying or prophesying. **Deuteronomy 34:9**
- 7) Laying on of hands was not merely ceremonial; as ordained by God, it became the channel for impartation of life and blessing.
- 8) The right hand always contained the greater blessing. Usually this was placed upon the first-born child's head since he inherited both the tribal blessings and the birthright. **Genesis 48:14-16**
- 9) From the beginning, the right hand was the hand of strength, of honor and of favor. God stands at our right hand to protect us.
- 10) The right hand was the one used in entering covenant and declaring fellowship. Speaking of God according to His right hand, it communicates His power, and His ability to keep, deliver, and His intervention towards us.
- 11) In the New Testament this term “ at the right hand ” is taken up to speak of Jesus’ position of Power and Authority since His ascension. He sits at the Father’s right hand on a throne of Authority and Power. He is actively ruling in this world of ours, and in our lives.

29) Freely Receive, Freely Give

Why Did Jesus Instruct His Disciples To Give What They Had Received ?

It is a principle or Law in God's Kingdom that we must give.
God is a giver.

We must pass on what God gives to us if we are to continue growing.
The Law of receptivity is that we must keep a flow, — a balance between giving and receiving.

The Basis of Kingdom Living - Is Giving.

John 3:16 “ For God So Loved that He Gave ”

Luke 6:38 “ Give, and it shall be given unto you; good measure, pressed down, and shaken together, and running over, shall men give into your bosom. For with the same measure that you mete withal it shall be measured to you again.”

The Basis of walking in the Jesus Ministry - Is Serving.

Mark 10:43 “ Yet it shall not be so among you; but whoever desires to become great among you shall be your servant. And whoever of you desires to be first shall be slave of all.”

The Source For Life And Ministry - Is Walking in the Holy Spirit.

John 14:12 “ Most assuredly, I say to you, he who believes in Me, the works that I do he will do also; and greater works than these he will do, because I go to My Father.” We prosper spiritually when we allow Holy Spirit to flow through us.

30) Major Areas in the Ministry of Jesus

Jesus Himself is our example in all matters of Life and Ministry. He had the Holy Spirit without measure. He completely expressed the character and purpose of God the Father. While on earth, Jesus used His voice and His hands to release God's love and mercy into needy lives.

Jesus Taught and Preached.

Matthew 7:28-29 “ People were astonished at His teaching (doctrine): for He taught them as one having authority, and not as the scribes.”

Jesus Healed the Sick.

Matthew 8:16 “ . . . and healed all who were sick,”

Jesus Cast out Demons.

Luke 11:20 “ But if I cast out demons with the finger of God, surely the Kingdom of God has come upon you.”

Jesus Blessed the Children.

Mark 10:13, 16 “ Then they brought young children to Him, that He might touch them; And He took them up in His arms, put His hands on them, and blessed them.”

How many of Jesus' Ministries did He pass on to His Disciples ?

All of Them! Jesus is the pattern for our Faith. The Laying on of Hands was specifically a part of the Great Commission. What Jesus did in Word and Deed, — we are to carry on.

Mark 16:15-18 “And He said to them, Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature. He who believes and is baptized will be saved; but he who does not believe will be condemned. And these signs will follow those who believe: In My Name they will cast out demons; they will speak with new tongues; they will take up serpents; and if they drink anything deadly, it will by no means hurt them; they will lay hands on the sick, and they will recover.”

A Disciple is expected to Lay Hands on the Sick and expect results.

Elders must be able to pray for the sick in faith. **James 5:14**
Jesus' involvement with the people brought total release from both spiritual and physical distress. **Luke 4:40-41**

Jesus Spoke the Word first to enable People to believe as He Laid Hands.

A simple touch of His healing love was enough to bring healing.
When people touched Jesus in faith, they were healed. **Luke 13:11-13**
Mark 5:25, 27-30 **Matthew 8:14-15**

What do we call this transfer of power from God through the laying on of hands? We call it Impartation. Impartation is really a way of saying, “ that hands are for giving.” The gift we give, and the blessing we bestow through the laying on of hands is very real, — as real as the God we serve.

31) Impartation – How it Functions

Impartation is a very real transaction. When we lay hands upon someone, we must know that God has first given us something to pass on.

Very often God gives us something to pass on to others through what we have learned in personal experience. If we have met God in certain experiences, we seem to be more able to believe Him to do the same for others.

But we must not limit ourselves in God. We must work in accordance to the Faith that God has given you. **Romans 12:6**

Is Healing the only blessing Imparted through the Laying on of Hands ?

No. We began with healing because it is perhaps the easiest example to see. Real change results. This principle operates in the impartation of Spiritual endowment in several areas: Through the laying on of hands "Spiritual Gifts" are imparted. Spiritual gifts (gifts of the Holy Spirit) are not always given directly by God; many times they are mediated through the laying on of hands by other believers.

The Person suddenly finds he has a Whole New Spiritual Dimension added to his life. Through the Laying on of Hands, authority is Imparted.

Romans 1:11 “ For I long to see you, that I may impart unto you some spiritual gift, to the end you may be established.” Through the laying on of Hands - People are set apart for specific Ministry.

Functioning in the Body of Christ is not optional. God has designed us each to fill a specific place. Through the laying on of hands by ministers working with God, we are set into our God-ordained positions.

Acts 6:6 “ Whom they set before the Apostles: and when they had prayed, they laid their hands on them . . .”

The Laying on of Hands is many times accompanied with Prophecy.

Prophecy is the speaking forth of God's mind. It is a creative utterance. Things are brought into being which before have only existed in the mind of God. Many times God will use this creative word along with laying on of hands to bring about His desired purpose at a specific point in space and time.

Prophecy opens the Understanding that We may accept God's Callings.

God's callings upon our lives were determine before we were born. But at some point in time, He communicates this to us. Faith comes through hearing. We might not receive all that God would impart to us by another's hand without His word first creating receptivity within us.

It is God's will for us to have specified anticipation to motivate our development. One of the many ways God gives us this direction is through prophecy and the laying on of hands.

Ephesians 1:18 “ the eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that you may know what is the hope of His calling, what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints.”

Prophecy gives us a Spiritual Weapon for Fighting the Good Fight of Faith.

Doubts commonly assail us regarding our place of function in the body of Christ. Prophecy comes as a confirmation to strengthen us in what we already know. It is the revelatory manna needed to help us on any given day.

1 Timothy 1:18-19 “ This charge I commit to you, son Timothy, according to the prophecies previously made concerning you, that by them you may wage the good warfare having faith and a good conscience, which some having rejected, concerning the faith have suffered shipwreck.”

32) Eternal Judgment

The knowledge of Eternal Judgment should rearrange all of our Motives and Goals in this life as we learn to base every decision on Eternal Values.

2 Corinthians 5:9-10

“ Wherefore we labor, that, whether present or absent, we may be accepted of Him. For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that every one may receive the things done in his body, according to that he has done, whether it be good or bad.”

The worst thing that can happen to us in this life is physical death, this we call “**the first death.**” But something even worse can happen to us in eternity. We can experience “**the second death,**” which means we will be separated from God's presence forever.

Luke 12:4-5

This is why Jesus said, " And I say unto my friends, Be not afraid of them that kill the body, and after that have no more that they can do. But I will forewarn you whom you shall fear: Fear him, which after He has killed has power to cast into hell; yea, I say unto you, Fear Him.

In other words, we are to fear God, for He alone will settle the final score.

He will do the final sorting out of people and will assign them to their eternal destiny, which we call “Eternal Judgment.”

Who is the Judge of All ?

God Himself is the Judge of all. Both the Old and New Testaments teach this. But God has given the authority to carry out His judgment to the Son, Jesus Christ.

John 5:12

“ For the Father judgeth no man, but has committed all judgment unto the Son.”

Jesus Christ is Himself the divider of men. Men divide or sort themselves into two groups according to their reaction to the Son. Some believe and submit to Him; others refuse to believe and die to face a judgment for rejecting the Son.

1 John 5:12

“ He that has the Son has life; and he that has not the Son of God has not life.”

What is involved in the process of Judgment ?

Judgment is a sorting process. It separates the good from the evil by examination and decree. The key is “separation.” God already knows all things. He is the God that sees. For this reason, there is no trial argument, no jury, or testimony needed.

Hebrews 4:13 “ Neither is there any creature that is not manifest in His sight: but all things are naked and open unto the eyes . . .”

Proverbs 15:11 “ Hell and destruction are before the Lord: how much more then the hearts of the children of men.”

- 1) All His Judgments will be righteous **Psalms 96:13**
- 2) Impartial, that is, without favoritism **Romans 2:11**
- 3) True and accurate **Revelation 19:2**
- 4) Just rather than arbitrary **Revelation 20:12**
- 5) Thorough **Matthew 12:36**
- 6) On the basis of the gospel **Romans 2:16**

Since God already knows all things, Why is Judgment Necessary ?

God wants all of us to know what He knows. He wants to demonstrate the righteousness of His judgments by open exposure. The necessity of this kind of judgment is built into the very fiber of this moral universe. For actions to be moral, they must have consequences; evil must be punished and good rewarded.

Galatians 6:7 “ Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man sows, that shall he also reap.”

It is the nature of life that everything must culminate in a final moral sorting. Human justice at its best is inadequate, and sometimes justice is corrupted.

God by nature is absolutely just; He must definitively deal with good and evil in order to be true to Himself.

The Coming Judgment is an Absolute !

The certainty of coming judgment when every secret will be exposed, creates in us the fear of God and a respect for His moral demands.

Our behavior comes to grips with the fear of the Lord as we come into the knowledge that God is keeping books, and that we will face everything we have done. Fear of the Lord is a strong motivation toward doing right.

Ecclesiastes 12:13 “ Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter.”

What Is The Fear Of The Lord ?

It is a spiritual experience resulting from personal encounter with a holy God.

The Holy Spirit works within us an intense desire to gain God's approval, whatever the cost to us. At the same time, we become keenly aware of those things in our own lives which displease Him. This results in radical change.

Philippians 2: 12-13 “ Wherefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling. For it is God which works in you both to will and to do of His good pleasure.”

The Fear of the Lord is not the same thing as Tormenting Fear.

The Greek use different words for fear, — the fear here is used to describe the fear of the Lord in a reverential awe and healthy fear, a health dread of displeasing Him. It’s a healthy holy fear, not one related to a dark fear. The fear of the Lord used here is meant to become a motive in our lives towards holiness.

All who ever Lived in this world, along with all Angels, will be Judged.

Jesus was made the second Adam, the head of a whole new race without sin. This could only be accomplished through judging sin to its full extent in the person of Jesus. He had to become a son of Adam by being born of a woman.

Christ's judgment in our stead paved the way for God to make us spiritually alive in Him - brand new people who could be conformed to His likeness.

In what sense do We choose our own Place of Judgment ?

We sort ourselves out into two categories according to our response to the gospel. Believers will be judged at the Judgment Seat of Christ, Unbelievers at the Great White Throne. We decide whether or not we will believe the gospel of grace. We accept or reject God's means of salvation.

Provision has been made for sin. Jesus already paid its full penalty. Those who avail themselves of this salvation in Christ are delivered from condemnation and are judged as believers. But those who refuse God's mercy and salvation by rejecting Jesus shut themselves up to the wrath of God.

Response to the Gospel Separates us into Two Classes: Believers and Unbelievers. These Two Classes will be Eternally Separated.

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

Romans 8:1 “ There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit.”

Ephesians 5:6 “ Let no man deceive you with vain words: for because of these things cometh the wrath of God upon the children of disobedience.”

Colossians 3:6 “ For which things' sake the wrath of God comes on the children of disobedience.”

33) Judgment at the Cross

Judgment upon Believers has already been Accomplished, and another is Presently taking place.

The Judgment of the Cross was completed two thousand years ago when Jesus Christ took upon Himself the full penalty of God's wrath against sin.

Romans 5:9-10 “ Much more then, being now justified by His blood, we shall be saved from wrath through Him. For if, when we were enemies, we were reconciled to God by the death of His Son, much more, being reconciled, we shall be saved by His life.”

Believers, with the help of the Holy Spirit, are judging themselves during this life in preparation for meeting Jesus Christ without shame or reproof.

John 2:28 “And now, abide in Him; that when he shall appear, we may have confidence, and not be ashamed before Him at His coming.”

The Cross has already Judged Satan, the World System, Sins of Believers, and our Old Nature.

When Jesus cried, “ It is finished ” He was declaring eternal triumph over these enemies. We share in this victory as we identify with Him.

Believer's sins were judged and punished. Sins can now be separated from the believer and removed from God's presence because God imputed them and transferred them upon His only begotten Son, Jesus.

Our “old nature” was judicially put to death. **Galatians 2:20, 5:13, 16-21, 24**
Romans 6:1-4 Col. 2:11-12

34) Taking Up Your Cross

Understanding between Past Judgment and Present Self-Judgment.

Taking up your cross means that we embrace self-denial. We deny ourselves when we choose to identify with Jesus in His death which, for us, means death to sin and to the ways of the world.

Matthew 10:38

“And he that takes not his cross, and follows after me, is not worthy of me.”

Putting off the Old Man.

We can put it off like an old garment to be discarded into the trash. We can put on Christ instead. When we decide who we will be on the basis of past judgment, we will live like the new creatures we are in Christ and make no provision for the flesh.

Colossians 3:9-10

“ Lie not one to another, seeing that you have put off the old man with his deeds; and have put on the new man, which is continually being renewed into the likeness of the One who created you; giving you the full revelation of God.”

Ephesians 4:22-24

“ That you put off concerning the former conversation the old man, which is corrupt according to the deceitful lusts; and be renewed in the spirit of your mind; And that you put on the new man, which after God is created in righteousness and in true holiness.”

Being Crucified with Christ is a Choice of Faith.

We are already dead to sin, the flesh, the world; all we must do is choose to rest in what Christ has already done. We identify ourselves with Him by faith.

Galatians 2:20 “ I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ lives in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me.”

Living “ **The Crucified Life** ” is not a matter of effort, but of total dependence upon what Christ already did and what the indwelling Spirit will do in us now, let a man examine himself.

35) Opportunities for Self-Judgment

We have opportunity to judge ourselves from the time we come to Christ throughout the rest of our lives. God has provided times and occasions for the specific purpose of helping us in self-judgment, and He expects us to take advantage of these.

The ministry of the Holy Spirit within us causes us to know our own hearts. God uses tests and trials of faith to help us discover our reactions under pressure.

The Lord's Supper provides a regular Discipline of Self-Examination.

When we find a need at the time of the Lord's Supper, God wants us to confess it to Him and ask for His cleansing and then partake. We are not to refuse to take part in the Lord's Supper because of sin, because it only takes a moment of repentance and forgiveness to make us ready.

He said to examine ourselves and then “so let him eat.” The blood of the New Covenant was specifically for the remission of sin.

What is the Purpose of Chastening ?

Chastening means to inflict suffering upon someone for the purpose of moral improvement. If we fail to judge ourselves, God chastens us. It has been said that if we will not hear, we will feel. If we do not heed God's dealings with us through the Word and by the urgings of the Spirit and the warnings of our brothers and sisters in Christ, God will set up circumstances to correct us.

2 Samuel 7:14-15 Psalm 94:12 1 Corinthians 11:31-32

Chastening disciplines us to Grow Up.

We should be thankful for God's care for us which includes correction and training. Chastening is the portion of all true sons; it will make us better people.

Hebrews 12:3-11 Job 5:17-18 Proverbs 3:11-12

Chastening produces Righteousness and Obedience in our Character.

Chastening causes us to turn around and agree with God. We change our ways and flow with His purposes. Through chastening, the Holy Spirit imparts to us the righteousness and our Character is defined more and more as God trains us through self-judgment and chastening. **Hebrews 12:11**

What should be the Result of Self-Judgment ?

We are enabled to overcome the temptations and weaknesses which have pulled us down into sin. Those who habitually cooperate with the Holy Spirit in judging themselves are called “**Overcomers**” and are rewarded by God for their obedience.

In the **Book of Revelation** these rewards to Overcomers are spelled out in detail.

- 1) Overcomers will Eat of the Tree of Life. **Revelation 2:1-7**
- 2) Overcomers will not be Hurt by the Second Death. **Revelation 2:8-11**
- 3) Overcomers will be Clothed in White Raiment. **Revelation 3:1-6**
- 4) Overcomers will Eat of Hidden Manna. **Revelation 2:12-17**
- 5) Overcomers will be Given Power. **Revelation 2:18-29**
- 6) Overcomers will be in the Book of Life. **Revelation 3:1-6**
- 7) Overcomers will be made Pillars in the Temple of God. **Revelation 3:7-13**

36) Judgment – Revealed by Fire

What is the Judgment Seat of Christ ?

The Judgment seat of Christ is the scene of final examination for all believers, living or dead, when Christ returns.

Romans 14:10 1 Thessalonians 4:17-18

This final examination of the believer's character, stewardship, and work, will determine reward or loss of reward. Christ Himself will do the examining. **Revelation 22:12**

What and How will we be Judged at the Judgment Seat of Christ ?

Only those who have been justified (believers) will be present. This is a judgment of the believer's works. The only works tried are those “ built ” upon the “ Foundation of Christ ”.

1 Corinthians 3:10-15 “ But let Every Man take Heed how He Builds. ”

“ 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. 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. 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.”

The New Covenant guarantees that God will never call to remembrance the things we did before being placed in Christ.

Hebrews 8:12 “ For I will be merciful to their unrighteousness, and their sins and their iniquities I remember no more.”

We become different people by coming to Christ, new creatures, and God regards us as such, never linking us with the persons we used to be.

2 Corinthians 5:17 “ Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.”

What we have done and the person we have become will be clearly exposed in the light of God's presence. Christ is, because of His holiness, a consuming fire. If what we have built into our lives can stand the test of direct encounter with Christ, we will receive a reward.

2 Corinthians 5:10 “ For all must appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that every one may receive the things done in his body, according to that he has done, whether it be good or bad.”

Some Believers receive Greater Rewards than others; some will Suffer Loss.

The rewards are described in the Bible as “ crowns ”. The crowns speak of public recognition and honor. On that day we shall all receive due recognition for all we have done and become for Christ's sake.

1 Corinthians 9:24-25 “ Know ye not that they which run in a race run all, but one receives the prize? So run, that you may obtain the reward.”

The “ Crowns ” mentioned are each given for a Specific Accomplishments.

Crown of Life for faithfulness. **James 1:12 Revelation 2:10**

Crown of Glory for the undershepherd. **1 Peter 5:1-4**

Crown of Righteousness for loving His appearing. **2 Timothy 4:7-8**

Crown of Rejoicing for soul-winning. **1 Thessalonians 2:19-20**

Incorruptible Crown for self-mastery. **1 Corinthians 9:25**

There are obstacles to overcome and goals to reach. Scripture warns us to strive for the mastery with strong determination to not lose our reward. Winning the race is not automatic but requires wholehearted application of ourselves in zeal and self-discipline.

37) The Great White Throne Judgment

What is the Purpose of the Great White Throne Judgment ?

The purpose of judging the unregenerate is not to determine their guilt. Nor is it to decide their future destiny. Both of these are already known. All will see why eternal separation from God (the second death) is absolutely necessary for all who reject His grace and salvation.

God will bring to light every secret thought and motivation as well as every deed. Each person will see in the light of God's perfection why his deeds were evil.

The Recorded Books will be opened to Reveal ones Ways and Works.

Matt. 7:21-23; Prov. 12:14; 16:2; 1 Peter 2:8; Ezek. 7:3, 27; Zech. 1:6
Justice is completed at the Great White Throne Judgment.

Romans 2:5-6 “ But in accordance with your hardness and impenitent heart, you are treasuring up for yourself wrath in the day of wrath and a revelation of the righteous judgment of God, who will render to every man according to his deeds.”

The Wicked shall be Assigned to an Eternal Destiny that fits.

The punishment of the wicked is eternal separation from God. The wicked have made themselves unable to stand in God's presence.

Revelation 20:14-15 “And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death. And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire.”

Galatians 6:7 “ Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man sows, that shall he also reap.”

Scripture expresses Punishment through several strong word pictures:

- 1) Fire Unquenchable **Isaiah 66:24** **Matthew 3:12** **Mark 9:43-45**
- 2) The Worm That Dies Not **Isaiah 66:24** **Mark 9:44; 46, 48**
- 3) The Wrath of God - Abides on him **John 3:36**
- 4) Smoke of Torment ascending up Forever and Ever **Revelation 14:11**

Daniel 12:2 “And many of those who sleep in the dust of the ground will awake, these to everlasting life, but the others to disgrace and everlasting contempt.”

Will Believers have any Part in the Great White Throne Judgment ?

They will not be judged at this time; they will have already been judged and rewarded at the Judgment Seat of Christ. But they will act as assistants as Jesus Christ judges wicked men and fallen angels. Believers do not face the judgment of condemnation but help administer it. **Revelation 2:26, 27; 3:21**

1 Corinthians 6:2-3 “ Do you know that the saints shall judge the world? And if the world shall be judged by you, are you unworthy to judge the smallest matters? Know you not that we shall judge angels? How much more things that pertain to this life? ”

38) Lake Of Fire

The Lake of Fire is the Final and Eternal Abode for Men and Angels who Reject God.

It is a place of everlasting confinement away from God. The lake of fire is not annihilation. The wicked will never cease to exist, but will consciously endure their punishment forever.

2 Thess. 1:8-9 “ In flaming fire taking vengeance on them that know not God, and that obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ: who shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord, and from the glory of His power.”

- 1) It's a place of **imprisonment & death**. Revelation 20:14-15 Matthew 5:24
- 2) It's a place of **utter despair**. Luke 13:28 Matthew 22:13
- 3) It's a place of **conscious misery & torment**. Revelation 20:10 Luke 16:24
- 4) It's a place of **loneliness & darkness**. Matthew 8:12 Luke 13:28
- 5) It is a place of **degradation & unholy associations**. Revelation 21:8

No one presently occupies the lake of fire. It is a place prepared for the devil and his angels and all men who refuse God's grace and salvation.

Knowledge of Eternal Judgment has a way of changing our Behavior.

God has put a great deal of information in the Bible regarding the future for a reason: On the one hand, He gives us the hope of resurrection and the promise of rewards. This is positive motivation to do God's will. On the other hand, He gives us the negative motivation of showing us the punishment which awaits the disobedient. The terror of the Lord prompts us to do the things that positive motivation fails to accomplish.

Romans 11:22

“ Behold therefore the goodness and severity of God: on them which fell, severity; but toward thee, goodness, if thou continue in His goodness: otherwise thou also shall be cut off.”

2 Corinthians 5:11

“ Knowing therefore the terror of the Lord, we persuade men; but we are made manifest unto God; and I trust also are made manifest in your consciences.”

39) Resurrection – Life after Death

Resurrection is a Rising to Life after Death, but it is more than that.

It is also the beginning of glorification, or the changing of the physical body to a more glorious redemptive body provided for the whole man by Christ.

Resurrection is the Personal Restoration of the Individual to Eternal Life.

After the body and the soul and the spirit have been separated by death, even if the body has already decomposed, God reunites them. The person's own identity is restored, including memory, recognition, and the ability to communicate.

Job 19:25-27 “ For I know that my redeemer lives, and that he shall stand at the latter day upon the earth: and though after my skin, worms destroy this body, yet in my flesh shall I see God: Whom I shall see for myself, and mine eyes shall behold him.”

Resurrection involves the Reinfusion of Life into a Real Corpse, resulting in the Raising Up to a Life of a Literal Body.

Resurrection is the redemption of our bodies; God changes our bodies to correspond with the nature of our redeemed spirit and soul.

While the body we receive in the resurrection will be unmistakably our own, it will not be the same frail frame we buried. It will have been changed by the power of God and fashioned like His own

Philippians 3:21 “ who, (being Jesus) by the power that enables Him to bring everything under His control, will transform our lowly bodies so that they may be fashioned like His glorious body, according to the working whereby He is able even to subdue all things unto Himself.”

What Will Our Resurrection Bodies Be Like ?

The Bible provides two sources for info. regarding our resurrection bodies:

- 1) The example of Jesus' body described in the Gospels and Acts.
- 2) The descriptions by the Apostle Paul to the Corinthians.

Jesus' Resurrection Body was both the same and different from His Mortal Body.

- 1) Jesus' resurrection body was without the limitations of His mortal body. He could appear at will, He could pass through walls, etc.
- 2) Jesus' body was tangible and visible. People touched Him, saw Him, heard Him and He ate with them.
- 3) Jesus continued where He had left off in His teaching. He met with His disciples in Galilee as He had promised before His death.

Paul describes the Body in terms of External Clothing we Take Off and Put On.

When we die, we are separated from this outward covering, but God does not leave us disembodied or naked; He provides us an immortal covering. **2 Corinthians 5:4**

Our Resurrection Bodies will be an Improvement.

1 Corinthians 15:35 - 42, 53 God will give us new bodies, which will be far better than our present mortal bodies.

1) Our new body will be Incorruptible.

The resurrection body will be free from deterioration.

2) Our new body will be Powerful.

We are sown in weakness, and we spend our whole lifetime aware of our human limitations.

3) Our new body will be Spiritual.

It will be perfectly adapted to its new environment. The spirit will once more be in control over the soul and body, as was the case before the fall of Adam.

4) Our new body will be Heavenly.

Flesh and blood cannot inherit the Kingdom. Jesus' resurrection body had flesh and bone, but not blood. In this mortal life, the life is in the blood. In the resurrection body, the spirit will contain the life.

40) A Guaranteed Resurrected Body

If we are “in Christ,” we have received a Guarantee.

God has already given us the "earnest" or down payment of His Holy Spirit, which guarantees that the rest of the inheritance will follow.

The earnest is the initial down payment, which guarantees both that the complete inheritance will be given and that the remainder will be of the same good quality as the down payment.

The Redemption of our Body is clearly a part of our Inheritance. Romans 8:23

Paul elaborated the function of the Holy Spirit as our earnest or guarantee in his letter to the Ephesians, where he wrote:

Ephesians 1:13-14 “In whom you also trusted, after that you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation: in whom also after that you believed, you were sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise, which is the earnest of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, unto the praise of His glory.”

In this passage, the Holy Spirit is pictured both as a seal and as an earnest, — emphasizing His work in giving us security and a guarantee. The Spirit of Christ is a first installment of the life to come.

Death is the Suspension between the Physical Body and the Soul and Spirit.

Ecclesiastes 12:6-7 “Or ever the silver cord be loosed, or the golden bowl be broken, or the pitcher be broken at the fountain. Then shall the dust return to the earth as it was: and the spirit shall return unto Cod who gave it.”

Genesis 3:19 “. . . for dust thou art, and unto dust shalt thou return.”

Death brings the soul and spirit into a new state of existence where it awaits resurrection of the body, and its judgment by God.

Hebrews 9:27 “And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after that the judgment.”

Jesus Christ Himself is the only man to die and experience all that transpires afterward, and still come back to tell us about it. This makes Him the final Authority.

Revelation 1:18 “ I am he that liveth, and was dead; and, behold, I am alive for evermore, Amen; and have the keys of hell and of death.”

41) The Gospel Message and the Resurrection

It is central. Remove the fact of God's raising Jesus Christ from the dead, and the gospel is without power.

On the cross, Jesus gave Himself as the sacrificed Lamb to pay for our sins. Through the resurrection, and the resulting outpouring of the Holy Spirit upon believers, God demonstrated His acceptance of the sacrifice as atonement for our sin.

The Bible tells us that Paul's way of ministering was to open up the Old Testament Scriptures to demonstrate the reality of the resurrection of Christ as God's demonstration of the truth of His covenant. **Acts 17:2-3**

So important and basic to the gospel did Paul consider the resurrection, that he declared that both the message and our faith would be vain, empty, hollow and meaningless if the resurrection of Christ did not actually take place. **1 Corinthians 15:12-20**

The Bible records at least eleven occasions on which one or more people saw Jesus alive after being dead and buried - and risen. They were people who had known Jesus well during His life on earth.

Acts 1:21-22 “ Wherefore of these men which have companied with us all the time that the Lord Jesus went in and out among us, beginning from the baptism of John, unto that same day that he was taken up from us, must one be ordained to be a witness with us of His resurrection.”

These ones were especially anointed by the Holy Spirit to be Witnesses and to interpret what they saw.

Acts 1:8 “ But you shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and you shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth. ”

We have our evidence of resurrection from the words of reliable eyewitnesses who shared what they had experienced firsthand.

In every case, a Resurrection appearance changed the Person.

- 1) Mary Magdalene **Mark 16:9 John 20:11-18**
- 2) Other women **Luke 24:10**
- 3) Simon Peter **Luke 24:34 1 Corinthians 15:5**
- 4) Cleophas and another disciple on Emmaus Road **Mark 16 Luke 24**
- 5) Ten apostles in a closed room **John 20:19-24**
- 6) Eleven apostles, Thomas included **John 20:26-29**
- 7) The apostles at Tiberias **John 21:1-23**
- 8) More than 500 brethren at one time **I Corinthians 15:6**
- 9) James, Jesus' half brother **I Corinthians 15:7**
- 10) The apostles at the mount **Matt. 28:16 Mark 16:19 Luke 24:50**
- 11) Paul, years later **I Corinthians 15:8 Acts 9:3-7**

After His Resurrection, Jesus spent Forty Days upon the earth giving Intensive Instructions to His Disciples.

The time of fulfillment was near; the Holy Spirit was soon to be poured out. But Jesus had to impart much spiritual understanding to His chosen men before they could carry out their commission to teach and disciple others.

Jesus visibly ascended in order to Show Them how He would Come Again.

While they were yet watching Him ascend up into the clouds, the angels used this impressive moment to remind them to expect "this same Jesus" to come back exactly as He had left.

42) Fellowship / Home Gatherings

In Jesus' time, most Gatherings were Home Group, Upper Room Settings or a Neighborhood Outdoor Setting.

Meetings in buildings didn't come into play till around 300 AD.

So what was the original application for fellowship? A Greek word being used much today is “**Koinonia**” from which two words are translated to Fellowship and Communion.

Fellowship: Companionship; mutual sharing; gathering of people having the same interests. **Communion:** to have in common; to share by all; participation, partnership. God is building His Ekklesia, His Church, His Body. It is being built up and we play our part in Fellowship and Communion.

Hebrews 10:24 “And let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works, not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together.”

Notice that it says “assembling”. The thing with assembling is that God has a purpose. This is not just a gathering together.

This is a call to be Assembled Together.

Now if you bought a model airplane, inside the box you would find a whole bunch of parts. You would find a set of plans, instructions that show how each part is needed to assemble the model in the proper manner.

When it is finished, and all put together it will look like what the designer designed it to look like. This is the same with the body of Christ. We are being assembled together. There are a bunch of pieces (that's us), there is a set of instructions, and there are those that God is using to put it together.

This is why God has Given Us the Five Fold Ministry - Ephesians 4:11

“And He gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers, for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ, till we all come to the unity.”

God's desire is to see His body assembled together. Everyone in his or her own place, fulfilling his or her own part.

43) Being The Firstfruits

What does Paul mean by “ The Firstfruits Of Them That Slept ” ?

Christ's resurrection was the Firstfruits or guarantee that we too will be raised from the dead. Listen to Paul's words to the Corinthians:

1 Corinthians 15:20-22 “ But now is Christ risen from the dead, and become the Firstfruits of them that slept. For since by man came death, by man came also the resurrection of the dead. For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive.”

The Fact that Christ became our Firstfruits has a Threefold Significance.

1) Jesus is the sample (prototype) of the resurrection we will experience if we belong to Him. He is the source of a new kind of life - a life that overcame the doom of death and expresses the glory of God.

1 John 3:2 “ Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it does not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when He shall appear, we shall be like Him; for we shall see Him as He is.”

2) Jesus gave His life in order to communicate it to many others.

John 12:24 “ Except a corn of wheat fall into the ground and die, it abides alone: but if it die, it brings forth much fruit.”

3) Jesus is the first in a series of resurrections. He is the pledge and guarantee of more to follow. He is like the sheaf waved before the Lord at Firstfruits, which represented the entire harvest that would follow.

1 Corinthians 15:23-24 “ But every man in his own order: Christ the Firstfruits; afterward they that are Christ's at His coming. Then comes the end, when He shall have delivered up the Kingdom to God, even the Father; when he shall put down all rule and all authority and power.”

44) The Raising of the Dead

Are the raising of the dead at different Times? Yes they are! When a believer dies, his spirit and soul immediately go into the presence of God, but the rest of the dead, — where do they go ?

Here is a list of the order of the Dead, and their Resurrection.

- 1) Firstfruits: the resurrection of Christ Himself and those who came out of their graves at the same time.

Matthew 27:52-53 “And the graves were opened; and many bodies of the saints which slept arose, and came out of the grave after His resurrection, and went into the holy city, and appeared unto many.”

- 2) They that are Christ's at His coming.

1 Thessalonians 4:16-17 “ For the Lord Himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord.”

- 3) The resurrection of the unrighteous dead at the end of this age.

Revelation 20:5 “ But the rest of the dead lived not again until the thousand years were finished.” After that is the Great White Throne Judgment.

- 4) The destruction of death itself after the Great White Throne Judgment.

Revelation 20:14-15 “And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death. And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire.”

- 5) The renovation of the heavens and earth, — the emergence of a new heaven and a new earth after purging by fire.

Revelation 21:1 “And I saw a new heaven and a new earth: for the first heaven and the first earth were passed away; and there was no more sea.”

45) The Kingdom of God

John the Baptist came preaching, “ Repent, for the Kingdom of God is at Hand.” The word “ **Hand** ” means “ **To Take Hold Of** ”.

From John the Baptist until now, — the Kingdom of God suffers violence and the violent take it by Force. In other words the Kingdom of God has been forcefully advancing as it battles against this very present darkness.

Jesus came Preaching and Declaring the Gospel of the Kingdom of God.

Mark 1:14-15 Now after John was put in prison, Jesus came to Galilee preaching the gospel of the Kingdom of God and saying, “ The time is fulfilled, and the Kingdom of God is at hand.”

What Jesus was saying is that the Kingdom is amongst you, — the Kingdom of God is in your midst. It is there for the taking!

The Kingdom of God is in you. It is Jesus is me, the hope of our Heavenly Father being glorified. **Colossians 1:27**

Wherever the King is, — that's where the Kingdom is

There is enough Power within and within any gathering to blow the principalities of darkness apart and drive back the powers of darkness. A big part of that is through unity in the Spirit!

Unity Through the Spirit – Holy Spirit

Ephesians 4:3 “ Endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.”

In Spirit we are to be in unity! If we compromise that unity we will end up powerless. Our unity as Christians must be based on “ the unity of the Spirit,” Having the same mind, — the mind of Christ Jesus.

1 Corinthians 1:10 “. . . that you perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment.

Ephesians 4:13 “ Till we all come to the unity of the faith.”

The Kingdom of God is in our Midst. It's in the Corporate Gathering.

Jesus says, that where there are two or more, gathered in my name, there am I in your midst. If there are two or more gathered in agreement, — it's there that the Lord commands the Blessing. In unity comes the blessing!

Deuteronomy 28:8 “ The Lord shall command the blessing upon thee in thy storehouses and in all that you set thine hand unto; and he shall bless you in the land which the Lord thy God gives you.”

When I am in your midst, there is My Kingdom, There is My Kingdom Authority.

John 14:13-14 “ Whatever you ask in My name, that will I do, so that My Father may be glorified . . . and if My words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you.”

“ Whatever you ask in My Name - it will be done for you.” There is tremendous power in agreement. One person can put 1000 to flight; two people in agreement can put 10,000 to flight. That is the power behind unity.

When there is unity, there is power. Where there is power, there is the King. Where there is the King, — then most assuredly there is the Kingdom.

When Jesus was walking here on earth; The King was walking here on the earth. The Kingdom is where the King is. So where is the King and His Kingdom now?

Where is Jesus Today? If you're a born-again Christian then He dwells within you. Jesus, as the head, is presently seated at the right hand of the Father. Jesus is the Head of His Ekklesia, the Church, also known as the Body.

Jesus is seated in heavenly places, we are also seated in heavenly places in Christ Jesus. He executes His Authority from the right hand of Power, and we are here to execute that same Power by being His Hands here on the earth.

Jesus taught His disciples to Pray with that authority, “ Your Kingdom come, Your will be done on earth even as it is done in heaven.”

46) Holy Spirit and the Kingdom of God

If you have been born-again, then by the Spirit of God, — you have entered into the Kingdom of God. You have been translated into the Kingdom !

Colossians 1:13 says, that “ He has delivered us from the power of darkness and Translated us into His Kingdom.”

To see the Kingdom you must be born-again! Being born-again, you have now entered into the Kingdom. For three and a half years Jesus spoke about, and demonstrated His Fathers Kingdom. He came to unleash that Kingdom on levels unknown here on earth. For us to access that Kingdom is only possible through the Holy Spirit.

During His ministry, He empowered His disciples to demonstrate that Kingdom with signs, wonders, healing and deliverances. That was priority !

Luke 9:1 “ Then He called His twelve disciples together and gave them power and authority.” **Acts 1:8** “ You shall receive Power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you.”

When Jesus ascended, Holy Spirit was released to continue with the expansion of the Kingdom of Heaven, Kingdom of God.

The expansion program and the power behind it was not just for the disciples during the days of Jesus, but it's also for us today who believe and are filled with the Holy Spirit. The Book of Acts is still being written today!

Mark 16:17 “ Most assuredly I say to you, he who believes in Me, **WHO?** He who believes in Me, the works that I do, he will do also, **WHY?** because I go to My Father, and whatever you ask in my name, that I will do, if you ask anything in My name, — I will do it.”

The Kingdom of God is not just words with nice religious traditions,
The Kingdom of God is in the demonstration of God's Power.

So Where is the Power of the Kingdom of God for us today ?

That power is in the Holy Spirit, which is why it's vital that we walk in the Holy Spirit. The Keys to the Kingdom of God is in the Holy Spirit.

47) My Identity in Jesus

It is vital that we base our identity of who we are upon what God's Word says about us. God promises never to leave or forsake us, so when our identity is based upon what He says of us, we can be assured that we're going to face the continual love from a heavenly Father that absolutely loves us. There is no rejection!

I have been Justified - Completely Forgiven and made Righteous.

Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. **Romans 5:1**

I am Free Forever from Condemnation.

There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. **Romans 8:1**

What does the Word say about My Identity.

1 John 3:1 “ Because of God's great love for us, we are adopted into His family.” **Romans 8:17** “. . . and made joint heirs with Christ.”

Ephesians 2:6 “ We are made to sit in heavenly places (of authority over all demons, sickness, etc.) with Christ.”

Ephesians 1:3 “ We are blessed with all spiritual blessings in Christ.”

Romans 3:22 “ We are the righteousness of Christ through faith, thus being made right before God.”

Hebrews 10:22 “ We are entitled to a clean conscience before God because of the Blood and can have full assurance of faith when we go before Him.”

Psalms 103:12 “ Our sins have been removed from us as far as the east is from the west .” **Hebrews 8:12** “ and God Himself has chosen not to remember our failures.”

John 17:23 “ We are loved with the same love that the Father has for Jesus.”

48) Jesus the Sabbath Rest

There is a huge distortion out there designed to manipulate us into a place where we have convince ourselves that man was made for the Sabbath.

Jesus clearly stated that the Sabbath was created for man.

Mark 2:24 Then he said to them, “ The Sabbath was made for man, not man for the Sabbath. So the Son of Man is Lord even of the Sabbath.”

For the believer, what was dramatically portrayed institutionally and ceremonially in the Old Testament was a portrayal of the natural events that have now turned into something amazingly supernatural, — Jesus became the fulfillment, the manifested one of all that was constructed and prophesied. He is the Sabbath. We now rest in Him daily.

Without this perspective, the dynamics of what was prophetically constructed steers us back towards works, instead of pursuing that place of rest, — where in our stillness, we know that He, Jesus, is that place of rest for us that is steering us into something relational and romantic.

Without this perspective, the dynamics of what was prophetically constructed steers us into institutionalizing the Sabbath, where we have the Sabbath once again performing for us when it was always meant to be one thing and one thing only, — a time of rest! A place of rest!

With Jesus showing up, the whole plan was for us to rest in the arms of a loving Savior. He was the fulfillment of all that was emblematic. When Jesus said, while hanging on the cross, that it is finished, then . . .

Why are we still building? Why are we not resting? Why are we performing?

Sabbath Rest is an invitation to practice for eternity. It’s where we regularly, intentionally engage in God’s rule and reign in our hearts and on earth. We have to “Shabbat” in order to stop in our excessive busyness and truly rest in God’s presence. (“ Shabbat ” is Hebrew for “ Sabbath Rest ”)

When we practice to rest, we make room for The Lord to take up residence in our individual lives. We are setting the stage for God to make us His dwelling place, to make us His resting place.

49) The Five-Fold Ministry

Each of us has been imparted with some type of ministry mix. Generally, we walk in a mix of ministries. Rarely is it one ministry. Plus we have been equipped with gifts and abilities to walk out that mix according to how God is molding us.

Ephesians 4:11-16

“ For we are all called to come to the unity of the faith and the knowledge of the Son of God, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ, that we may grow up in all things unto Him who is the head, — Christ, from whom the whole body joined and knit together by what every joint supplies, according to the effective working by which every part does its share causes growth of the body for the edifying of itself in love.”

The Five-Fold is really a collection of Spiritual Job Descriptions designed to correlate for the releasing and modeling of True Ministry. It was always designed for the Bride of Christ to model Jesus and Move as One.

The gifts and responsibilities were never designed to elevate but to model a Five-Fold that was on a level playing field where everyone is treated of equal value uniquely outfitted with gifts and ministries, all functioning as a team.

When genuine love exists in our gatherings, then in our actions, we would truly contend for one another as God contends for us!

Apostle, Prophet, Evangelist, Pastor and Teacher.

It is important to note that what we call the Five Fold Ministry are actually God given, Spirit anointed and appointed positions, and without exception are selfless.

Their responsibility according to Eph. 4 is to equip God’s people to do His work and build up the body of Christ, the Bride of Jesus until we all come to a unity in our faith where we measure up to the full and complete standard of Christ.

These Roles have always been about Others, — and not about Self.

To exhort, encourage, train, impart, mentor and release so that the body can attain a Christ like standard, discerning truth while understanding its roles within the body until unity kicks into gear. It’s about being selfless allowing other parts to grow in love.

50) JESUS

Who is Jesus ?

Jesus - By Him All Things were Created.

Colossians 1:15-18

“ Jesus is the exact living image of the unseen God [the visible representation of the invisible], the originator of all creation. For by Him all things were created in heaven and on earth, things visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities; all things were created and exist through Him for Him. And He Himself existed and is before all things, and in Him all things hold together. He is also the head, the life-source and leader, of the body, the church; and He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in all things He may have the pre-eminence in everything.”

Jesus - God Manifested in the Flesh, God With Us .

Isaiah 7:14

“ Therefore the Lord Himself will give you a sign: Behold, the virgin will conceive and bear a Son, and shall call his name Immanuel.”

Immanuel means "God with us" **Matthew 1:23** and **Luke 1:35**

Jesus - Came Representing His Fathers Government.

Isaiah 9:2, 6, 7

“ The people who walk in spiritual darkness will see a great Light; Those who live in the dark land, The Light will shine on them . . . For unto us a Child is born, unto us a Son is given; and the government will be upon His shoulder. And His name will be called Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. There will be no end to His rule and His peace, upon the throne of David and over his nation. He will build it to last and keep it strong with what is right and good from that time and forever.”

Jesus - The Way, The Truth, The Life.

John 14:6-10

“ Jesus said, 'I am the way, the truth, and the life. No man comes to the Father except through Me. If you had known Me, you would have known My Father also; and from now on you know Him and have seen Him. Philip said to Him, 'Lord, show us the Father, and it is sufficient for us.' Jesus said to him, 'Have I been with you so long, and yet you have not known Me, Philip? He who has seen Me has seen the Father; so how can you say, 'show us the Father'? Do you not believe that I am in the Father, and the Father in Me? The words that I speak to you I do not speak on My own authority; but the Father who dwells in Me.’”

Jesus - He was in the Beginning with God.

John 1:1- 4, 14

“ In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made. In Him was life, and the life was the light of me. And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth.” **I John 5:7** “ For there are three who bear witness in heaven: the Father, the Word, and the Holy Spirit; and these three are one.”

Jesus - Fulfilled the Law and the Prophets.

Matthew 5:17

“ Do not think that I came to destroy the law or the prophets. I did not come to destroy, rather to fulfill.” Through his birth, life, death, and resurrection, Jesus not only fulfilled the ceremonial laws instituted by God to show them how they needed Christ, but he also fulfilled many prophecies given by God's servants the prophets. The sacrificed Lamb of God lifted the curse.

Galatians 3:19-22 The purpose of the law was to lead us to Christ and to realize that we cannot make it to God in our own works, — we will always fall short. **Galatians 3:13** “ Christ has redeemed us from the curse of the law, having become a curse for us.”

1) The Temple

Hebrews Chapters 7-10 Hebrews 9:23

“ Therefore it was necessary that the copies of the things in the heavens should be purified with these, but the heavenly things themselves with better sacrifices than these." In reference to the earthly temple it too was a foreshadowing in its creation to the temple in heaven. In the earthly temple there were many items that directly relate to the heavenly temple, some examples include the veil into the holy of holies, the alter of incense, blood sacrifices, and the duties of the High priest. Each item prophetically speaks of the ministry of Jesus.

Matthew 27:51 Hebrews 4:16

In the old temple the High priest would once a year cleanse himself with blood and enter past the veil into the holy of holies to make continual sacrifices for his own sins then for the sins of the people. Jesus fulfilled this and made a once and forever sacrifice. At exactly the same time Christ died on the cross, the veil in the earthly temple was torn in half, allowing man to come boldly to the throne of grace at any time.

2) Blood Sacrifices

Romans 5: 8-21 2 Corinthians 5:21

The law required that nearly everything required the shedding of blood and without there was no remission of sins. **Heb. 9:22**

But why you might ask did the law require the shedding of blood? The shedding of blood was a foreshadowing of the sacrifice that God would have to make in sending his son Jesus Christ to die for us and shed his blood for us because he who knew no sin and death had no hold on him willingly gave up his life to pay the penalty of sin and death for us.

Colossians 1:20-23 “And by Him, Jesus reconciled all things to Himself, by Him, whether things on the earth or things in heaven, having made peace through the blood of his cross.

3) The Sabbath

Exodus 20 Hebrews 4:9,10

God commanded in Exodus the fourth commandment states "Thou shall work six days and on the seventh day thou shalt rest for it is holy" This command in the law can only truly be fulfilled by faith in Christ and resting from dead work that lead no where. Heb. 4:9,10 "For there remains a rest for Gods people. For he who has entered His rest has himself also ceased from his works as God did from his."

Philippians 2:13 2 Corinthians 3

Galatians 5:13-22 Romans 6:17-26

Jesus has become our Sabbath rest! We are now called to rest in Him daily, which means trusting in the Holy Spirit as He leads us. We are not under the letter of the law now, but rather the Spirit. because now the Holy Spirit is within us and he works in us to will and to do his good pleasure.

4) New Testament, — New Covenant

Hebrews 9

Jesus established a whole different priesthood that went from the "Law" to "Hope" (a better testament). A High Priest who became the sacrifice who eliminated the yearly sacrifice becoming a better covenant, a new covenant that does away with the old covenant testament. From a tabernacle that was built with hands to one that is not built with hands where we now believe become living temples for the one who dwelt in the Holy of Holies. A New Testament, a new covenant where everything prior was a shadow of things to come now making the past Testament old as He now represents a new and more excellent covenant. From a law that continually defined our shortcomings to a grace and a hope that now helps us overcome!