

## THEY HAVE BECOME LIKE ONE OF US

Adam called His wife Eve (life spring), the mother of all the living. God made long coats of skins and clothed them. The Lord God said:

“Look, the man has become like one of Us (Father, Son and Holy Spirit) to know good and evil and blessing and calamity. Now lest he eat from the Tree of Life and live forever more, I will drive him from this place.”

A cherubim and a flaming sword which turned every way, God placed in the east to keep and guard the Tree of Life (Gen 3:20-24 AMP).

A portion of the following information about the first sacrifice was taken from the websites Abide in Christ and also Days of Praise

<https://www.icr.org/article/4028/>

<http://www.abideinchrist.com/messages/gen3v21.html>

The tragic story of man's disobedience is told in Genesis chapter three. After Adam and Eve disobeyed God's command they became aware of their guilt. In Matt. 17:1-2 we are given a clue to how their guilt may

have become so immediately apparent. Jesus took with Him Peter, James and John the brother of James, and led them up a high mountain by themselves. There Jesus was transfigured before them. His face shone like the sun, and His clothes became as white as the light.

Is it possible the shame (disgrace, remorse, guilt) of sin changed their appearance? 1 Cor. 13:11 tells us that now we see things imperfectly as in a cloudy mirror, but then we will see everything with perfect clarity. All that we know now is partial and incomplete, but then we will know everything completely, just as God now knows us.

Is it possible to really know how marvelous the love God the Father extends to us? When we consider the condition of our world, it is hard to imagine God has reconciled the wrong doing of every single person. In Romans 5:6-8 Paul wrote, "When we were still without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly. Scarcely for a righteous man will one die; perhaps for a good man someone would even dare to die. BUT GOD, He demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Jesus died for us."

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Those who believe and trust in the purpose and plan of God are called His children. That's why the world doesn't recognize us, or take us seriously because it has no idea who God is or what He's up to, but His children do. And what we know is that when Christ is openly revealed in all His glory, we'll see Him - and in seeing Him, become like Him. All who look forward to His Coming stay ready, with the glistening purity of Jesus' life as a model for our own (1 John 3:1-3 Message).

Yes, Adam and Eve tried to cover up their guilt and shame from God, but their coverings were of a poor design. Manmade solutions for sin and guilt never work. Their fig leaf aprons representing religious works could never cover the guilty sinner nor make them right with God. Human works of righteousness could never make us presentable to God.

The clothing necessary to cover the penalty of sin can be provided only by God. It was God Himself Who sacrificed His animal creation (possibly two innocent and blemish-free sheep) to make those coverings for Adam and Eve. "And the Lord God made garments of skin for Adam and his wife, and clothed them."



Throughout the Scriptures, garments are symbols of righteousness; either God's all sufficient righteousness or man's self-made righteousness. The prophet Isaiah wrote:

My God; He has clothed me with garments of salvation,  
He has wrapped me with a robe of righteousness, as a  
Bridegroom decks Himself with a garland, and as a bride  
Adorns herself with her jewels," (vs 61:10).

The prophet also spoke of self-righteousness in the following statements. Isaiah 64:6 states, "We have all become as one who is unclean (like a leper) we are all an unclean thing, and all our righteousness is like filthy rags or polluted garments; we all fade like a leaf, and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away (far from God's favor, hurrying us toward destruction)." While Job 29:14 says, "I put on righteousness, and it clothed me; my justice was like a robe and a turban."

The coats of skin with which the Lord clothed Adam and Eve represent the righteousness He provided so they could stand in His

presence. These coats of skin are a type of what God has provided for us in the impartation of His righteousness through Jesus Christ.

Behind those garments God made, sacrifice and death were revealed. The shedding of innocent blood was the atonement God made for the penalty of sin because the life of the flesh is in the blood (Lev. 17:11). However, there is also punishment for sin, which brings consequence (aftermath, control, power, dominion).

The question to be pondered – under whose control, power and dominion are you living? Are you living dangerously kicking against the goad (Acts 9:5 AMP) always on the defensive at odds with God (Job 15:26 Message)? Or, are you serving Him with a pure heart and a good conscience and sincere faith (1 Tim. 1:5)?



Choice (free will, partiality, self-determination) will always bear a consequence. As a result of deception entering our world many outcomes that occur are really quite unfair. And though the punishment for turning our backs on God means we must bear the consequence of all our sin (Ezek. 23:35), He clearly has acknowledged the flesh is weak (Mark 14:38).

So be careful not to let your hearts be dulled and weighed down with dissipation (dispersion, corruption, immorality), drunkenness and the worries and anxieties of this life (Luke 21:34). For no one knows the day or hour, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father (Mark 13:32). That day will come upon everyone living on the earth. So keep alert at all times. And pray that you might be strong enough to escape the coming horrors and stand before the Son of Man (Luke 22:36).



Like Peter there are many with strong feelings for the Lord who would declare their readiness to go with Him to prison and to death (Luke 22:33). However, they too may experience how powerful the influence (domination, impact, effect) of deception and denial when strong emotion is collapsed in fear's presence.

Why? We live in the midst of deception, and in our deceit (cunning, bad faith, indirection) many refuse to acknowledge (rejection, disallowance, denial) of God's Word of Truth (Jer. 9:6). All of this the Lord declares is the folly of fools (Prov.14:8). No one wants to be viewed as a fool, a blockhead, a nitwit or an idiot. To understand a fool

from God's perspective would require the willingness to discover how deception has personally impacted our lives.

Remember, if we knew we were being deceived it would no longer be classified as deception. How is deception being empowered in our lives? The answer – denial, we are guilty of imprisoning ourselves when we agree, sanction and consent to worldly philosophies – “make love not war,” “love is love,” “I don't regret anything,” “demand your rights,” “you can't change who you are...”

They become as doctrines that promote Satan's work deception, discord and disdain rather than God's work - which is by faith in His Word of Truth (1Tim.1:4). You may be wondering how you are empowering deception:

- When AVOIDANCE keeps us from talking about anything other than our real problems; change the subject, play dumb and pretend. I know I'm in denial when I refuse to directly answer a question
- When we are living in a state of ABSOLUTE DENIAL - I don't have a problem – nothing's wrong with me – I am so good at convincing others, I'm actually believing it myself. I know I'm

using denial when I know deep down I have a problem but won't admit it to anyone

- **MINIMIZING** - my problems and what is happening in my life is not that bad - it won't happen again - denial is definitely being used
- **RATIONALIZING** - good enough reasons and explanations are given so problems don't have to be dealt with. Knowledge may be acquired but rarely if ever applying what is learned to myself and my own problems - denial is being used when reasons are given for not taking responsibility
- **BLAMING** - find a scapegoat - provoke a response to prove the problem is someone else's fault not mine - again denial is being used when responsibility is being shrugged or placed on someone else
- **COMPARING** - I will focus on other people instead of myself this will prove my problem isn't as serious - denial is being used when others are being criticized and I'm pointing out how bad their problems are
- **COMPLIANCE** - a cycle of making half-hearted promises, giving excuses for a lack of commitment, I'm trying - doing my best, blaming others, apologizing and seeking second chances



all this effort to get people off my back - denial is being used when I'm telling people what they want to hear

- MANIPULATING - I won't let anyone make me do anything I don't want to do. I will make them work to fix my problem then blame them so they feel guilty - denial is being used when I am trying to get over on other people
- FLIGHT INTO HEALTH - Feeling better means I don't have to be so motivated - denial is being used when I believe my problems have gone away without my doing anything to solve them
- FEAR - Being scared of my problems will make them go away - denial is being used when you are scaring yourself into avoidance
- STRATEGIC HOPELESSNESS - I've done it all and nothing works - denial is being used when I tell myself I can't solve my problem so people need to just leave me alone
- THE DEMOCRATIC DISEASE STATE - I'm not hurting anyone but myself - denial is being used when I tell people I have a right to do as I please regardless of the consequences and they have no right to try and stop me

- Information taken from the Denial Checklist Pattern developed by Terrence Gorski <https://docplayer.net/178353756-Denial-pattern-checklist-developed-by-terence-t-gorski-terence-t-gorski-1999.html>



Man-made coverings; futile attempts to hide our fears, our imperfections, our insecurity and low self-esteem; however, behind those coverings that God made, love and faithfulness will be found.

God Himself paid the penalty for the deceptions of sin. He also protected man from the eternal consequence of sin. Now lest he eat from the Tree of Life and live forever more, I will drive him from this place. A cherubim and a flaming sword which turned every way, God placed in the east to keep and guard the Tree of Life (Gen 3:20-24).

The penalty (forfeiture, vengeance, sentence) and the consequence (judgment, deliverance, resolution) of sin, which causes eternal separation from God, the Lord, Christ Jesus, has always been willing to reconcile so harmony and friendship with God could be restored.

However, the punishment for the curse of sin has become a matter left for individual choice. Ignore it, or learn the need to repent.

Hosea 6:6-7 tells us God desires mercy, not sacrifice, and acknowledgment of Him rather than burnt offerings. Like Adam, My people have broken their covenant – they were unfaithful to the One Who says:

“Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength.”

Deut. 6:5



The number for man is 6 and what God is saying to mankind – love for Him must be sincere with all our heart and soul and strength; love for God must be genuine, which results in offerings being made with feeling and thought and willingness to make evident our covenant relationship with Him.

The number 3 speaks to us of God – Father, Son and Holy Spirit and is used to symbolize perfection or completion, eternal life and God’s power. On the sixth day of creation God saw all that He made, and it was very good (Gen. 1:31) perfect and complete.

Yes, God made man in His image body, soul and spirit with emotions, intellect and free will. When Adam and Eve walked with God there was complete and perfect unity because when we are in the presence of the Lord, He gives us rest (Ex. 33:14). God rested on the seventh day.

When sin made an appearance, it separated mankind from God causing humanity to become incomplete (deficient, flawed, common) and imperfect (damaged, marred, wanting). But God, He became our Savior. In all our distress He too is distressed, and the angel of His presence saved us. In His love and mercy He has redeemed us; He lifts us up and carries us (Isa. 63:8-9). Are you willing to receive God's blessings through Christ Jesus, or stay bound to the curse - eternal separation from our heavenly Father?



In an act of love God put Adam and Eve outside the garden so they would not suffer the consequence of eternal separation from Him. The penalty of sin changed not only the appearance of their skin, but also their time on earth, for surely their body would one day encounter death. However, the punishment for sin, that spiritual encounter with

death a second time, will only be adjudicated (determined, judged, settled) by God.

This is why we are told not to make judgments about anyone ahead of time – before the Lord returns. For He will bring our darkest secrets to light and will reveal our private motives. Then God will give to each one whatever praise is due (1 Cor. 4:5 NLT).

God instructs us to test the spirits to see whether they are from Him (1 John 4:1). We need only read the first few chapters of Genesis to realize from the beginning God has revealed sin brings about fear and shame and anger, criticism, accusation and condemnation; however, because of God's loving-kindness we have been given time and opportunity to receive the Spirit of "son-ship." Because of what Jesus has done for us, we can cry out, "Abba, Father," (Rom. 8:15).



Yes, God rested on the seventh day, and though the number seven speaks to completion and perfection, God's relationship with His creation was upended, and the sting of death was felt by all.

BUT GOD, He had a perfect plan to rid mankind from the clutches of sin. Paul wrote to encourage and comfort, "The God of Peace, Who brought again from among the dead our Lord Jesus, that great Shepherd of the sheep, by the blood (that sealed, ratified) the everlasting agreement (covenant, testament), will strengthen (complete, perfect) and make you what you ought to be, and equip you with everything good that you may carry out His will.

While He Himself works in you and accomplishes that which is pleasing in His sight, through His Word, Jesus Christ, the Messiah; to Whom be the glory forever (Heb. 13:20-21 AMP).



Take notice! I tell you a mystery (a secret truth, an event decreed by the hidden purpose or counsel of God). We shall not all fall asleep (in death), but we shall all be changed (transformed). In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the sound of the last trumpet call; for a trumpet will sound, and the dead in Christ will be raised imperishable (free and immune from decay), and we shall be changed (transformed).

For this perishable part of us must put on the imperishable, and this mortal part of us, (this nature that is capable of dying) must put on immortality (freedom from death).

And, when this perishable puts on the imperishable and this that was capable of dying puts on freedom from death, then shall be fulfilled the Scripture that says, 'Death is swallowed up (utterly vanquished forever) in and unto victory.

O Death, where is your victory? O Death, where is your sting (1 Cor. 15:51-55 AMP)? For sin – the sting that causes death – will be gone; and the law, which reveals our sins, will no longer be our judge. How we thank God for all this! It is He Who makes us victorious through Jesus Christ our Lord!

So, my dear brethren, since future victory is sure, be strong and steady, always abounding in the Lord's work, for you know that nothing you do for the Lord is ever wasted as it would be if there were no resurrection (1 Cor. 15:56-58 TLB).

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Love never fails! As for prophecy (the gift of interpreting the divine will and purpose), it will be fulfilled and pass away; as for tongues, they will be destroyed and cease; as for knowledge, it will pass away (it will lose its value and be superseded by Truth).

Our knowledge is fragmentary (incomplete and imperfect (1 Cor. 13:8-9a AMP). Why? The secret things belong to the Lord our God, but the things revealed belong to us and to our children forever, that we may follow all the words of Truth (Deut. 29:29).

Our prophecy (our teaching) is fragmentary; but, when the complete and perfect comes, the incomplete and imperfect will vanish away (become antiquated, void and superseded 1 Cor. 13:9b-10 AMP).

It is not the spiritual life which came first, but the physical and then the spiritual. The first man was from out of earth, made of dust; the second Man is the Lord out of heaven.

Now those who are made of the dust are like him who was first made of the dust (earthly-minded; and as is the Man from heaven, so also are those who are of heaven (heavenly-minded). And just as we have been born in the image of the man of dust, so shall we and so let us also bear the image of the Man of heaven.



I tell you this, brethren, flesh and blood cannot (become partakers of eternal salvation and) inherit or share in the Kingdom of God; nor does the perishable (that which is decaying) inherit or share in the imperishable (the immortal 1 Cor. 15:46-50 AMP).



God's Word of Life says:

“I will tell you of new things, of hidden things unknown to you.”

Isa. 48:6

Yes, the Lord guides those who turn to Him humbly (willing and teachable). He will teach the ways that are right and best to choose (Ps. 25:9 TLB). All the ways of the Lord are loving and faithful for those who keep the demands of His covenant (Ps. 25:10).

As Jacob discovered, for after 20 years of working for Laban in Haran, God told him it was time to go home. The Lord said to him:

“God back to the land of your fathers.”

Do you wonder how God spoke to Jacob? Did He speak in an audible voice? Did the voice come in a dream, as at Bethel? Or did God simply lay the burden on Jacob's heart that it was time to go home? All we know for certain is the Lord spoke to Jacob, directing him to go home.

As surely as God directed Jacob long ago, He directs believers today. The question is how does He lead us? The ways God directs us today are not limited to but include these five ways:

## 1. Scripture

The Scriptures are the primary means of divine guidance. The Bible is inspired, authoritative, inerrant, infallible – we often use these rich and meaningful words to describe the confidence we have in God's Word. But perhaps we can express it even better in the way a child could understand. What the Bible says, God says. Consequently, if you want to hear God speak, read your Bible.

- “Your Word is a lamp for my feet and a Light on my path  
(Ps. 119:105)

## 2. Holy Spirit

Not only did Holy Spirit inspire men of old to write the Scriptures, through illumination He enables believers today to understand Truth, and He directs us in doing God's will.

- “But the Counselor, Holy Spirit, Whom the Father will send in My name, will teach you all things and remind you of everything I have told you,” John 14:26
- “When the Spirit of Truth comes, He will guide you into all the Truth,” John 16:13
- Holy Spirit said, “Set apart for Me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them,” Acts 13:2
- “For it was Holy Spirit's decision – and ours – not to place further burdens on you beyond these requirements,” Acts 15:28
- “When they came to Mysia, they tried to go into Bithynia, but the Spirit of Jesus did not allow them,” Acts 16:7

## 3. Godly Counsel

The Book of Proverbs makes a strong cause for seeking the godly counsel of others:

- “Without good guidance, a people lose their way, the more wise counsel you follow, the better your chances for victory,” Prov. 11:14
- “A fool’s way is right in his own eyes, but whoever listens to counsel is wise,” Prov. 12:15
- “Plans fail for lack of counsel, but with many advisers they succeed,” Prov. 15:22
- “Take good counsel and accept correction – that’s the way to live wisely and well,” Prov. 19:20
- “For war waging you need sound guidance – victory comes with many counselors,” Prov. 24:6

#### 4. Common Sense

God gave us brains, and He expects us to use them to make sound judgments. Of course we must not lean on human understanding alone. But, when we are yielded to the Spirit of God, He helps us think clearly and sensibly. He will guide our thoughts as we walk in a close relationship with Him.

First Peter 4:7 tells us to “be alert and sober-minded.” “Sober-minded” translates the Greek verb “sophroneo,” which means “to be of sound mind, to be reasonable, sensible, or in one’s right mind.” In other words, use your God-given common sense.

- “Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge Him, and He will make your paths straight,” Prov. 3:5-6
- “Learn to be shrewd, you who are inexperienced, develop common sense, you who are foolish,” Prov. 8:5
- “For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power, love and sound judgment,” 2 Tim. 1:7

## 5. Circumstances

Though we may not realize it at the time, sometimes we can look back and see how God was working in our circumstances to accomplish His will for our lives. Take an example from the Book of Acts: How did Paul and Silas end up sitting in the house of the Philippian jailor eating and rejoicing with a family of new believers (Acts 16:34)? It was not the result of some heavenly

vision, nor by the Spirit's prompting in addition the sovereignty of God would rule out coincidence. Paul and Silas got there through all the circumstances described in Acts 16:16-34. Seeing the whole story, we are able to say it was a God thing.

### Acts 16:16-34

Once when we were going to the place of prayer, we were met by a slave girl who had a spirit by which she predicted the future. She earned a great deal of money for her owners by fortune-telling. This girl followed Paul and the rest of us, shouting, "These men are servants of the Most High God, who are telling you the way to be saved." She kept this up for many days. Finally Paul became so troubled that he turned around and said to the spirit, "In the name of Jesus Christ I command you to come out of her!" At that moment the spirit left her.

When the owners of the slave girl realized that their hope of making money was gone, they seized Paul and Silas and dragged them into the marketplace to face the authorities. They brought them before the magistrates and said, "These

men are Jews, and are throwing our city into an uproar by advocating customs unlawful for us Romans to accept or practice."

The crowd joined in the attack against Paul and Silas, and the magistrates ordered them to be stripped and beaten. After they had been severely flogged, they were thrown into prison, and the jailer was commanded to guard them carefully. Upon receiving such orders, he put them in the inner cell and fastened their feet in the stocks.

About midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the other prisoners were listening to them. Suddenly there was such a violent earthquake that the foundations of the prison were shaken. At once all the prison doors flew open, and everybody's chains came loose. The jailer woke up, and when he saw the prison doors open, he drew his sword and was about to kill himself because he thought the prisoners had escaped. But Paul shouted, "Don't harm yourself! We are all here!"

The jailer called for lights, rushed in and fell trembling before Paul and Silas. He then brought them out and asked, "Sirs, what must I do to be saved?"

They replied, "Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved – you and your household." Then they spoke the Word of the Lord to him and to all the others in his house. At that hour of the night the jailer took them and washed their wounds; then immediately he and all his family were baptized. The jailer brought them into his house and set a meal before them; he was filled with joy because he had come to believe in God – he and his whole family.

We can be thankful because we can sing...

- “He leadeth me: O blessed thought! O words with heavenly comfort fraught! Whate’er I do, where’er I be, still ‘tis God’s hand that leadth me.”

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<https://explorethebible.lifeway.com/uncategorized/5-ways-god-directs-believers-today-session-5-genesis-312-16/>



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The number 5 symbolizes the grace of God. It is by His grace we are saved, when we believe. No one can take credit for this, it is a gift from God. Salvation is not a reward for the good things we have done, so none of us can boast about it (Eph. 2:8-9 NLT).

- Yes, the grace of God has been revealed, bringing salvation to all people (Titus 2:22 NLT)
- God, in His grace, freely makes us right in His sight. He did this through Christ Jesus when He freed us from the penalty for our sins (Rom. 3:24 NLT)
- The grace of God teaches us to say “No” to ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright and godly lives in this present age (Titus 2:23 NLT)
- The Lord longs to be gracious to you; therefore, He will rise up to show you compassion. For the Lord is a God of justice, blessed are all who wait for Him (Isa. 30:11-12)
- So let us approach God’s throne of grace with confidence, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need (Heb. 4:16)

- The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you; the Lord turn His face toward you and give you peace (Num. 6:24-16)



The Lord invites everyone to come to Him, for He knows life causes us to become weary and burdened, but Jesus promise:

“I will give you rest.”

Matt. 11:28

Paul wrote, the Lord said to him and to us:

“My grace is sufficient for you,  
For My power is made perfect in weakness.”

Yes, the God of all grace, Who imparts all blessing and favor, Who has called you to His own eternal glory in Christ Jesus, will Himself complete and make you what you ought to be, establish and ground you securely, and strengthen and settle you (1 Peter 5:10 AMP).

God is able to make all grace abound toward you, so that you always, having complete sufficiency in all things, may abound to every good work (2 Cor. 9:8 MB). However, first Peter 5:10 starts off by saying, “After you have suffered for a little while.”

What we receive in this world includes pain and heartache and suffering. But God, He extends His love: “For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish (shall not experience the pain and heartache and suffering of regret for all eternity); instead, that we would have eternal life. God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through Him (John 3:16-17).

God is telling us:

“I love you!”

It’s what you are doing and thinking, believing and saying that condemns you. Job 15:2-6 poses this question for our consideration, “Should a wise person answer with windy knowledge, and fill themselves with the east wind? Should they argue in unprofitable talk or in words with which no good can be done? They do away with the fear of God, and hinder meditation before God. Their iniquity teaches

their mouth, and they choose the tongue of the crafty. Their own mouth condemns them; their own lips testify against them,” (RSV).



However, those who enter into Christ’s being-here-for-us, no longer have to live under a continuous, low-lying black cloud of condemnation. A new power is in operation. The Spirit of Life in Christ, like a strong wind, has magnificently cleared the air, freeing us from a fated lifetime of brutal tyranny at the hands of sin and death.

God went for the jugular when He sent His Son. He didn’t deal with the problem as something remote and unimportant. In His Son, Jesus, He personally took on the human condition, entered the disordered mess of struggling humanity in order to set it right once and for all.

The law code, weakened as it always was by fractured human nature, could never have done that. The law always ended up being used as a Band-Aid on sin instead of a deep healing of it. And now, what the law code asked for but we couldn’t deliver, is accomplished as we simply embrace what the Spirit is doing in us, instead of redoubling our own efforts.

Those who think they can do it on their own end up obsessed with measuring their own moral muscle, but never get around to exercising it in real life. Those who trust God's action in them find that God's Spirit is in them – living and breathing God!

Obsession with self in these matters is a dead end; attention to God leads us out into the open, into a spacious, free life. Focusing on self is the opposite of focusing on God. Anyone completely absorbed in self ignores God, and ends up thinking more about self than God. That person ignores Who God is and what He is doing. And God isn't pleased with being ignored (Rom. 8:1-9 Message).



The wicked will go down to the grave. This is the fate of all the nations who ignore God (Ps. 9:17 NLT). Their wickedness will punish them; their backsliding will rebuke them. Consider then and realize how evil and bitter it is for them when they forsake the Lord God, and have no awe of Him (Jer. 2:19). Two evil things are being done: they have abandoned the Lord God – the fountain of living water. And, they have dug for themselves cracked cisterns that can hold no water at all (Jer. 2:13 NLT).

They have forgotten the Lord God, and burn incense to worthless idols, which makes them stumble in their ways and in the ancient paths. They made them walk in bypaths, and on roads not built up (Jer. 18:15). The following is Matthew Henry's Commentary on this verse from Jeremiah:

Sinners call it liberty to live at large; whereas for a person to be a slave to their lusts, is the very worst slavery. They forsook God for idols. When people are parched with heat, and meet with cooling, refreshing streams, they use them. In these things people will not leave a certainty for an uncertainty; but, the ancient paths appointed by the Divine Law were left. They walked not in the highway, in which they might travel safely, but in a way which they must stumble; such is the way of idolatry, and such is the way of iniquity. This makes the land desolate and themselves miserable. Calamities may be borne, even if God's smile is upon us when under them; but, if He is displeased, and refuses His help, we are undone. Multitudes forget God and His Christ, and wander from the ancient paths, to walk in ways of their own devising; but, what will they do in the Day of Judgment?



Those who forsake the Lord, the Hope of Israel and the world, they will be put to shame. Those who turn away from Him will be written in the dust because they have forsaken the Lord, the Spring of Living Water.

But those who say, “Lord, You are the One I praise.” Believe when the Lord heals, they will be healed; when He saves, they will be saved (Jer. 17:13-14).

For God has given us His Word, and the Lord Himself goes before us and will be with us; He will never leave us nor forsake us. So do not be afraid; do not be discouraged (Deut. 31:8). Instead, be silent before God, Who has stirred up One from the east, calling Him in righteousness to His service.

He hands nations over to Him, and subdues kings before Him. He turns them to dust with His sword, to wind-blown chaff with His bow. He pursues them and moves on unscathed, by a path His feet have not traveled before. Who has done this and carried it through, calling forth the generations from the beginning? I, the Lord – with the first of them and with the last – I am He (Isa. 41:1-4).



Now those who are as the Bereans, who received the Message with great eagerness and examine the Scriptures every day to see if what is being said is true, are of noble character (Acts 17:11). Therefore, if any of you lacks wisdom, they should ask God, Who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to them (James 1:5). Let this request be made, "Lord, I have heard of Your fame; I stand in awe of Your deeds, O Lord. Renew them in our day, in our time make them known," Hab. 3:2.

For surely Lord, I was sinful at birth, sinful from the time my mother conceived me. Surely You desire Truth in the inner parts; You teach me wisdom in the inmost place. Cleanse me Lord with hyssop, and I will be clean; wash me, and I will be whiter than snow. Let me hear joy and gladness; let the bones that You've allowed to be crushed rejoice. Hide Your face from my sins, and blot out all my iniquity.

Lord, create in me a pure heart, and renew a steadfast spirit within me, O God. Do not cast me from Your presence, or take Your Holy Spirit from me. Restore to me the joy of Your salvation, and grant me a



willing spirit, to sustain me. Then I will teach transgressors Your ways, and sinners will turn back to You (Ps. 51:5-13).

For I will speak to them of my love and fear of the Lord, Who leads me beside quiet waters, He restores my soul. He guides me in paths of righteousness for His name's sake. Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for You, O Lord, are with me; Your rod and Your staff, they comfort me.

You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies. You anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows. Surely Goodness and Mercy and Love will follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever (Ps. 23:2-6).



So ask God for wisdom, but choose to believe and not doubt. For doubt causes a person to be like a wave of the sea, blown and tossed by the wind. A double-minded person is unstable in all their ways. How can they think they will receive anything from the Lord (James 1:6-8)?

But those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint (Isa. 40:31). For the Lord will renew your life; God's Word will sustain you in your old age (Ruth. 4:15):

“Listen to Me, you who remain of the House of God, you whom I have upheld since you were conceived, and have carried since your birth. Even to your old age and gray hair I am He, I am He Who will sustain you. I have made you, and I will carry you; I will sustain you and I will rescue you.”

“To whom will you compare Me or count Me equal? To whom will you liken Me that we may be compared? Some pour gold from their bags and weigh out silver on the scales; they hire a goldsmith to make it into a god, and they bow down and worship it. They lift it to their shoulders and carry it; they set it up in its place, and there it stands. From that spot it cannot move. Though one cries out to it, it does not answer; it cannot save them from their troubles.”

“Remember this, fix it in mind, take it to heart. Remember the former things, those of long ago; I am God, and there is

no other; I am God, and there is none like Me. I make known the end from the beginning, from ancient times, what is still to come. I say: My purpose will stand, and I will do all that I please. What I have said, that will I bring about; what I have planned, that will I do.”

Isa. 46:3-12



For those who have chosen to give praise to the name of God forever and ever knowing, believing, trusting Wisdom and Power are His. He changes times and seasons; He sets up kings and deposes them. He gives wisdom to the wise and knowledge to the discerning. He reveals deep and hidden things; He knows what lies in darkness, and Light dwells with Him.

For those who thank and praise, the Lord God of our fathers, Who gives us Wisdom and Power, Who makes known to us what we ask of Him (Dan. 2:20-23).

That we love because God first loved us (1 John 4:19), Who says:

“From now on I will tell you of new things, of hidden things unknown to you. Then you will know My grace is sufficient for you.”

Isa. 48:62, Cor. 12:9a

So be still before the Lord for He has roused Himself from His holy dwelling. The Lord will inherit Judah as His portion in the holy land and will again choose Jerusalem. Many nations will be joined with the Lord in that day, and they will become His people. He will live among them and they will know that God Almighty sent Him to us. So shout and be glad O Daughter of Zion for the Lord is coming and will live among you (Zech. 2:10-13).

For God has laid a Stone in Zion, a chosen and precious Cornerstone, and the one who trusts in Him will never be put to shame (1 Peter 2:6). But the day of the Lord will come like a thief. The heavens will disappear with a roar; the elements will be destroyed by fire, and the earth and everything in it will be laid bare (2 Peter 3:10).

But know, those who abide in Christ, in God’s Word, are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people belonging to God, that they may declare the praises of Him Who called us out of

darkness into His wonderful Light. Once we were not a people, but now we are the people of God; once we had not received mercy, but now we have received mercy (1 Peter 2:9-10).

The day of the Lord will bring the destruction of the heavens by fire, and the elements will melt in the heat. Since everything will be destroyed in this way, what kind of people ought we to be? We ought to live set apart from the ways of the world. Living holy and godly lives as we look forward to the day of God, and speed its coming. While keeping in God's promise we are looking forward to a new heaven and a new earth, the home of the righteous (2 Peter 3:11-13).



The Lord says:

“Come! Come! Flee from the coming wrath.”

Matt. 3:7

For there will be a day when this song will be sung in the land of Judah: We have a strong city; God makes salvation its walls and ramparts. Open the gates that the righteous nation may enter, the nation that keeps faith. The Lord will keep in perfect peace those

whose mind is steadfast, because they trust in Him; trust in the Lord forever, for the Lord, the Lord, is the Rock eternal (Isa. 26:1-4).

John wrote of the Revelation he received from God. When an angel carried him away in the Spirit to a mountain great and high, and showed him the Holy City, Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God. It shone with the glory of God, and its brilliance was like that of a very precious jewel, like a jasper, clear as crystal.

It had a great, high wall with twelve gates and with twelve angels at the gates. On the gates were written the names of the twelve tribes of Israel. There were three gates on the east, three on the north, three on the south and three on the west. The wall of the city had twelve foundations, and on them were the names of the twelve apostles of the Lamb.

The city was laid out like a square, as long as it was wide. The foundations of the city walls were decorated with every kind of precious stone. The first foundation was jasper, the second sapphire, the third chalcedony, the fourth emerald, the fifth sardonyx, the sixth carnelian, the seventh chrysolite, the eighth beryl, the ninth topaz, the tenth chrysoprase, the eleventh jacinth and the twelfth amethyst. The

twelve gates were twelve pearls, each gate made of a single pearl. The great street of the city was of pure gold, like transparent glass (Rev. 21:9-21).

The nations will walk by its light, and the kings of the earth will bring their splendor into it. On no day will its gates ever be shut, for there will be no night there. The glory and honor of the nations will be brought into it. Nothing impure will ever enter it, nor will anyone who does what is shameful or deceitful, but only those whose names are written in the Lamb's Book of Life (Rev. 21:24-27). So Come! Come! The Lord Himself will be a wall of fire around it, and He will be its glory within (Zech. 2:5-6).



From God's Word we receive faith and hope and love. From the Lord we receive salvation, deliverance and healing. From the Son of God we receive Truth and Life and Resurrection Power. From the Son of Man we receive strength and courage and victory. From the Lamb of God we receive mercy and grace and freedom. The Wisdom from God bestows upon us righteousness, holiness and redemption. All of this from Jesus, from Whom we receive forgiveness of sins, the washing of rebirth and renewal by Holy Spirit, and peace with God.

So shout and cheer, daughter Zion! Raise the roof, daughter Jerusalem! Your King is coming! A good King Who makes all things right; a humble King riding a donkey, a mere colt of a donkey. He will offer peace to the nations, a peaceful rule worldwide, from the four winds to the seven seas.

“And because of My blood covenant with you, I’ll release your prisoners from their hopeless cells. Come home, hope-filled prisoners!”

Zech. 9:9-12 Message



In the Bible, number 4 means creation. This number directly relates to the creative ability of God.

The earliest mention of number 4 is in the Book of Genesis. During the creation week, God finished the creations of what is termed “the material universe” on the 4<sup>th</sup> day. On that day, He made the stars, the moon, and the sun. These three things were created to give light to the world and to divide the days.



Days and night would become the mark of time, from days to weeks to months and to years. It would also be the mark of seasons which was used to identify different celebrations and feasts in the Bible.

Among everything that was created are 4 important elements which are earth, air, fire and water. There are also four major cardinal points on earth, which are North, South, East and West. Number 4 has a sense of completeness, for example Apostle Paul was the man who embodied four cultures in one: he lived in Rome, was a Christian and spoke Greek and Hebrew.

There are four evidences of God which are wonders, miracles, signs and gifts of Holy Spirit. Four corners create one land and four seasons create one year. The same completeness can be seen in the 4 Gospels from Matthew, Mark, Luke and John that compile one story of Jesus' life and mission. Matthew tells the story of Christ's genealogy, Mark retells the obstacles and sorrows Jesus went through during His age, Luke depicts the Son of Man as a perfect Creation and John proclaims Jesus as the only Son of God.

Also, the 4<sup>th</sup> commandment given to Moses on Mount Sinai says that we should keep the Sabbath Day holy at all times. This Sabbath Day

commandment is a direct reference to creation in the Book of Genesis. After creating the world and the heavenly bodies in 6 days, God rested on the 7<sup>th</sup> day and instructed man to always keep that day holy to signify the completion of the creation process. For on the seventh day, God covenants Himself to humanity, when He rests, blesses and makes holy the seventh day, and by that act enters into a covenant with Adam and Eve.

The above information was taken from the following websites:

<https://numerologynation.com/numerology/biblical/number-4/>

[http://numerology.center/biblical\\_numbers\\_number\\_4.php](http://numerology.center/biblical_numbers_number_4.php)

<https://www.catholicnewsagency.com/resource/55678/covenant-sacraments-divinely-linked>



The number four speaks to a sense of completeness, and the number seven not only speaks of completeness and perfection and rest, but it also speaks to redemption, rebirth, renewal, and reconciliation. As Heb. 4:2-11 explains, for indeed we have had the glad tidings (Gospel of God) proclaimed to us just as truly as the (the Israelites of old did when the Good News of deliverance from bondage came to them); but the message they heard did not benefit them, because it was not mixed with faith (with the leaning of the entire personality on God in

absolute trust and confidence in His power, wisdom and goodness) by those who heard it; neither were they united in faith with the ones (Joshua and Caleb) who heard and did believe.

For we who have believed (adhered to and trusted in and relied on God) to enter that rest, in accordance with His declaration that those (who did not believe) should not enter when He said:

“As I swore in My wrath, they shall not enter My rest!”

And this He said although His works had been completed and prepared (and waiting for all who would believe) from the foundation of the world.

For in a certain place God has said this about the seventh day: And God rested on the seventh day from all His works. And (they forfeited their part in it, for) in this passage He told us, they shall not enter His rest.



Seeing then that the promise remains over from past times for some to enter that rest, and that those who formerly were given the Good

News about it and the opportunity, failed to appropriate it and did not enter because of disobedience.

Again God sets a definite day, (a new) Today, (and gives another opportunity of securing that rest) saying through David after so long a time in the words already quoted, "Today, if you would hear His voice and when you hear it, do not harden your hearts."

(This mention of a rest was not a reference to their entering into Canaan, the Promised Land); for if Joshua had given them rest, God would not speak afterward about another day. So then, there is still awaiting a full and complete Sabbath-rest reserved for the people of God.

Those who have once entered God's rest also have ceased from the weariness of human labors, just as God rested from those labors peculiarly His own. Let us therefore be zealous and exert ourselves and strive diligently to enter that rest (of God, to know and experience it for ourselves), that no one may fall or perish by the same kind of unbelief and disobedience (into which those in wilderness fell) (AMP).

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This is what the Lord says:

“Stand at the crossroads and look; ask for the ancient paths, ask where the good way is, and walk in it, and you will find rest for your soul.”

“Listen to Me, you stubborn-hearted, you who are far from righteousness. I am bringing My righteousness near, it is not far away; and My salvation will not be delayed. I will grant salvation to Zion, My splendor to Israel.”

Jer. 6:16, Isa. 46:12-13

One of the definitions of the Biblical Greek word of salvation (Sozo) is the idea of restoration, wholeness or healthiness. God’s salvation is not merely forgiveness of sin so that we get to heaven someday, but a blueprint that includes our maturity and restoration, renewal and recovery.

Becoming emotionally whole and spiritually holy is the journey God desires for each of us as we work out our salvation within the context of our relationships. A healthy person will learn how to defend themselves against hurtful and abusive relationships, while allowing healthy and nurturing relationships to develop.

A healthy person uses their defenses to keep them safe from those who would bring harm. A healthy person knows when it is ok to relax and let their defenses down so they can enjoy open and healthy relationships.

Mature adults are flexible- they are capable of a range of defensive maneuvers ranging from reactive pain avoidance (moving away from a damaging situation), to constructive and adaptive efforts at problem solving (I see that Joan was hurt by what I said. I will apologize for hurting her with my words),

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They are able to meet their needs through this flexibility – the need to protect themselves and the need to connect with others. In contrast, adults who grew up in abusive homes or who have experienced trauma, often develop self-protective defenses and lack this flexibility.

At the time of the abuse or trauma, these defenses were a normal reaction of the body to protect itself. Unfortunately, many of these defenses are based on lies.

As a person matures if these lies are not dealt with they will be carried over into adulthood and become strongholds in their lives. When the abuse or trauma has been resolved, but these lies have not been dealt with the person operates at a level of defensiveness that causes isolation and fear that can influence a person's life.

How can we know if these lies are still in their belief systems? What truths can we use to replace these lies? Sometimes these defenses are easy to recognize, but many times they are not. We must take time to recognize and understand how we relate to ourselves and others.

The following information provides some of the most recognizable actions of someone believing defensive lies. It addresses (1) area affected: Spiritual, Personal, Relational, Rational, Emotional, Volitional and Behavioral (2) lies believed, and (3) Truth as found in God's Word - Scripture.

### **SPIRITUAL**

- A deep sense of being unlovable, unforgivable which leads to feeling alienated from a disappointed and angry 'god'

- Instead: A deep sense of 'Belovededness.' The idea of being fully known, fully loved and freely forgiven by our loving Father, God

1. Jesus said, "There was a man who had two sons. The younger one said to his father, "Father, give me my share of the estate.' So he divided his property between them.

"Not long after that, the younger son got together all he had, set off for a distant country and there squandered his wealth in wild living. After he had spent everything, there was a severe famine in that whole country, and he began to be in need. So he went and hired himself out to a citizen of that country, who sent him to his fields to feed pigs. He longed to fill his stomach with the pods that the pigs were eating, but no one gave him anything."

"When he came to his senses, he said, 'How many of my father's hired men have food to spare, and here I am starving to death! I will set out and go back to my father and say to him: Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son; make me like one of your hired men.' So he got up and went to his father."



"But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion for him; he ran to his son, threw his arms around him and kissed him."

"The son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son.'

"But the father said to his servants, 'Quick! Bring the best robe and put it on him. Put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. Bring the fattened calf and kill it. Let's have a feast and celebrate. For this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.' So they began to celebrate," Luke 15:11-25

2. Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall trouble or hardship or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or sword? As it is written: "For your sake we face death all day long; we are considered as sheep to be slaughtered." No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loves us. For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord (Rom. 8:35-39)

3. Remember, that at that time you were separate from Christ, excluded from citizenship in Israel and foreigners to the covenants of the promise, without hope and without God in the world. But now, in Christ Jesus you who were once far away have been brought near through the blood He shed (Eph. 2:12-13)

4. Anyone who listens to the Word but does not do what the Lord says is like someone who looks at their face in a mirror and, after looking at themselves, goes away and immediately forgets what they look like. But, the person who looks intently into the perfect law of the Spirit of Life (Rom. 8:2) that gives freedom, and continues to do this, not forgetting what they have heard, but doing it – they will be blessed in what they do (James 1:23-25)

### **PERSONAL**

- A deep sense of being hopelessly flawed, inadequate and worthless is inclined toward unbiblical shame
- Instead: Shift the focus to God's adequacy rather than our own

1. It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the Kingdom of God. The disciples were even more amazed, and said to each other, "Who then can be saved?" Jesus looked at them and said:

"With man this is impossible, but not with God; all things are possible with God."

Mark 10:24-27

2. Now to Him Who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to His power that is at work within us, to Him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, forever and ever! Amen (Eph. 3:20-21)
3. Therefore Jesus is able to save completely those who come to God through Him, because He always lives to intercede for them (Heb. 7:25)
4. What if some did not have faith? Will their lack of faith nullify God's faithfulness? Not at all! Let God be true, and every man a liar. As it is written: "So that You, O Lord, may be proved right when

You speak, and prevail when You judge!" God's words will always prove true and right, no matter who questions them (Rom. 3:3-4)

## RELATIONAL

- Insecure in the sense of belonging, but has a deep need to earn acceptance and approval from other people
- Instead: A secure sense of belonging and ultimate acceptance with a growing capacity to tolerate constructive criticism

1. The Lord has declared:

"I know the plans I have for you! Plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future."

Jer. 29:11

2. Paul wrote in 1 Cor. 4:3: I care very little if I am judged by you or by any human court; indeed, I do not even judge myself

3. Accept one another, then, just as Christ accepted you, in order to bring praise to God (Rom. 15:7)

4. God, Who knows the heart, showed that He accepted us by giving us His Holy Spirit. He makes no distinction for He purifies our heart by faith (Acts 15:8-9)

### RATIONAL

- Many lies about God, self and others
- Instead: Increasingly truthful reasoning as the mind is continually being renewed by the Word of God

1. I have hidden Your Word in my heart that I might not sin against You  
(Ps.119:11)

2. Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is - His good, pleasing and perfect will (Rom.12:2)

3. Whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable – if anything is excellent or praiseworthy – think about such things (Phil.4:8)

4. Fix your thoughts on Jesus, the Apostle and High Priest Whom we confess (Heb.3:1)

Reflect on what I am saying, for the Lord will give you insight into all this (2 Tim.2:7)

5. Whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God (1 Cor.10:31)

### EMOTIONAL

- Sadness, depression, anxiety and anger
- Instead: experience a full range of emotions usually expressing them appropriately

1. In your anger do not sin; when you are on your beds, search your heart and be silent (Ps. 4:4)

2. Beloved, do not forget My teaching, but keep My commands in your heart, for they will prolong your life many years and bring you prosperity (Prov. 3:1-2)
  
3. In your anger do not sin: Do not let the sun go down while you are still angry, and do not give the devil a foothold. Those who have been stealing must steal no longer, but must work, doing something useful with their own hands, that they may have something to share with those in need (Eph. 4:26-28)
  
4. At one time we too were foolish, disobedient, deceived and enslaved by all kinds of passions and pleasures. We lived in malice and envy, being hated and hating one another. But, when the kindness and love of God our Savior appeared, He saved us, not because of righteous things we had done, but because of His mercy. He saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by Holy Spirit, Whom, He poured out on us generously through Jesus Christ our Savior, so that, having been justified by His grace, we might become heirs having the hope of eternal life (Titus 3:3-8)

## VOLITIONAL

- Choices are made to gain and maintain acceptance from other people
- Instead: Consistently responsible, biblically informed choices with increasing willingness to own them and their consequences

1. They loved praise from people more than praise from God  
(John 12:43)
2. Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the Author and Perfecter of our faith, Who for the joy set before Him endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. Consider Him Who endured such opposition from sinful men, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart. In your struggle against sin, you have not yet resisted to the point of shedding your blood  
(Heb. 12:2-4)
3. If anyone lacks wisdom, they should ask God, Who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to them  
(James 1:5)



4. Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge Him, and He will make your paths straight. Do not be wise in your own eyes; fear the Lord and shun evil. This will bring health to your body, and nourishment to your bones (Prov. 3:5-8)

### **BEHAVIORAL**

- An unbalanced focus on relationships with others leads to “neediness” and overwhelming others
- Instead: Increasingly mature, Christ-like actions, characterized by genuine conviction and compassion

1. If by the Spirit you put to death the misdeeds of the body, you will live, because those who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God. For you did not receive a spirit that makes you a slave again to fear, but you received the Spirit of Sonship. By Him we cry, “Abba, Father.” The Spirit Himself testifies with our spirit that we are God’s children. Now if we are God’s children, then we are heirs – heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ, if indeed we share in His sufferings in order that we may also share in His glory (Rom. 8:13-17)

2. Live by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the sinful nature. For the sinful nature desires what is contrary to the Spirit and the Spirit what is contrary to the sinful nature. They are in conflict with each other (Gal. 5:16-17)
  
3. Consider it pure joy, beloved, whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith develops perseverance. Perseverance must finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything (James 1:2-4)
  
4. Blessed are those who persevere under trial, because when they have stood the test, they will receive the crown of life that God has promised to those who love Him. When tempted, no one should say, "God is tempting me." For God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does He tempt anyone; but each one is tempted when, by their own desire, they are dragged away and enticed. Then, after desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, gives birth to death (James 1:12-15)
  
5. Don't be deceived, beloved. Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, Who

does not change like shifting shadows. He chose to give us birth through the Word of Truth (James 1:16-18)

6. It is by grace you have been saved, through faith – and this is not from yourself, it is the gift of God – not by works, so that no one can boast. We are God’s workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do (Eph. 2:8-10)
7. Yes, Adam’s one sin brings condemnation for everyone, but Christ’s one act of righteousness brings a right relationship with God and new life for everyone. Because one person disobeyed God, many became sinners. But, because Jesus obeyed God, many will be made righteous.

God’s law was given so that all people could see how sinful they were. But as people sinned more and more, God’s wonderful grace became more abundant. So just as sin ruled over all people and brought them to death, now God’s wonderful grace rules instead, giving us right standing with God and resulting in eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord (Rom. 5:18-21 NLT)

“How to Recognize Self-Protective Defenses and the Lies Behind Them,” HVMI and REST Ministries

<https://static1.squarespace.com/static/53d01de8e4b00188fd0c5fd6/t/542c94fde4b0137c7e560a33/1412207869736/Defensive+Personality+-+REST+Min+Resource.pdf>



Yes, God pours out His grace so it's abundantly overflowing, and that grace can save everyone (Titus 2:11 ERV). Whoever will listen let them listen, and whoever will refuse let them refuse (Ezek. 3:27). These are the words of God:

“The knowledge of the secrets of the Kingdom of Heaven has been given to you, but not to them. Whoever has will be given more, and they will have an abundance. Whoever does not have, even what they have will be taken from them. This is why I speak to them in parables:”

“Though seeing, they do not see; though hearing, they do not hear or understand. In them is fulfilled the prophecy of Isaiah:”

“You will be ever hearing but never understanding; you will be ever seeing but never perceiving. For this people's heart

have become calloused; they hardly hear with their ears, and they have closed their eyes. Otherwise, they might see with their eyes, hear with their ears, understand with their heart and turn, and I would heal them. But blessed are the eyes that see and the ears that hear.”

Matt. 13:11-16



God used His complete authority and power, and swore by Himself to an unchangeable purpose and plan (Heb. 6:13). Taking an oath to obligate Himself, making a vow as a free-will offering, binding Himself to promise - salvation comes through faith.

God has given us His Word so Truth could be known. He is bound by His testimony life is in Christ Jesus, and by His promise that Holy Spirit is the guarantee that what is mortal (our dying body) may be swallowed up by everlasting life (2 Cor. 5:4-5 AMP). God gave us His oath and His vow, and what He accomplished was to save Himself to mankind through covenant.

Covenant - a formal, solemn and binding agreement made in the formation of a relationship of commitment (an agreement to carry through (as a process) to completion. For God has promised:

“My grace is sufficient for you, for My power is made perfect in weakness.”

2 Cor. 12:9



So ask God to give you spiritual wisdom and insight so that you might grow in your knowledge of Him; that your heart would be flooded with Light so you can understand the confident hope He has given to those who have heard the call of Holy Spirit to come for God’s holy people are His rich and glorious inheritance (Eph. 1:17-18 NLT).

Yes, ask God for revelation so you can understand His incomparably great power for those who believe. That power is like the working of His mighty strength that He exerted in Christ when He raised Him from the dead and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly realms (Eph. 1:19-20).



God's divine power has given us everything we need for life and godliness through our knowledge of Him Who calls us by His own glory and goodness. Through these He has given us His very great and precious promises, so that through them we may participate in the divine nature and escape the corruption in the world caused by evil desires (2 Peter 1:3-4).

When we share in relationship with our heavenly Father, we embark on a spiritual journey of renewal and recovery. We enter a process of progression not perfection. For this very reason, we ought to be making every effort to add to our faith goodness; and to goodness knowledge; and to knowledge self-control; and to self-control perseverance; and to perseverance godliness; and to godliness brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness love.

If we possess these qualities in ever-increasing measure, they will keep us from being ineffective and unproductive in our knowledge of the Lord Jesus Christ. But, if anyone does not have them, they are near-sighted and blind, and have forgotten that they have been cleansed from their past sins (2 Peter 1:5-9).

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God created man and woman to become as one. This is why a man shall leave his father and his mother and shall cleave to his wife, his helpmate (spouse, partner, soul mate), and they shall become one flesh (Gen. 2:24 AMP).

Marriage was always intended to be a life-long commitment based on Love (respect, esteem, delight in). God blesses us to be fruitful (productive, yielding, original). Not secondary or counterfeit or fraudulent; instead, an original design – God’s masterpiece (Eph. 2:10a NLT).

The Lord has called us back from our grief – as though we were young wives abandoned by our husband. The Lord of Heaven’s Armies is our Redeemer, the Holy One of Israel, the God of all the earth. Our Creator will be our Husband. So fear not; we will no longer live in shame. Don’t be afraid; there is no more disgrace for us. We will no longer remember the shame of our youth, and the sorrows (of actual or emotional) widowhood (Isa. 54:4-6 NLT).

We are God’s workmanship (NIV); He has created us anew in Christ Jesus, so we can do the good things He planned for us long ago (Eph. 2:10 NLT). So cry out to God Most High, to God, Who fulfills his



purpose for us (Ps. 57:2). For God's gifts and His call are irrevocable. (He never withdraws them when once they are given, and He does not change His mind about those to whom He gives His grace or to whom He sends His call (Rom. 11:29 AMP). God's Word reveals the Father's heart and shares His promises:

"I will not violate My covenant, or alter what My lips have uttered. Though the mountains be shaken and the hills removed, yet My unfailing love for you will not be shaken, nor My covenant of peace be removed."

Ps. 89:31, Isa. 54:10



God sends from heaven and saves us, rebuking the enemy who hotly pursues. God sends His love and His faithfulness (Ps. 57:2-3); so we can be confident of this, that He Who began a good work in us will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus (Phil. 1:6).

When we join hands with our heavenly Husband, and enter into His covenant of hope and faithfulness, a promise of honor is received by faith that God will guard us and keep us in perfect and constant peace

whose mind is stayed on Him, because we commit ourselves to Him, we lean on Him and hope confidently in Him (Isa. 26:3 AMP).

Placing our faith in another isn't something to be talked about, faith is to be actively demonstrated. The purpose and plan of the prince of this world, Satan himself, is to steal and kill and destroy the faith and hope and love we share with one another, so that fear and confusion and anger will push our heart and mind far from God.



There are stories in the Bible that remind us to think about those who through faith conquered kingdoms, administered justice, and gained what was promised; who shut the mouths of lions, quenched the fury of flames, and escaped the edge of the sword; whose weakness was turned to strength; and who became powerful in battle and routed foreign armies.

Women received back their dead, raised to life again. Others were tortured and refused to be released, so they might gain a better resurrection. Some faced jeers and flogging, while still others were chained and put in prison. They were stoned; they were sawed in two; they were put to death by the sword. They went about in sheepskins

and goatskins, destitute, persecuted and mistreated – the world was not worthy of them. They wandered in deserts and mountains, and in caves and holes in the ground.

These were all commended for their faith, yet none of them received what had been promised. God had planned something better for us so that only together with us would they be made perfect (Heb. 11:32-40 NLT). Yes, a better hope was introduced, by which we draw near to God. And it was not without an oath!

Others became priest without any oath, but Jesus became a priest with an oath when God said to Him:

“The Lord has sworn, and will not change His mind,  
Your are a Priest forever.”

Because of this oath, Jesus has become the guarantee of a better covenant (Heb. 7:19-22).



Although Jesus was the Son of God, He learned obedience from what He suffered, and once made perfect, He became the source of eternal

life for all who obey Him, and was designated by God to be High Priest in the order of Melchizedek (Heb. 5:8-9).

And furthermore, it is not angels who will control the future world we are talking about. For in one place the Scriptures say, “What is man that You are mindful of him, or a son of man that You take care of him? Yet, You made him a little lower than the angels; You have crowned him with glory and honor, and set him over the works of Your hands. You have put all things in subjection under his feet,” Heb. 2:5-8a NKJV.

Jesus came to His disciples and said:

“All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to Me. Therefore, go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”

“Look, I have given you authority over all the power of the enemy, and you can walk among snakes and scorpions and crush them. Nothing will injure you. But, don’t rejoice

because evil spirits obey you; rejoice because your names are registered in heaven.”

Matt. 28:18-20, Luke 10:19-20 NLT

God put all in subjection under man's feet, He left nothing that is not put under him. But we have not yet seen all things put under man's authority. What we see Jesus, Who was made a little lower than the angels, for the suffering of death now crowned with glory and honor, that He, by the grace of God, might taste death for everyone (Heb. 2:6-9 NKJV).



Yes, by God's grace, Jesus tasted death for everyone. God, for Whom and through Whom everything was made, chose to bring many children into glory. And, it was only right that He should make Jesus, through His suffering, a perfect Leader, fit to bring them into their salvation.

So now Jesus and the ones He makes holy have the same Father. That is why Jesus is not ashamed to call them His brothers and sisters. For He said to God,

“I will proclaim Your name to My brothers and sisters. I will praise You among Your assembled people. I will put My trust in You, I and the children You have given Me.”

Because God’s children are human beings – made of flesh and blood – the Son also became flesh and blood. For only as a human being could He die, and only by dying could He break the power of the devil, who had the power of death. Only in this way could He set free all who have lived their lives as slaves to the fear of dying (Heb. 2:8b-15 NLT).



Paul wrote in first Cor. 15:45-47 the spiritual did not come first, but the natural, and after that the spiritual. The first man Adam became a living being, the last Adam, a life-giving spirit. The first man was of the dust of the earth, the second man from heaven. A covenant was established from the very beginning so mankind would know, work at and experience a committed relationship; one to be valued and treasured as each individual works toward common goals.

The root idea of a covenant is that which binds together each party (as in the case of marriage the interests and well-being of each other).

Throughout the generations God has given His Word because He is interested and concerned and invested in our well-being.

In Isaiah 55:11(AMP) God assures:

“My Word that goes forth out of My mouth shall not return to me void (without producing any effect), but shall accomplish that which I please and purpose, and shall prosper in the thing for which I sent it.”

God has given His Word so those who chose can take the hand of Jesus. Promises and vows are exchanged:

“This is how you know Love, I laid down My life for you.”

1 John 3:16

This is how You, Lord Jesus, will know my love, I lay down my life to be in a covenant relationship with You. To be wedded as Husband and wife, to have and to hold from this day forward, for better, for worse, for richer, for poorer, in sickness and in health, to love and to cherish, till death do I pledge You my faith, my hope and my love.

“I AM with you always, to the very end of the age.”

Matt. 28:20



God’s Word falls upon us like the gentle rain and dew, like rain upon the tender grass, like showers on the hillside. And I will proclaim the greatness of the Lord. How glorious He is! He is the Rock. His work is perfect. Everything He does is just and fair. He is faithful, without sin (Deut. 32:2-4 TLB). And though I go to sleep, my heart shall stay awake to hear the voice of my Beloved.

“Open to Me, My love, My dove, My spotless one who has received forgiveness of sins, and a place among those who are sanctified by faith in Me. By allowing God to sanctify you with the Truth; His Word is Truth. That you My bride will be made ready for the wedding of the Lamb. For this covenant we share is the ultimate of marriage vows for the Kingdom of God is “within you.” You have made a present and ongoing commitment to trust and to be in communion with God, to enjoy a loving relationship as a child, a loving and faithful son to your heavenly Father.”





Of course, doing an in depth study on the particulars of a covenant would surely bring about better understanding. However, current statistics make it apparent opinion that stems (hinders, ruins, concludes) from independent thoughts, feelings and beliefs are given greater substantial (meaningful, weighty, decisive) value than being dependent on the Truth, which proceeds (advances, yields, wind falls) a person receives from the Word of God, for Jesus is the only Way to the Father.

There is so much lack, so much want in our world, and yet God's Word is continued to be ignored, neglected or completely rejected. When we consider how deterioration (weakening, breakup, decline) of not only our marriages, but the world in general as a result of doing as Adam betraying, shaming, blaming, criticizing, raging....these ways are tearing us apart.

There are so many voices that have joined together to rise as Goliaths coming against the ways of God to oppress and destroy. I have heard people blaspheme God by questioning His goodness because there is

so much evil in this world. I am but one voice that I pray will be heard  
Enough is Enough! The hands of God have not produced the  
immorality, confusion, blasphemy and carnage that is so blatantly  
apparent. This would be as a result of the hands of human beings!

My prayer, my hope is for voices to be united not in protest to  
aggravate and belittle, but with a heartfelt proclivity (custom, practice,  
flair) for revealing God's goodness. In Acts 2:44 Luke told of hands  
working together to make a difference, and hearts that joined together  
to become trailblazers for a new and more excellent way. A way with a  
course plotted through the raging and force-filled currents of this  
world. A way that has continued to be forged at tremendous cost the  
loss of blood, but definitely not the loss of life.



In heaven there is an altar, and underneath it are the souls of all who  
have been martyred for spreading the Word of God and for being  
faithful in their testimony. The Lord knows each voice that has asked,  
“O Sovereign Lord, holy and true, how long before You judge the  
people of the earth and avenge our blood for what they have done to  
us?”

A white robe has been given to those who have been told to rest a little longer. Rest, until the full number of their brethren – the fellow servants of God’s Word, Christ Jesus – who are to be martyred have joined them (Rev. 6:8-11).

Why hide in fear covered with layers of denial – rationalizing, avoiding, blaming, minimizing, criticizing, complaining...? Let God’s Word fill your soul:

“Arise, shine, for your Light has come, and the glory of the Lord rises upon you. See, darkness covers the earth, and thick darkness is over the peoples. BUT GOD, He sent His Word to rise within you so His glory can appear all over you. Let the nations come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your dawn.”

Isa. 60: 1-3

Why be overtaken by fear and guilt and shame? Let the Word of God, the Lover of your soul, fill your heart:

“Arise, My darling, My beautiful one, and come with Me. See! The winter is past. Your hard service has been

completed, and your sin has been paid for. You have received from God's hand a double portion."

SS 2:10-11a, Isa. 40:2

God's Word has been given as Surety so a life with an abundance of peace and joy and contentment can be enjoyed right now, right here on earth. God also bestows an eternal inheritance - life in heaven where every Hope and Promise and the Word God has spoken will be fulfilled.



Yes, let the words from the Lover of your soul penetrate to the depths of your core:

"The rains are over and gone my love. Let Truth be seen in you, because the darkness is passing and the true Light is already shining."

SS 2:11b, 1 John 2:8

There are woes and tribulation to come upon the earth, but know the kingdom of our God and of His Christ will reign forever and ever (Rev. 11:14-15).

Flowers appear on the earth (SS 2:12a) because the God of Israel has been like the dew and the night mist to His people so they can blossom like a lily (Hosea 14:5). A quick google search about lilies – they represent rebirth and hope, just as the resurrection does in the Christian faith. Lilies are also mentioned and alluded to several times in the Bible. Some think that it was white lilies that sprouted in the Garden of Eden as Eve’s remorseful tears fell to the ground.



Who is discerning let them listen carefully and they will understand. The ways of the Lord are true and right, and righteous people live by walking in them. However, the rebellious stumble and fall (Hosea 14:9). Doubting, refusing to believe the season of singing has come (SS 2:11b).

However, blessed are the people who know the joyful sound! Who walk in the light of the Lord’s presence rejoicing all day long in His name; In His righteousness they are exalted for He is the glory of their strength (Ps. 89:15-17).

Those who have waited patiently for the Lord, Who inclined to us and heard our cry; He brought us up out of a horrible pit, out of the miry

clay to set our feet upon a Rock and established our steps (moving us into renewal and recovery. Bestowing tools to help us overcome - Truth and accountability and gratitude). The Lord has put a new song in our mouth to give praise to our God.

Many will see and fear God's Word (Ps. 40:1-3a), Who is worthy to take the scroll and to open its seals, because He was slain. With His blood Jesus purchased people for God from every tribe and language and people and nation. He has made us to be a kingdom and priests to serve our God, and to reign upon the earth (Rev. 5:9-10).



Praise God, for many will come to trust in the Lord, and be blessed for making God's Word their trust. Not respecting the proud nor those who are turned aside to lies and deception. Many are the wonderful works of the Lord our God, which He has done. His thoughts toward us cannot be recounted to Him in order. If we would declare and speak of them, they would be more than can be numbered (Ps. 40:3b-5).

Yes, those who trust in Jesus have heard the Word of Truth (Eph. 1:13a) as the cooing of doves is heard in our land (SS 2:12c). They have believed the Gospel of their salvation and were sealed with the Spirit

of Promise, Who is the guarantee of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, to the praise of God's glory (Eph. 1:13b-14).



Jesus has been raised to reign over the people of the God of Hope, to fill us with all joy and peace in believing so we may abound in hope by the power of Holy Spirit (Rom.15:12-13).

As the fig tree forms its early fruit (SS 2:13a) the Lord God will cause righteousness and praise to spring forth before all the nations (Isa. 61:11). For God sends His Word so we would prosper and go out with joy and be led out with peace (Isa. 55:11-12), with confidence that just as the garden causes the things that are sown in it to spring forth (SS 2:13b) so too will praise and thanksgiving to God.

For in Christ Jesus God always leads us in triumph (as trophies of the Lord's victory) and through us spreads and makes evident the fragrance of the knowledge of God everywhere.

Those who believe and trust in God's way to life in heaven are the sweet fragrance of Christ (which exhales) unto the Father, (discernible

alike) among those who are being saved and among those who are perishing (2 Cor. 2:14-15 AMP), for Truth is hard to handle until embraced. The cause of all the quarreling and fighting must be known. If it is thought they are just happening, think again! They are sparked by the selfish desires that make war within us.



There are things that others have that are wanted and longed for. Though they can't be afforded, there is a willingness to fight and kill for them. Jealousy causes a desire for what belongs to others, and violence is a means to get what is wanted. Why all the arguing, fighting and murder? Requests are not made of God.

Why are the things that are wanted not received? Wrong motives! Asking for what will give personal pleasure, like a child who is spoiled wants their own way or an unfaithful spouse now cheating on God.

Wanting things to go in the way of self-interest, flirting with the world and making friends with the enemies of God – worry, anxiety, greed, immorality.... The evil pleasures of this world have caused many to become an enemy of God.





If the desire and goal is to enjoy and covet what the world has friendship with God will not be found. So many suppose God doesn't care thinking the Scriptures have no meaning. However, the Word of God assures the Spirit God made to live within us is a fiercely jealous Lover, Who tenderly watches over us. He gives us more and more strength through the power of Grace to stand against all such evil desires.

God gives strength to the humble, but sets Himself against the proud and the haughty (James 4:1-6 Message). So come out from those layers of deception and denial so the Word of Truth can prevail:

*“Arise, come My darling, My beautiful one, come with Me. As with Noah I desire to establish My covenant with you, so you and your family can enter the Chuppah of My covering,”* SS 2:13, Gen. 6:18

God is waiting patiently for these days are becoming as those of Noah who faithfully built that ark. One hundred and ten years people

watched and jeered but only eight were saved through water (1 Peter 3:20).



The number eight in the Bible represents a new beginning, new horizons and a bright future. It gives meaning to a new order or creation, and man's true 'born again' event when he is resurrected from the dead into eternal life.

Like the Old Testament Passover lamb, Jesus was selected as the Lamb to take away the sins of the world on the Hebrew day of Nisan 10 (April 1, 30 A.D.). Jesus was crucified on Nisan 14 (Wednesday April 5<sup>th</sup> 30 A.D.). His resurrection occurred, exactly as He stated, three days and three nights after He was buried, which was at the end of the weekly Sabbath day that fell on Nisan 17 (seventeen symbolizes victory).

Nisan 17 was also the eighth day, counting inclusively, from the time Jesus was selected as man's sacrificial Lamb the 10<sup>th</sup> to the 17<sup>th</sup> of April 30 A.D. All this bears record of Jesus' perfect sacrifice and His complete victory over death. Information taken from the Bible Study website – <https://www.biblestudy.org/bibleref/meaning-of-numbers-in-bible/8.html>



The waters of Noah symbolize baptism that now saves you also – not the removal of dirt from the body but the pledge (covenant) of a good conscience toward God. It saves you by the resurrection of Jesus Christ, Who has gone into heaven and is at God’s right hand – with angels, authorities and powers being made subject unto Him (1 Peter 3:21-22).

Are you willing to subdue those thoughts and desires and feelings that rise up in your earthen vessel, and make them subject to the Word of Truth? For surely, blessed are those who are invited to join their Bridegroom at the wedding supper of the Lamb. Those who have committed to place their faith and hope in God believing His Word is true (Rev. 19:9).

Allowing God to help free you from the errors in your thinking so you can come to know His will for you (2 Tim. 2:25-26) by:

PUTTING INTO PRACTICE THESE PRINCIPLES  
FOR TAKING STEPS TOWARD  
RENEWAL AND RECOVERY

## TO BE MORE GOD-DEPENDENT INSTEAD OF CO-DEPENDENT

- The first key is to maintain an honest view of reality not only considering particular circumstances and events as substantial, but recognizing the substance (essence, personification, nature) of Truth – the Life, the Alpha and Omega, the heart and the spirit as we work on taking steps of faith remembering:
  - God exists and I matter to Him
  - Admitting I am powerless
  - Acknowledging in certain areas my life became unmanageable
  - Believing God will restore me with Love, a Sound Mind and Power
  - Believing God will help me stay committed to this decision to put all of who I am into His possession and safekeeping
  - Believing the Word of God will encourage, support and strengthen me as I make a searching and fearless moral inventory of myself
  - Because of God’s loving-kindness I have become willing to admit to God, to myself and another person the exact nature of my wrongs

- With Truth as my solid foundation I have become entirely ready to have God remove all my defects of character
- Having received faith and hope and love for the Surety God has given I humbly ask Him to remove my shortcomings
- Having gained knowledge and insight and understanding I have become willing to make a list of anyone I have harmed, and to make an amends to them all
- Having gained confidence and trust in God's refuge I have become willing to step out with the mindset I am doing this with and for His glory to make my amends whenever possible unless to do so would cause injury to others
- I embrace my covenant relationship with the Father, Son and Holy Spirit by continuing to take a personal moral inventory, and when I am wrong being prompt to admit it
- I invest in my relationship with God by communicating through prayer and meditation to improve my conscious contact with Him seeking knowledge of His will and the power of grace to carry that out
- I seek Revival, Restoration and Reconciliation, a spiritual awakening, as a result of taking steps to carry God's message to others and to practice these principles in all my affairs



- Taking these steps means we acknowledge the most difficult thing to open, is a closed mind
- Stubbornness and self-reliance are not the only reasons for the development of a closed mind, fear buried deep in memories of events has the ability to make them seem to be happening all over again -- Right Now – through nightmares, flashbacks and intrusive thoughts
- Seemingly as though we Can't Tell Time, the grip of emotional pain is so powerful that it can make time stand still
- Memories of pain you went through long ago can be so vivid it seems as though it happened yesterday
- There is good news -- the flashbacks, nightmares and intrusive thoughts you experience are actually gifts in disguise to help you learn to make sense out of them
- We struggle with wanting to go back to the past, particularly our own past, because of the pain of our guilt
- While we're being honest, our anxieties about the future would compel us to take a sneak peak

- Jesus talked to Moses and Elijah, during His transformation, in a completely natural and comfortable way

Jesus' appearance underwent a change in their presence; and His face shone clear and bright like the sun, and His clothing became as white as light. And behold, there appeared to them Moses and Elijah, who kept talking with Him, Matthew 17:2-3 AMP.

- We know that what happens on the "Mountaintop" affects how we live in the "Valley" where we dwell every day
- When you have survived emotional trauma, you know all too well how your mind can, in a single leap, go back and grab a memory of a troublesome event that occurred perhaps decades ago
- The mind can make it seem as though the disturbing episode is happening again right now
- Trauma makes time collapse
- The normal rules of time appear to be suspended
- There you are, reliving an event that happened long ago that you would much rather forget
- A big part of the process is learning that trauma truly "Can't Tell Time"

- During this journey of renewal and recovery, learn to stay grounded in the present, and you will no longer be the victim of your own thoughts that have the power to transform your mind into a chamber of horrors
- By staying grounded in the present, your mind will be freed up to become fertile ground for your creativity that is just waiting to be awakened and used in the service of our Lord and Savior
- Emotional trauma has the power to overwhelm us -- if you have not done so, get an experienced support person to help during this process of your own personal transformation

“And this is my prayer: that your love may abound more and more in knowledge and depth of insight, so that you may be able to discern what is best and may be pure and blameless until the day of Christ, filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ – to the glory and praise of God,”  
Philippians 1:9-11