

## GOD REMEMBERS

God remembered Noah and all the wild animals and the livestock that were with him in the ark, and He sent a wind over the earth, and the waters receded. Now the springs of the deep and the floodgates of the heavens had been closed, and the rain had stopped falling from the sky. The water receded steadily from the earth. At the end of the hundred and fifty days the water had gone down, and on the seventeenth day of the seventh month the ark came to rest on the mountains of Ararat.

After forty days Noah opened the window he had made in the ark and sent out a raven, and it kept flying back and forth until the water had dried up from the earth. Then he sent out a dove to see if the water had receded from the surface of the ground. But the dove could find no place to set its feet because there was water over all the surface of the earth; so it returned to Noah in the ark. He reached out his hand and took the dove and brought it back to himself in the ark.

Noah waited seven more days and again sent out the dove from the ark. When the dove returned to him in the evening, there in its beak was a freshly plucked olive leaf! Then Noah knew that the water had

receded from the earth. He waited seven more days and sent the dove out again, but this time it did not return to him.

By the first day of the first month of Noah's six hundred and first year, the water had dried up from the earth. Noah then removed the covering from the ark and saw that the surface of the ground was dry.

By the twenty-seventh day of the second month the earth was completely dry. Then God said to Noah, "Come out of the ark," God blessed Noah and his sons, saying to them, "Be fruitful and increase in number and fill the earth."

Then God said to Noah and to his sons with him:

"I now establish My covenant, and this is the sign of the covenant I am making between Me and you, and your descendants and every living creature with you, a covenant for all generations to come: I have set My rainbow in the clouds, and it will be the sign of the covenant between Me and the earth."

"Whenever I bring clouds over the earth and the rainbow appears in the clouds, I will remember My covenant. Never

again will the waters become a flood to destroy all life.

Whenever the rainbow appears in the clouds, I will see it and remember the everlasting covenant between God and all living creatures of every kind on the earth.”

Gen. 8:1-9:16



This booklet “God Remembers” is the last of the series of 25. I have been working on these with this purpose in mind: There are so many reasons for us to remember God, Who throughout these many, many years has sent someone to reveal Himself and His Word, and restore the lost to their rightful home.

As Ps. 68:11 says, the Lord gives the Word, and a great army brings the Good News. Yes, Noah was among those numbered in God’s great army. For over a hundred years he spoke of God as he built that great ark, itself being a testament to the devastation that was to fall upon the earth. And, according to the story no one outside his family bothered to really, truly listen.

No one knew God had a plan which the enemy works to destroy for so much of humanity. A plan not just for healing, deliverance and

salvation so Life could one day be restored in heaven; but, a plan and a purpose for every person living on earth! The enemy could not thwart the eternal plan and purpose of God, but the loss of His individualized plans to bless and multiple Good upon the earth – countless.



If we only perceive with our natural ability what occurred during the days of Noah it's easy to understand how someone may view Good as a mystery. However, if we move the remaining mass of flesh out of our line of vision our spiritual eyes might provide us discernment.

1 Peter 3:20 tells us God waited patiently in the days of Noah while that ark was being built for people to hear His Word, turn from their wrong doing and repent. But, of course they didn't, and only eight were saved through water.

BUT GOD, His plan included all mankind even those who disobeyed so very long ago. God's anointed, His Christ, died for sin once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, to bring the lost back to God. Jesus was put to death in the body, but made alive by Holy Spirit, through Whom the Lord went and preached to those who were imprisoned

since the flood. How many – countless! The enemy does not have the ability to thwart God’s goodness.



This is my hope that there is a willingness to move that mass of flesh out of the way because the things of God must be spiritually discerned. In the Beginning, when we started this series we discovered Holy Spirit hovering over the earth. There are so many earthen vessels that remain spiritually unformed.

Like sheep they are appointed for Sheol (the place of the dead); Death shall be their shepherd. Yes, sadly their form and beauty shall be consumed, for Sheol shall be their dwelling (Ps. 49:14 AMP). People who were tossed (like ships) to and fro between chance gusts of teaching and wavering with every changing wind of doctrine, gamblers engaged in every shifting form of trickery in inventing errors to mislead (Eph. 4:14 AMP).

Countless numbers who set aside and rendered void God’s judgment, condemning Him so they may appear righteous and justified (Job 40:8 AMP). Unwilling to exercise and discipline themselves by mortifying their body, deadening their carnal affections, bodily appetites and

worldly desires, to endeavor in all respects to have a clear conscience void of offense toward God and toward mankind (Acts 24:16 AMP).

Refusing to acknowledge only with God are perfect wisdom and might. That He alone has true counsel and understanding. For only God can uncover deep things out of darkness, and bring into the Light black gloom and the shadow of Death. Why? With Him are might and wisdom; the deceived and the deceiver are His and in His power (Job 12:13-14,16-17,22-23 AMP).



Yes, in the beginning the earth was without form and void; and darkness was on the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters (Gen. 1:1-2 NKJV). In an attempt to get a knee to bend God allows us to partake in what the flesh creates the bread of adversity and the water of affliction (Isa. 30:20).

But, from the beginning God's plan has been to give us time and opportunity to smell the sweet aroma of heaven's Bread of Life then taste and know the goodness of the Lord. For those who come to Jesus will never go hungry. Yes, those who believe in Christ will never be thirsty (John 6:35). God's Word says:

“He Who has compassion on them will guide them, and lead them beside springs of water. So why call me Lord and not do what I say? I will show you what they are like who come to Me and hear My words and decide to put them into practice. They are like those who build a house by digging down deep to lay the foundation on rock. When the flood comes, the torrent will strike that house, but will not be able to shake it because it was built so very well.”

Isa. 49:10, Luke 6:46-48



I was among the multitudes who built a house on the earth without the strength of a sturdy spiritual foundation. But when I too cried out to the Lord in my trouble, He saved me as He has done for so many over the bygone generations. Saving people out of their distresses, and bringing them out of darkness and the shadow of death while breaking apart the bonds that hold us (Ps. 107:13-14 AMP).

Thanks be to God we have this testimony Light arises in the darkness for those who are right standing with God (Ps. 112:4 AMP). Once we were in darkness, but now we are light in the Lord learning to walk as

children of Light. Learning through experience what is pleasing to the Lord by allowing Holy Spirit to expose and reprove and convict us so we no longer take part in and fellowship with the fruitless deeds and enterprises of darkness (Eph. 5:7-11 AMP).

We have heard and believe God's Word which speaks of that great company of the heavenly host, which appeared with the angel praising God and saying: Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to men on whom His favor rests (Luke 2:14). Like Noah, there are many who were willing to receive the Dove God sent from heaven, Holy Spirit, Who offers us that olive leaf before the Lord comes to judge and rule the earth (Ps. 98:9a AMP).



Holy Spirit is hovering over so very many earthen vessels with this offer of peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. God is waiting to justify their lives through faith in His precious Son. It is through Jesus that we receive the privilege to gain access by faith into the grace of God so we can stand with a different form (posture, manner, demeanor). Rejoicing in the hope of the glory God gives us in Christ Jesus.



Trusting the Lord even in our sufferings to give us the strength to rejoice knowing that suffering produces perseverance; perseverance, character; and character, hope. And this hope given to us by God does not disappoint, because He has poured out His love into our heart by Holy Spirit, Whom He gave us when we were willing to reach out.

When we were willing to acknowledge our own powerlessness, and at just the right time we realized Christ died for us the ungodly. By His blood the Lord justifies everyone one who hears His words and turns to God to repent for turning our back on Him and behaving as an enemy far, far from being a friend.

How can a person not be struck with awe and wonder that God would think to reconcile us to Himself when we were yet an enemy? How could anyone wonder about their salvation when God reconciles us through the death of His Son?

Having been reconciled, surely we shall be saved through Christ's life! How can we not rejoice in God through our Lord Jesus Christ? For through Him those who believe: With righteousness the Lord will judge and rule the world, and the peoples with equity (justice, fairness, impartiality Ps. 98:9b).

How can we not know reconciliation with God has been received (Rom. 5:1-11) when the work He asks of us is being done – believing in the One He has sent (John 6:29).



So I pray you too are among those who are giving thanks to the Father, Who has qualified and made us fit to share the portion which is the inheritance of the saints in the Light.

The Father has delivered and drawn us to Himself out of the control and the dominion of darkness and has transferred us into the Kingdom of the Son of His love, in Whom we have our redemption through His blood, which means the forgiveness of our sins (Col. 1:11-14 AMP).

Or as the Message Bible translates Col 1:11-14: We pray that you'll have the strength to stick it out over the long haul – not the grim strength of gritting your teeth but the glory-strength God gives. It is strength that endures the unendurable and spills over into joy, thanking the Father Who makes us strong enough to take part in everything bright and beautiful that He has for us.



God rescued us from dead-end alleys and dark dungeons. He's set us up in the Kingdom of the Son He loves so much, the Son Who got us out of the pit we were in helping us to rid ourselves of the sins we were doomed to keep repeating.

We look at this Son and see the God Who cannot be seen. We look at this Son and see God's original purpose in everything created. For everything, absolutely everything, above and below, visible and invisible, rank after rank after rank of angels – everything got started in Him, and finds its purpose in Him.

He was there before any of it came into existence and holds it all together right up to this moment. And, when it comes to the Church, He organizes and holds it together, like a head does a body. He was supreme in the beginning and – leading the resurrection parade – He is supreme in the end.

From the beginning to end He's there, towering far above everything, everyone. So spacious is He, so roomy, that everything of God finds its proper place in Him without crowding. Not only that but all the broken and dislocated pieces of the universe – people and things, animals and

atoms – get properly fixed and fit together in vibrant harmonies, all because of His death, His blood that poured down from that Cross.



You are a case study of what He does. At one time you had your back turned to God, thinking rebellious thoughts of Him, giving Him trouble every chance you got. But now, by giving Himself completely at the Cross, actually dying for you, Christ brought you over to God's side and put your life together, whole and holy in His presence.

You don't walk away from a gift like that! You stay grounded and steady in that bond of trust, constantly tuned in to the Message, careful not to be distracted or diverted. There is no other Message – just this one. Every creature under heaven gets the same Message. I, Paul, am a messenger of this Message.

So earnestly remember this Message, God is your Rock, and the Most High God your Redeemer (Ps. 78:35 AMP). He has earnestly remembered His mercy and loving-kindness, His Truth and His faithfulness toward His people; all the ends of the earth have witnessed the salvation of our God. So make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the

earth; break forth and sing for joy, yes sing praises to the Lord (Ps. 98:3-5 AMP).



God sent an angel who continues to proclaim to the world: Do not be afraid. I bring you Good News of great joy that will be for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; He is Christ the Lord.

This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger (Luke 2:12-14). The Word, Who was with God in the beginning, the Word Who is God (John 1:1), became flesh and made His dwelling among us (John 1:14).

Yes, when the time had fully come, God sent His Son, born of a woman, born under law, to redeem those under law, that we might receive the full rights of sons (Gal. 4:4). Whoever hears God's Word and believes He sent Jesus has eternal life and will not be condemned; they cross over from death to Life (John 5:24).

As sons, God sends the Spirit of His Son into our heart, the Spirit Who calls out "Abba, Father." We are no longer slaves, but sons, and since

we are a son, God has made us also an heir (Gal. 4:6-7). God's Word, Who came into the world spoke so all mankind would know:

“Sacrifice and offering My Father did not desire, but a body He prepared for Me; with burnt offerings and sin offerings He was not pleased. Then I said, “Here I am – it is written about Me in the scroll – I have come to do Your will, O God.”

First Jesus said:

“Sacrifices and offerings, burnt offerings and sin offerings God did not desire, nor was He pleased with them,”

(Although the law required them to be made), then the Lord said:

“Here I am, I have come to do Your will.”

Jesus set aside the first to establish the second. And by that will, we are made holy through the sacrifice of the body of Jesus Christ once for all (Heb. 10:5-10).

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It is so easy to become offended. When our focus is on self and every yearning, desire and belief our heart produces. The wool can easily be pulled over our eyes by the rationalizations, denials and blame-shifting we use to excuse our disrespectful behavior.

We're unable to look past the wrongs that are committed to see Truth, because justifying our thoughts and feelings is given such great importance. Nothing can hide its evil as well as the human mind (Jer. 17:9a ERV). For the heart is hopelessly dark and deceitful, a puzzle that no one can figure out (Jer. 17:9 Message).

We need only look at the first wrong ever committed to connect a few puzzling pieces. Adam hid in shame and fear then in anger blamed God and another for the error in his very own judgment. This is the pattern of evil design.

How could we ever learn the importance of knowing and proclaiming - BUT GOD, He bestows revelatory nuggets, pieces with such personal value they bring clarity to what is puzzling, if only we'd get our butts out of the way to make room for the heavenly perspective of God's Word of Truth, Christ Jesus.



The need to know is essential. To know, to understand the power of self-interest keeps us shuffling along, eyes to the ground, absorbed with the things (all around) (Col. 3:2a Message).

It's imperative to know a very different power from God's Spirit so the things over which Christ presides can be pursued, (with a willingness) to look up and be alert to what is going on around the Lord. Seeing things from His perspective (for this is) where the action is (Col. 3:1-2b Message). Where God is working for the good of those (Rom. 8:28) who exchange covenant vows - to cherish and to honor and to obey His Word.

Sadly, many refuse to acknowledge that every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights (James 1:17). Yes, God works in our lives with Faith and Hope and Love so Good could shine even and especially from our messes.



What we harbor in our soul - thoughts, beliefs and emotions - have the power to create such devastating messes that work to bring us down,



but that doesn't deter God from working within us (Phil. 2:13a), encouraging us to take a better look at self-interest.

Way too often we allow our mistakes and the opinions of others to become so self-defeating. As do the toxic tendencies and character deficits and behaviors that we develop just by being human.

Without knowledge of God's Word of Truth it's not possible for us to put away and be completely rid of anger, rage, grudges, slander, foul-mouthed abusiveness and the shameful lies our lips utter (Col. 3:8).

Through this journey of renewal and recovery we come to embrace the knowledge of God's unconditional love for us. A completely different love to be experienced because God is love (1 John 4:8), and has Power to open hearts, eyes, hands, minds and ears so we can receive power from His Spirit to overcome. So we can not only know but understand all His Word accomplishes for us:

God forgives our sins – every one

He heals our diseases – every one

He redeems us from hell – saves our life

He crowns us with love and mercy – a paradise crown

He wraps us in goodness – beauty eternal

He renews our youth – we're always young in His presence

God makes everything come out right

He puts victims back on their feet (Ps. 103:2-6 Message)

God sanctifies (sets us apart for Himself) by Truth, because

His Word is Truth (John 17:17).

God creates in us a pure heart, He renews a steadfast spirit within us (Ps. 51:10)

By granting us a willing spirit, to sustain us God restores the joy of His salvation to us not casting His Presence from us (Ps. 51:11-12)

He stamps us with the seal of the One promised by Christ Jesus, Holy Spirit (Eph. 1:13)

He assures salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other Name under heaven given to men by which we must be saved, but that of Jesus (Acts 4:12)

Through Jesus we have access to the Father by One Spirit (Eph. 2:18)



Yes, when the kindness and love of God  
Our Savior appears, and He saves us  
Not because of the righteous things we've done  
But because of His mercy  
God saves us through the washing of rebirth  
And renewal by Holy Spirit  
Justifying us by the grace of God  
Giving us hope to be heirs of His gift  
Eternal Life  
(Titus 3:4-7)

Yes, in Hope we were saved  
Hope which is seen is not hope -  
How can we hope for what is already seen  
If we hope for what is yet unseen,  
We wait for it with patience and composure  
Holy Spirit comes to our aid  
And bears us up in our weakness

He Who searches our heart

Knows what is in the mind of Holy Spirit  
Who intercedes Before God in our behalf  
We can be assured and know  
(Because God is partnering in our labor)  
ALL things work together  
And are fitting into a plan for good  
To and for those who love Him  
Yes, God calls us to be in accordance  
With His design and His purpose  
(Rom. 8:24-28)

Jesus said to us: You must be Born Again.  
Flesh gives birth to flesh,  
But the Spirit gives birth to spirit (John 3:6-7)

Born Again not of perishable seed, but of imperishable  
Through the living and enduring Word of God (1 Peter 1:23)

That you may know with the Lord as your Shepherd  
You shall not be in want  
He restores you soul  
He guides you in paths of righteousness

For His name's sake  
And though you walk  
Through the valley of the shadow of death  
God's Word is with you so fear no evil  
(Ps. 23:1-4)

Yes, the Word is very near you; it is in your mouth and in your  
heart so you may follow and obey the Lord  
(Deut. 30:14)

The Word is near you; that is, the Word of Faith that is  
proclaimed: If you confess with your mouth  
"Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart  
God raised Him from the dead  
You will be saved  
With your heart you believe and are justified;  
With your mouth you confess "Christ is Savior,"  
And are saved  
(Rom. 18:8-10)

Our hope of glory is Jesus in us!  
(Col. 1:27)

Through Jesus you believe in God,  
Who raised Him from the dead  
And glorified Him,  
(And you too can receive His glory for) placing  
Your faith and hope in God's Word.  
We're purified by obedience  
(And this discovery will be made) -  
Our heart is in possession of a sincere love  
For God, for self and for others  
1 Peter 1:21-22)



God's Word is perfect, pure, just and eternal. He offers Truth to protect, to give us joy and light, to transform our thinking. Yes, God's Word is a treasure more desirable than gold; heavenly nuggets sweeter than honey dripping from a honeycomb.

A warning to move away from harm

Making prosperous those in a relationship of covenant (promise, agreement, understanding) to love, honor, respect and obey for it is

God – Father, Son and Holy Spirit – Who moves us from harm’s way. How could a person ever know the evil lurking in their heart? BUT GOD, He reveals His thoughts to man (Amos 4:13), and cleanses us from our hidden faults (Ps. 19:7-12 TLB).

There are as many reasons our faults occur as there are people in the world, and God is aware of each and every one! Why? There are spiritual influences that have great impact on our lives.

As Paul wrote: Our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, the authorities, the powers of this dark world and the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms (Eph. 6:12).

God’s will is for all mankind to come and be set apart, for He has an individual plan and purpose for each and every person. How many plans and purposes of God have been rejected or aborted because the tolling of Truth’s golden bell was not heard or heeded? Nor was the spiced (flavored, enhanced, enriched) bouquet of God’s new pomegranate wine truly savored!

Jewish tradition teaches the pomegranate is a symbol of righteousness because it is said to have 613 seeds, which corresponds with the 613 mitzvot or commandments of the Torah.

The pomegranate represents fruitfulness, knowledge, learning and wisdom, (all of which we receive from God's Word of Truth).

Furthermore, the pomegranate is listed in the Bible as one of the seven species of fruits and grains that are special products of the land of Israel. <https://jewishgiftplace.com/pages/symbolism-of-the-pomegranate>



Those who have heard the tolling of Truth's golden bell, who relish the aroma of Christ, who desire to gaze upon the brightness of His amber color (Ezek. 8:2 NKJV); Who believe a whirling tempest will swirl down on the head of the wicked (Jer. 23:19 NASU). Yes, those who believe Christ is the Son of God have tasted the spiced sweetness of new Life by adhering to and meditating on God's Word.

These are the five basic steps to tasting wine: color, swirl, smell, taste and savor. During this process, a taster must look for clarity, varietal character, integration, expressiveness, complexity and connectedness. There is new wine available to God's people, for He lavishly pours out



grace so His uniquely dear and precious flock (Mic. 7:11 Message) would understand:

1. G - is for generosity, the will to do something more for others
2. R - is respect, the dignity of life and work for the glory of God
3. A - is action, the mechanism for change so Ask, Seek, Knock
4. C - is compassion, the concern for others
5. E - is energy, the Spirit that catalyzes us

During this process of renewal and recovery, the tasters of God's new wine:

- Seek clarity and will let Love be their highest goal (1 Cor. 14:1 NLT)
- They recognize the varietal character of Love understanding God makes no distinctions among people, for He cleanses every heart by faith (Acts 15:9 BSB)
- They believe God cherishes us. And those who dwell and continue in Love dwell and continue in God, and God dwells and continues in them. Every heart in this union, integration, and communion with God, love is being brought to completion and attains perfection when it's in possession of faith, for God is Love (1 John 4:16-17a AMP)

- They realize the expressiveness – power, intensity and vehemence – of Love gives confidence, assurance and boldness to those with a desire to face Him (1 John 4:17b AMP)
- They acknowledge anyone who practices the righteousness of God, in conformity to His will, which is based on all the complexity and intricate provisions of His Word, shall live by them (Rom.10:5 AMP)
- They are persuaded of better things knowing they are the beloved of God, Who is not unrighteous to forget their work, and the love which they have shown while ministering to the saints in the name of Jesus. They earnestly desire to show the same diligence to the full assurance of Hope and connectedness of Salvation unto the end (Heb. 6:9-11 Darby)



Once, God sent Jesus to die for the salvation of our soul. However, He gives us free access, anytime and anywhere, to His Word so the Spirit of Truth can bring about the renewal and recovery and transformation of our soul.

How God's Word lifted me, His beloved, time and time again from that position of fear. Now it is not just with my mouth I profess, but with a heart enraptured with my Beloved, Christ Jesus.

Through the redemption God has provided in Christ Jesus all who believe are freely justified and made upright and placed in right standing with Him by grace (Rom. 3:24 AMP). So it can be known that Gratitude will not only make what you have enough, Gratitude proves all that's needed is God's Word, Christ Jesus!

When gratitude is offered to God in every circumstance His Word will certainly provide more than enough encouragement, strength, assurance, hope...Love. When God is known all else may forsake and leave, but Love will never fail us {I Cor. 13:8}).



Jesus willingly laid His life down on that cross for all who sinned so the world might understand there is no greater love than this (John 15:13).

However, until we choose to not only honor Jesus as Savior, but also obey (adhere to, comply with, conform to, defer to, abide in and follow) God's Word as Lord, the likes of fear, anger, lust, anxiety, worry,

jealousy, animosity, covetousness, greed....will be sustained with every beat of our heart.

Yes, God put His Word of Truth forward (before the eyes of all) as a mercy seat and propitiation (sacrifice), and by the blood of Jesus (the cleansing and Life-giving sacrifice of atonement and reconciliation to be received) freely and gratuitously through faith by the grace of God.

The Word of God will eternally perpetuate (commemorate, celebrate, honor) and reveal His righteousness, for in His love and divine forbearance He passed over and ignored former sins without punishment (Rom. 3:24-25 AMP).

Therefore, those who profess to be God fearing people should run from all evil things to be in pursuit of righteousness so to live a godly life with faith and love, perseverance and gentleness. Daily will they fight the good fight for true faith holding tightly to the eternal life to which God has called us, and which we confess before so many!

The blessed and only Almighty God gives Life to all through Christ Jesus, the King of all kings and Lord of all lords, so obey His Word without wavering. God can never die, and He lives in light so brilliant

that no human can approach Him. No human eye has ever seen Him, nor ever will to Him Who deserves all honor and glory and thanksgiving  
(1 Tim. 6:11-16 NLT).



God gave us His Word to know through experience how the stories, parables, verses of the Bible can be applied personally. That is what makes the Bible so very unique it gives us the Word of Life and Truth so error, deception and denial can be removed from our life.

So we could know God has loved us with an everlasting love; He has drawn us to Himself with loving-kindness; and He will build us up again (Jer. 31:3). Even though we have engaged in foolishness, disobedience and deception that delude and misleads us into slavery (and addiction) to all sorts of cravings, passions and pleasures - God washes away our sins.

God saves us not because of any works we have done, but by His mercy and grace, by the cleansing (bath) of a new birth (regeneration) and renewing of Holy Spirit (Titus 3:3-8 AMP).

God's Holy Spirit helps us to stop copying the behavior and customs of this world so we can become a new and different person with a fresh newness in all we think and do making it possible for us to learn from our own experience how God's ways will really satisfy us (Rom. 12:2 TLB).



God anoints us with aromatic oils (Ezek. 16:9 Message). An anointing from the Holy One that we may know the Truth (1 John 2:20) sanctifies, consecrates and makes us holy (John 17:19).

Yes, Holy Spirit works to cleanse us by the washing with water through the Word, presenting us to God as a radiant Church, without stain or wrinkle or any other blemish (Eph. 5:26-27).

All of this from God Who reconciles us to Himself through Jesus giving us this ministry of reconciliation (acceptance, peace and friendship) and renewal (resuscitation, rebirth, resurrection) and recovery (redemption, replenishment, revival) (2 Cor. 5:18-19).

Yes, the Lord knows those who are His, and all who belong to Him must turn away from evil (2 Tim. 2:19). So by whatever strengthening

and consoling and encouraging in the Lord (affords); by whatever persuasive incentive there is in Love; by whatever participation in Holy Spirit; and by whatever depth of affection and compassionate sympathy live in harmony. Being of the same mind and one in purpose, having the same love, being in full accord and of one harmonious mind and intention (Phil. 2:1-2) to give all glory to God.

For it was with Love that is relentless Jesus extends this open invitation to all:

“Here I am! I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in and eat with them, and they with Me.”

Rev 3:20



Like any invitation, this one requires an RSVP made with faith that as we are known by different titles: spouse, parent, friend... Jesus will make Himself known to us through each of His various titles: the Truth, the Way, the Life, the Light of the World....when God’s Word is heard:

“God bears His people on eagles’ wings, and brings them to Himself. If you will obey His voice in Truth, and remain committed to His Covenant of Love, then you shall be His own peculiar possession and treasure from among and above all the peoples, for all the earth is His.”

God’s people shall be to Him a kingdom of priests, a holy nation (consecrated, set apart to worship Him) [Ex. 19:5-6]. The only Almighty God Who says:

“They will be mine in the day when I make up My treasured possession. I will spare them, just as in compassion a man spares his son who serves him. You will again see the distinction between the righteous and the wicked, between those who serve God and those who do not.”

“My people who know what My name is and what it means; they shall know in that day that I am He Who speaks; behold I AM. How beautiful upon the mountain are the feet of those who bring good tidings, who publish peace, who bring good tidings of the only One Who is Good, who publish salvation, who says to Zion, ‘Your God reigns!’”



“Hark, you watchmen! You who hear the Word I speak and give the people warning from Me. Lift up your voices together and sing for joy, for you shall see eye-to-eye the return of the Lord to Zion. Break forth joyously, sing together, for the Lord has comforted His people, He has redeemed Jerusalem.”

“The Lord has made bare His holy arm before the eyes of all the nations, and all the ends of the earth shall witness the salvation of your God. Lift up your voice with a shout, lift it up, do not be afraid, ‘Here is your God!’ See, the Sovereign Lord comes with power, and His arm rules for Him. See, His reward is with Him, and His recompense accompanies Him.”

“He tends His flock like a shepherd; He gathers the lambs in His arms and carries them close to His heart forgiving all their wickedness and no longer remembering their sins.”

Mal. 3:17-18, Ezek. 33:7, Matt. 19:17 Isa. 52:6 AMP, Isa. 40:9-11, Heb. 8:12



So praise the Lord (Hallelujah!) all you servants of the Lord! Praise the Lord, you who stand in the house of the Lord, in the courts of the house of our God. For the Lord is gracious and lovely and good!

The Lord has chosen the descendants of Abraham for Himself. Know the Lord is great, and our Lord is above all gods. Whatever He pleases, that has He done in the heavens and on earth, and it pleases Him to make you His peculiar possession (Ps. 135:1-6 AMP).

So don't get upset when people put you down or throw you out or speak lies about you to discredit God, count yourself blessed. For it means the Truth is too close for comfort and they are uncomfortable. You can be glad when that happens – give a cheer, even! – for though they don't like it, the Lord does!

And all heaven applauds. And know that you are in good company. God's prophets and witnesses have always gotten into this kind of trouble (Matt. 5:10-11 Message).

God's Word says:

“Let Me tell you why you are here. You’re here to be salt-seasoning that brings out the God-flavors of this earth.”

Matt. 5:13 Message

These are the seven species of fruit and spices that represent the God-flavors of this earth:

- Wheat - God’s divine provision
- Barley - The heirs and sons of God
- Figs - Spiritual and physical health and well-being
- Dates - Journey down the straight path that leads to God’s righteousness
- Grapes - Joyous fellowship in a covenant relationship with the Lord
- Olives - Peace and reconciliation
- Pomegranates - Fruitfulness, blessing and prosperity



If you lose your saltiness how will people taste godliness? Here’s another way to put it, you’re here to be light, bringing out the God-colors in the world (Matt. 5:15 Message). The rainbow is meant to assure us that God remembers. The seven colors of the rainbow are:

- Red - Passion, forgiveness, atonement, sacrifice, life, death and flesh
- Orange - Zeal, God's fire, deliverance, passionate praise
- Yellow - Joy, faith, Glory of God, anointing
- Green - Faithfulness, immortality, eternal life, new growth, renewal, resurrection
- Blue - Truth and heaven
- Indigo - Prophecy, heavenly grace, power, importance, wealth
- Violet - Sanctification, royalty, honor, holy priesthood, God's Word, healing, Wisdom

God is not a secret to be kept. We're going public with this, as public as a city on a hill. You are meant to be Light-bearers, not to be hidden under a bucket; instead, to be placed on a stand – shine! Keep open house; be generous with your lives. By opening up to others, you'll prompt people to open up with God, this generous Father in heaven (Matt. 5:16 Message).



G. L. Archer wrote: the Rainbow Covenant God established with Noah is unique because God gives Noah a promise, but doesn't require

anything from Noah in light of this promise. There are 6 major covenants in Scripture: The Adamic (or Edenic Covenant), the Noahic Covenant, the Abrahamic Covenant, the Mosaic (or Priestly) Covenant, the Davidic Covenant, and the New Covenant.

*(Five covenants given to mankind in the Old Testament, each one meant to reveal the grace of God until finally in the New Covenant His grace would be poured out abundantly, along with the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus. Here is a trustworthy saying that deserves full acceptance: Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners (1 Tim. 1:14-15).*

*All praise should be given to God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, Who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly realms when we are united with Christ.*

*Even before He made the world, God loved mankind and chose us in Christ to be holy and without fault in His eyes. God decided in advance to adopt us into His own family by bringing us to Himself through Christ Jesus. This is what He wanted to do, and it gave Him great pleasure.*

*So we praise God for the glorious grace He has poured out on those who belong to His dear Son. God is so rich in kindness and grace that He purchased our*

*freedom with the blood of His Son and forgave our sins. He has showered His kindness on us, along with all wisdom and understanding.*

*God has now revealed to us His mysterious plan regarding Christ, a plan to fulfill His own good pleasure. And this is the plan: At the right time He will bring everything together under the authority of Christ – everything in heaven and on earth. Furthermore, because we are united with Christ, we have received an inheritance from God, for He chose us in advance, and He makes everything work out according to His plan (Ephesians 1:3-11 NLT).*



In general, a covenant signifies a relationship based on commitment, which includes both promises and obligations. The major covenants of Scripture are between God and man. In nearly all of them, God promises something to mankind (i.e. dominion over the earth to mankind), and requires something from it (life everlasting in return for obedience).

However, the covenant that God makes with Noah is unique because God gives Noah a promise, but does not require anything from Noah in light of this promise. When God made a covenant with Adam, Adam was given one rule; when God made a covenant with Abraham,

Abraham was required to follow God. Even when God gave us the New Covenant through the blood of Jesus, we are required to accept it through faith and repentance.

In fact, a covenant is described as “A divine announcement: God’s holy will to extend the benefits of His unmerited grace to those who were willing by faith to receive them, and who by entering into a personal commitment to God bound themselves to Him by ties of absolute obligation,” (G.L. Archer, *Covenant*, in *Evangelical Dictionary of Theology*, 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition, 299-201).



Noah is given no such requirement. He is not bound in any way to accept the covenant of God. This covenant is entirely one-sided. Granted, all of the covenants are mostly God-sided and we simply need to honor Him and His Word.

Noah had made the choice long before that covenant was made to honor God. I think God made this covenant unique because it wasn’t made just with Noah, and not just with Noah’s children and all their descendants, but with every creature on the earth! This is a unilateral promise with God – a promise that everyone can trust, no matter what.

Even the most evil, vile, wretched person alive still has a promise from God that He will not destroy the entire world with a flood because of his sin. Even the most ravenous pack of wolves who murder an entire village can rest in the promise that God will never again flood the earth in judgment.

Until Jesus returns, the world will continue on as usual.

Information taken from “The Rainbow Covenant (Gen. 9:8-17),” an article posted on the Fort Howard Community Church Blog, by Gregg Hunter. <https://www.forthowardcc.com/blog/post/the-rainbow-covenant->



As you come to know God’s thoughts and how He feels, the Word of God will not only become meaningful but also very personal. You will find yourself joining with the voices of those champions of the Bible, like David, who wrote: To You, O Lord, I lift up my soul; in You I trust, O my God. No one whose hope is in you will ever be put to shame.

Show me Your ways, O Lord, teach me Your paths; guide me in Your Truth and teach me, for You are God my Savior, and my hope is in You all the day long. O Lord, according to Your great



mercy and love remember me, for You are good, O Lord. Yes, good and upright is the Lord; therefore, He instructs sinners in their ways. He guides the humble in what is right and teaches them His way.”

The Lord confides and instructs those who fear Him in the way chosen for them. My eyes are ever on the Lord, for only He will release my feet from the snare. May integrity and uprightness protect me, because my hope is in You (Ps. 25:1-2).



At the age of 50, I was amazed to discover this particular snare the Lord was working to release me from - immaturity in my reasoning. For years I prayed the Psalms, feeling a certain kinship with the authors. My voice joined with theirs: Out of the goodness of Your love Lord, deliver me, for I am poor and needy; my heart is wounded within me (Ps. 109:21-23). This is how I came to the Lord spiritually depleted, made needy by fear, people-pleasing and codependence, a heart wounded by emotional traumas.

God sent Jesus, and continues to send His Word to heal and deliver us from evil. For the desire of His heart is the recovery of our spiritual

sight so He could fill us with Holy Spirit (Acts 9:17 AMP), for then the keys to the Kingdom of Heaven could be received. Keys to bind and loose on earth and in heaven (Matt. 16:19) so God's super can take us far beyond our natural abilities.

Keys to release what is loose in the Kingdom of God by the power and authority given us through God's Word, Christ Jesus, to drive out all demons and to cure diseases and to heal the sick (Luke 9:1-2). Keys to bind what is bound in heaven for the people of God's household ought to know how to conduct themselves. For the church is the living God! The pillar and foundation of Truth (1 Tim. 3:15)! Keys freely given and received from God's Word:

(1) REPENTANCE (2) FAITH (3) HOPE

(4) LOVE (5) POWER

(6) SOUNDNESS OF MIND (7) KNOWLEDGE

(8) UNDERSTANDING

(8) TRUTH (9) WISDOM

(10) DISCERNMENT (11) INSIGHT

(12) GOOD SENSE

(13) FEAR OF THE LORD

(14) GOODNESS (15) PERSEVERANCE

- (16) GODLINESS (17) KINDNESS  
(18) JOY (19) PEACE (20) GENTLENESS  
(21) FAITHFULNESS  
(22) HUMILITY (23) COMFORT  
(24) THANKSGIVING  
(25) GRATITUDE (26) CHARACTER  
(27) PATIENCE  
(28) SELF-CONTROL  
(29) SELF-DISCIPLINE  
(30) ORDER (31) HARMONY  
(32) FORGIVENESS  
(33) RIGHTEOUSNESS  
(34) SANCTIFICATION  
(35) GRACE (36) COMPASSION  
(37) UNITY (38) CONFIDENCE  
(39) QUIETNESS  
(40) REST

Oh that everyone would fear the Lord and stand in awe of Him. For when He but spoke, the world began! It appeared at His command! With a breath He frustrates the plans of the nations, and thwarts all

their schemes. It is the Lord's plans that will stand firm forever; His intentions can never be shaken (Ps. 33:8-11 NLT).

All of the above, God freely gives and so much more. I mention 40 so we would be reminded of how well God equips us. The number 40 has been mentioned 146 times in Scripture, and generally symbolizes a period of testing, trial or probation.

We can agree no discipline seems pleasant at the time; but, later on it produces a harvest of righteousness and peace for those who have allowed themselves to be trained by it (Heb. 12:11).



I will share this revelatory nugget that Holy Spirit shared with me about the number 40, which is  $4 \times 10$ . The number 4 has a sense of completion. And though we just read the number 10 speaks of testing, trial and probation it also speaks to ALL God bestows, which is so very beneficial.

Gen. 24 tells us about the time Abraham sent the oldest servant of his house in search of a wife for his son Isaac. This particular servant ruled over all that Abraham possessed. So the servant took ten of his master's

camels and departed with a dowry that represented all of his master's goods.

God has given us a sense of completion through these 4 choices:

- We can look up to follow and obey His instructions as a servant would their master, and receive all of the endowment our heavenly Father bestows
- We can allow self-interest to keep us focused on those self-serving efforts to seek out all this world has to offer
- We can do ALL things in order to bring glory to the source of Good, the Prince of Peace
- Or, we can do those things that inadvertently or purposefully bring glory to the prince of this world, the source of Evil.

When we are standing before the Lord of heaven and earth, Jehovah Hashopet - the Lord the Judge; when completeness will longer be a sense, instead an eternal experience; when the witness for or against us will be those choices that were made. Was God's gift of time wasted or invested wisely?

For the King will say to those on His right:

“Come, you who are blessed by My Father; take your inheritance, the kingdom prepared for you since the creation of the world.”

However, those standing on His left will hear Him say:

“Depart from Me, you who are cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels!”

Matt. 25:34 & 41



God sent His most revered and trusted Servant that whosoever invites Him into their life as Lord and Savior would receive a heavenly endowment, for the giving of one's self into a marriage covenant; a commitment to bring all glory and honor to the Son of God and to exalt and obey God's Word, Christ Jesus.

God has made known ALL the benefits we receive for partaking in such a relationship with His Beloved Son:

Who forgives all our sins

Who heals all our diseases  
Who redeems our lives from the pit  
Jesus crowns us with love and compassion  
He satisfies our desires with GOOD things  
That our youth is renewed like the eagle's  
The Lord works righteousness and justice  
For all the oppressed  
So tell your soul to praise the Lord  
And forget not ALL His benefits  
Ps. 103:2-6

God never took His goodness away from us even when our backs were turned to Him. He never wanted us to know evil, let alone experience the horrors that evil contrives. We have endured times that were not so good, pretty bad and down-right ugly.

But GOD, He has given us an endowment so all His goodness could be known and experienced here on earth. He sent His Son so we could receive a rich and very rewarding inheritance for the very presence of God fills a soul with joy! At His right hand there are everlasting pleasures! Ps. 16:11.



Paul wrote: Test yourselves to make sure you are solid in the faith. Don't drift along taking everything for granted. Give yourselves regular checkups. You need firsthand evidence, not merely hearsay that Christ is in you.

Test it out. If you fail the test, do something about it. I hope the test won't show that we somehow have failed you. But, if it comes to that, we'd rather the test showed our failure than yours. We're rooting for the Truth to win out in you. We couldn't possibly do otherwise (2 Cor. 13:5-9 Message).

So don't put the Lord your God to the test (Matt. 4:7)! For it is He Who vindicates us, and helps us to lead a blameless life. So trust in the Lord without allowing any thoughts or feelings or opinions to cause doubt and wavering.

Take comfort, not anger or impatience for God's love is ever before you guiding your steps so you can continually walk in His truth. Something we just naturally can't seem to do. So ask Him to test you, to try your



faith, to examine your heart and mind. Don't join in the company of those who are deceitful for they are pretentious and hypocritical.

The Lord abhors the assembly of evildoers; therefore, refuse to sit with the wicked. Let us wash our hands in innocence not in guilt or shame or remorse. Let love for the house where the Lord lives dwell within you, for this is the place where His glory dwells (Ps. 26:1-8).



We ought always to be thankful to God, for we are loved by the Lord. From the beginning God chose us to be saved through the sanctifying work of the Spirit and through belief in His Word of Truth.

Our heavenly Father called us to this through His Message sent from heaven that we might share in the glory of the Lord Christ Jesus! So let us stand firm in faith and hold to the teachings God has passed on to us, whether by word of mouth or by interacting with His Word of Life (2 Thess. 2:13-15).

Let our interests be placed in 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. Whatever you have learned or received or heard from God's Word of Truth – put it into practice!

Don't be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And, the peace of God, which transcends all your understanding, will guard your heart and mind in Christ Jesus.

So rejoice in the Lord always! I say it again: Rejoice in God's Word! Let your kindness, your gentleness and thoughtfulness be evident to all. The Lord is near! And the God of peace is with you (Phil. 4:4-9)!



We can live and behave as more than conquerors (Rom. 8:37) in each and every encounter that we face whether troubled or with the joy of accomplishment. Patricia King offered this explanation regarding what it means to be more than a conqueror.

A boxer trains for months working to get in shape to take that step into a ring and fight his opponent. For all that is required: Discipline, gaining knowledge, training, honing skills....a check will be received. No matter the outcome that courageous dueler will take his earnings

home to be given to those who are more than conquerors. Those who receive all the benefits of someone else's discipline and work.

With this in mind, God sent His Son so our soul would not be taken away along with sinners. That our life would not be found with bloodthirsty men, in whose hands are wicked schemes, whose right hands are full of bribes.

Instead, because of God's great mercifulness, He sent His Word, Christ Jesus, to redeem us, to dwell in us so we can lead a blameless life. God's Word of Truth causes our feet to stand on level ground. So we should always be giving praise to the Lord (Ps. 26:9-12) thanking Him for giving us His Word.



If you are anything like me, there have been and maybe still are issues and circumstances that seem mountainous. And though there is a mere 16 inch span between our heart and our brain, there can be an immense gap between our reasoning and responses.

How strange our heart can cling to an offense possibly a lifetime, but our mind immediately seeks an escape for personal wrong doing –

denial, rationalization, excuse making, deflection, minimizing, justifying, blame shifting, comparison....

Unfortunately, this self-serving form of logic with all its power to control and manipulate, dominate and intimidate will ensure our focus remains earthbound for these are the fundamentals of witchcraft. God's Word says:

“Simply let your ‘Yes’ be ‘Yes,’ and your ‘No’ be ‘No,’ anything beyond this comes from the evil one!”

Matt. 5:37



How much of what we think and believe has come from the evil one? When Jesus made that statement He had been discussing the reason for not swearing.

I have asked the Lord to use imagery, painting a picture so I better understand. When you're not the brightest bulb on the shelf visual learning is very helpful.

The reason I say this, I have visualized this verse depicting someone standing at a large cauldron stirring and stirring with words of complaint and ridicule and criticisms rising to heaven instead of thanksgiving and praise. When words are sworn in anger or hatred or vengeance, a person can find themselves handcuffed to such a harmful spirit bound to fulfill evil intentions.

The goal of evil is to deceive so in some way, by some means we are being bound to negativity. God's Word fills our body with the Light of Truth so any musty, murky thing that's clouding our thinking (Luke 11:34-35 Message) will be swept away like the morning mist (Isa. 44:22).

The goal is for us to see clearly the differences between right and wrong (Phil. 1:10 TLB). To know, believe and be secured by such confident assurance that every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down to us from the Father of heavenly lights, Who does not change like shifting shadows (James 1:17)



This isn't as simple and straight-forward as it sounds because breaking a bad habit, healing a hurt, being freed from a hang-up or compulsion takes time and prayer and determination. When Truth is being sought,

the Lord is looking inside us not toward someone else. Evil, Sin, Pride work together, but not for harmony; instead, for discord and division! How? Through words, for they lead us into action!



By smooth talk and flattery minds are deceived (Rom. 16:18). There are so many ways our thinking can be negatively affected. A topic that seems popular today – narcissism! According to Rick Nauert, PhD., narcissism can be seen as the evil twin of self-esteem. Both are born of a person's accomplishments and how they truly see themselves.

Everyone has self-esteem and self-worth, it's when they become exaggerated and there is an unhealthy drive to keep beliefs intact than it becomes a problem. We are all born with a type of learned narcissism. From birth, the world revolves around us. We cry, and food appears or we are held, but then we grow out of that mindset and start learning that it won't always be the case.

<https://psychcentral.com/news/2017/05/22/explaining-narcissism-as-personality-trait-and-disorder#1>



We have learned behaviors from childhood. We are comprised of traits, distinguishing qualities of character and inherited characteristics.

I found an article online that offers a list of 800 character traits. Tchiki Davis, MA, PhD wrote: It may not seem important to know about how personality is affected by our environment, but I find it's a useful tool for growing well-being.

If we see that much of who we are is a response to our environment, we can recognize the importance for change in ways that help us feel and be better people. Hopefully, we also see that personality is not as stable and fixed as we once thought. At the very least, some parts of it are changeable, and that can give us hope.

<https://www.berkeleywellbeing.com/personality-traits.html>



We have heard and used a vast amount of words to formulate thoughts, opinions, beliefs, core-values...all of who we are. A quick fix may mean a change of address, quitting a job..., and that decision might possibly be the necessary answer, but as Joyce Myers says: We may find ourselves going around that same mountain again and again and again, if we don't learn and apply what we've received from our life lessons.

I have often said to discover when the pattern of deception was first woven just look in the Garden of Eden. In Genesis after they became captivated by words of deception, that first couple hid in fear and shame. If I were to offer a challenge, it would be to determine how far-reaching fear and shame are in your life? I believe you'll discover they also have roots from your beginnings too.

Fear has so many forms: fear of disappointing, fear of rejection, fear of punishment, fear of failure, fear of imperfection....Shame and guilt are heavy burdens that are thrown on us. However, being human seems we will seek the right wording that provides us ample reason to do that one thing we innately know we shouldn't do.

Oh so often thought is not given to consequence; instead, what keeps our attention is the goading of unanswered words: Why not? What don't they want me to know? Why can't I just try...?



Curiosity, does it really kill? The saying, 'Curiosity killed the cat,' originally was phrased as, 'Care killed the cat,' the expression meant



'worry/sorrow' instead of the contemporary 'look after/provide for' meaning. <https://www.phrases.org.uk/meanings/curiosity-killed-the-cat.html>

Curiosity can definitely be a cause of death and destruction when personal boundaries – what we should not cross and what we should erect - are at issue.

One of the first deficiencies God pointed out was my lack of boundaries. So I bought a book on the subject, and when I realized my incompetence for setting and respecting boundaries I got so upset, I set the book aside. My thoughts are, before curiosity caused that piece of fruit to be eaten there was faith and trust in God, in the shelter and protection that's received from knowing His Word.



Curiosity brought about this consequence: Our being educated in the school of hard knocks. Unrighteous behavior quickly became apparent when Adam rose from that fall with anger and accusation. We too have known disappointment that was not the result of another.

We have disappointed, disrespected and betrayed ourselves with demeaning, belittling and abusive behaviors. I have been trying to

manage neurological symptoms that have caused me to struggle with disability. Trying for years to do what I physically cannot accomplish so I wouldn't feel, and as a result believe, I'm inadequate.

As a result of good intention, I have experienced and caused disappointments because I can't or won't or refuse to accept the fact that my want and desire to do, far exceeds my capability and follow through.

It's not easy to cope with the disappointments that are brought about by self or life or loved ones, for such serious matters get embedded deeply in our heart. Yes, it takes time for love to capture a heart, but it also takes time for thoughts and feelings, opinions and attitudes to be altered by disappointment, betrayal, anger...that cause love to be diminished.

Such a small span that mere 16 inches; however, within that space our lives are being fueled by the power of thought and emotion. When pride and sin and evil became part of the human equation, such dis-ease occurred causing the spread of disease and disorder – physically, psychologically, emotionally and socially, financially and sexually.



However, when God's Word gains entrance to that small opening of space, so too does order. For He Who is the Source of Life and Truth and Encouragement, is not a God of confusion and disorder but of peace and harmony (1 Cor. 14:33 AMP).

God sent His Word to dwell among us to bring into the world reconciliation. Yes, God reconciled mankind to Himself through His Son, Christ Jesus. Now anyone who places their faith and hope and trust in Christ, they are a new creation! The old has gone, the new has come! We are born again! A spiritual rebirth! God gives us life in and through Christ so we can draw close to Him once again!

But God, He doesn't stop at reconciling us to Himself spiritually by what Jesus accomplished so we can know His peace. Because of the knowledge of Good and Evil we possess, God's desire is to bestow His peace in our mind and heart. Through Jesus, God's Word of Truth, God's Spirit will be working to help us bring reconciliation into our soul.

We don't have to allow our thoughts and feelings to continue warring within us. We can do as Jesus did and draw a line in the sand. We can stand against anger and whatever rises from the depths of self-righteousness by adhering to, trusting in and standing firm with faith in God's righteousness - His Word.



When we personally apply God's Word, we learn and grow in faith and trust and hope. When we adhere to and obey God's Word then peace-of-mind and harmony will be enjoyed within our soul for these are provisions only Truth can bestow.

As I began to wrap my head around God's Word I learned a great deal about Jesus. However, it wasn't until I allowed God's love to touch my heart that I began to truly know the Lord. I had to accept the Truth:

I had been God's enemy. Not realizing that by following the desires of my heart I was behaving as a friend of the world (James 4:4-6). Why? The desires of the flesh are opposed to Holy Spirit, and the (desires of the) Spirit are opposed to the flesh (our prideful human nature); they are antagonistic to each other (continually withstanding and in conflict), so that I was not free

but actually prevented from doing what I desired to do (Gal. 5:17)  
– that all would be done for the glory of God.

It is much easier to understand what Jesus came to do, that He rose up to do His strange work, and bring to pass His act, His strange act (Isa. 28:21) because God so loved the World. (God gave us His Word) and whoever believes in Christ shall not perish; instead, receive eternal life.

God didn't send His Son into the world to condemn it, but to save it (John 3:16-17). That we would know this is Love: not that we loved God, But that He loved us and sent His Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins

(1 John 4:10)

Now it is up to me to bear in mind and consider the patience and long-suffering of the Lord (His slowness in avenging wrongs and judging the world) because this means salvation (2 Peter 3:15).

God doesn't want anyone to perish; instead, that everyone (2 Peter 3:9-10) would realize it's His kindness that leads us to repentance (Rom. 2:4).

It's up to me to trust God our Savior, Who wants all people to be saved. It's up to me to ask and seek knowledge believing God gives me understanding through His Word of Truth (1 Tim. 2:3-4). This all started from the beginning when God said, "Light up the darkness!" so our lives could be filled up with the Light of heaven. When Truth is recognized and cherished in our heart God is seen in the face of Christ, all bright and beautiful (2 Cor. 4:5-6)

When my heart also responded to Jesus as my Lord and Savior I better understood it's the love of Christ that compels and urges us when we are of the opinion and conviction that (if) One died for all, then all died! Jesus died for all, so that all those who live might live no longer for themselves, but for Him Who died and was raised again for our sake (2 Cor. 5:14-15)

Yes, I know the Word is near me; He is in my mouth and in my Heart - the Word of faith; therefore, I confess with my mouth "Jesus is Lord," and believe in my heart "Jesus is Savior."

God raised Him from the dead so I would be saved. It is with our heart that we believe and are justified, and it is with our mouth that we confess and are saved (Rom. 10:8-10)

I invited Jesus, the Word of God, “IN-TO-ME-SEE” to examine Me and try me; to test my mind and my heart; so His loving-kindness would always be before my eyes, and I could walk in His truth (Ps. 26:1-3). God demonstrated His own Love for me in this: While I was still a sinner, Christ died for me (Rom. 5:8). And if I heed and follow God’s Word, His love will be made truly complete in me (1 John 2:5)

How grateful I am that God is a fiercely jealous lover. And what He gives in love is far better than anything else we’ll (ever) find. God goes against the willfully proud giving His grace to the willingly humble (who also desire intimacy with the Lord, and learn to control instead of satisfying selfish and self-serving desires) (James 4:4-6 Message).



God wants us to be empowered by His Word of Truth so self-doubt and fear and deception could be defeated through the righteousness we receive from Jesus. Faith is more than professing verses from Scripture.

Faith is turning to and applying God’s Word to guide the steps we take. The faith God bestows will open our eyes to the One Who is glorious,

striding triumphantly in the greatness of His might. The One Who speaks in righteousness, and is mighty to save (Isa. 63:1).

Christ Jesus is the 'Remover of mountains.' He is the greatest Teacher for He understands our problems, and is more than able to help because He is willing. However, the question that is looming, are you willing to learn?

If so, it won't take long before it becomes apparent that Jesus stands up for the powerless. For those willing to take that first step admitting they are powerless to control. That in fact, many times our efforts to control have caused our lives to become in some way unmanageable.



Recovery, redemption, renewal, regeneration, restoration are ours to receive through the grace and revelation that Holy Spirit bestows. By means of these God has bestowed on us His precious and exceedingly great promises, so that through them we may escape (by flight) from the moral decay (rottenness and corruption) that is in the world because of covetousness (lust and greed), and become sharers (partakers) of the divine nature.



So I pray God's grace and peace (which is perfect well-being, all necessary good, all spiritual prosperity and freedom from fears and agitation passions and moral conflicts) be multiplied to you in (the full, personal, precise and correct) knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord.

For His divine power has bestowed upon us all things that (we require and are suited) to life and godliness, through the (full, personal) knowledge of Him, Who called us by and to His own glory and excellence (virtue) (2 Pet. 1:2-4 AMP).



God desires to lavish upon us Truth and Love. A simple choice to be made; yet, it gives entrance into a miraculous process of ever being renewed and remolded into a fuller and more perfect knowledge upon knowledge after the image, the likeness, of Him Who created us, so we receive clarity from our glorious Higher Power.

For this the Spirit of Truth imparts (Acts 26:25 CJB) so the old (unregenerate) self with its evil practices can be stripped away, and we can clothe ourselves with the new spiritual self (Col. 3:9-10 AMP).

Yes, discomfort will be experienced, but this is nothing new for we all have experienced doing the same thing over and over again expecting a different result – a definition given to insanity. Adjustments must be made; but, if there's a willingness to Ask, to Seek, to knock n heaven's Door, then the Light of Life will bring an inner warmth that Love and Hope and Revelation bestow so balance can be restored.

The Word assures:

“Where there is no revelation, people will cast off restraint.”

Prov. 29:18

Restraint requires the aid of Holy Spirit so discipline, self-control, self-denial and discretion can develop, all of which are easy to ignore when the flesh is being indulged. However, the cost for being unrestrained, the imbalance and confusion that's accrued ensures foolishness, rage, instability, paranoia...for these are the wages deception dispenses.



The knowledge of Good and Evil our heart possesses stirs internal conflicts within our thoughts and emotions. Good and Evil are the sources that influence our perceptions and determinations, while the

choices made and the consequences that ensue, give absolute evidence of their existence.

The war being waged is for our soul. The battleground - our mind! And unfortunately, a prideful stance causes that natural inclination to follow the dictates of a deceitful heart that very often calls evil good and good evil (Isa. 5:20).

Without belief in what Truth proclaims, "The only One Good is God," good is being determined by personal standards, agendas and perceptions. Self-determination cannot provide a sturdy foundation for us to stand when it is constantly being shifted by sentiment, circumstance and opinion.

However, God's truth stands firm like a foundational stone (2 Tim. 2:19a NLT). The Stone the builders rejected (Luke 20:17) has become our salvation. Yes, what the Lord has done is marvelous to behold (Ps. 118:21-23). Providing a foundation of rock for us to stand (Matt. 7:25), and Who is this Rock except our God (2 Sam. 22:32b)?

And Who is the Lord besides our God (2 Sam. 22:32a)? He is the Rock, His works are perfect and all His ways are just. A faithful God who

does no wrong, upright and just is He (Deut. 32:3), Who opens the eyes of the blind and unstops the ears of the deaf. So His glory could be seen, and His splendor known, for it is God Who strengthens the hands of the feeble, and steadies the knees that give way. That we can be strong, and not fear for we know our God will come, since He has come to save us (Isa. 35:2-5).



There can be no dispute, in the presence of unfamiliarity (unawareness, ignorance, cluelessness), it is impossible to know and experience the Word of God is alive and sharper than any two-edged sword, penetrating to the dividing line of the breath of life (soul) and the (immortal) spirit, and of joints and marrow (the deepest parts of our nature), exposing and sifting and analyzing and judging the very thoughts and purposes of the heart (Heb. 4:12 AMP).

Romans 10:17 assures faith comes by hearing, and the message is heard through the Word God sent, the Gospels of Christ Jesus. Many, many messages have been heard and believed. They give rise to emotional outbursts, compulsions, unhealthy desires, self-serving judgments and opinions. The reason as the Word reveals:

“The whole world is a prisoner of sin, so that what was promised, being given through faith in Jesus, might be given to those who believe.”

Gal. 3:22

Everyone must die once and be judged (Heb. 9:27) the lake of fire is where Death is faced a second time (Rev. 20:14). The Message Bible in Contemporary Language relays the words of Jesus this way:

“Stay alert! Be in prayer, so you don’t enter the danger zone without even knowing it. Don’t be naïve. Part of you is eager, ready for anything in God; but another part is as lazy as an old dog sleeping by the fire, doing what is injurious to self—by trying to serve two masters.”

Mark 14:37-38, Matt. 6:24



Not aware of what God’s Word of Truth has said:

“I am the Vine, and My Father is the Gardener. He cuts off every branch in Me that bears no fruit, while every branch that does bear fruit He prunes to make it bear much more richer and excellent fruit.”

“I am the Vine, you are the branches. Remain in Me and I will remain in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear the fruit of righteousness – peace and confidence forever - unless you remain in Me.”

“Apart from Me you can do nothing. There is salvation in no one else! Under all the heaven there is no other name to call upon to be saved. Nothing can be done against God’s Word of Truth, but only for the Truth. Those who do not remain in Me, they are like a branch that is thrown away and withers. Such branches are picked up, thrown into the fire and burned.”

“If you remain in Me, and My words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be given you. This is to My Father’s glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourself to be My disciple.”

John 15:1-5, Isa. 32:17, Acts 4:12 TLB, 2 Cor. 13:8, John 15:6-8



So remember, there was a time when you were separate from Christ, excluded from citizenship in Israel and foreigners to the covenants of the promise, without hope and without God in this world; but now in Christ Jesus, you who were once far away have been brought near through the blood of Christ (Eph. 2:12-13).

God will surely do this for you, for He always does just what He says, and He is the One Who invited you into this wonderful friendship with His Son, Christ Jesus our Lord (1 Cor. 1:9 TLB).

You are cleansed and pruned already, because of the Word, which God has given you. So dwell in God's Word, and Truth will dwell in you. Just as no branch can bear fruit of itself without abiding in, being vitally united to the vine, neither can you bear the fruit of Holy Spirit - Love, peace, joy, patience, kindness, faithfulness, goodness, gentleness and self-control (Gal. 5:22) - unless you abide in Jesus. Apart from Him, cut off from vital union with the Lord, you can do nothing (John 15:2-5 AMP).



When we abide in God's Word we are in intimate fellowship with Adonai Jehovah, He alone is God. So praise the Lord, blessed be the

glorious name of Jesus, and may it be exalted above all blessing and praise. We are blessed to be able to learn of the many titles given to the Lord by those who walked throughout history to tell of His great renown:

Jehovah Bore, the Lord Creator, made the heavens, even the highest heavens, and all the starry host, the earth and all that is on it, the seas and all that is in them. Jehovah Elyon, the Lord Most High, gives life to everything, and the multitudes of heaven worship Him, the Lord of Hosts, Jehovah Sabaoth.

Jesus is Jehovah Eli, the Lord My God, Who chose Abram and brought him out of Ur of the Chaldeans and named him Abraham, and found his heart faithful to Elohim Bashamayim, God in Heaven, Who made a covenant with him.

The Lord, Jehovah Adon Kol Ha-arets, The Lord, the Lord of All the Earth, keeps His promise because He is Jehovah Tsidkenu – The Lord Our Righteousness.

Jehovah Hoshiah, O Lord Save, saw the suffering of God's people in Egypt; He heard their cry at the Red Sea. Jehovah Moshiekh, The Lord



Your Savior, sent miraculous signs and wonders against Pharaoh, against all his officials and all the people of his land, for He knew how arrogantly the Egyptians treated them.

Jehovah Melech Olam, the Lord King Forever, made a name for Himself, which remains to this day. Jehovah Kanna Shemo, the Lord Whose Name is Jealous, divided the sea before them, so that they passed through it on dry ground, but He hurled their pursuers into the depths, like a stone into mighty waters.

By day Jehovah Ori, the Lord My Light, led them with a pillar of cloud, and by night with a pillar of fire to give them light on the way they were to take.

Jehovah Sali, the Lord My Rock, came down on Mount Sinai, and spoke to them from heaven. El Bethel, God of the House of God, gave them regulations and laws that are just and right, and decrees and commands that are good through His servant Moses.

Elohim Kedoshim, Holy God, made known to them His holy Sabbath. In their hunger El Emunah, the Faithful God, gave them bread from heaven and in their thirst He brought them water from the rock.”

Ha-Melech Jehovah, the Lord the King, they did not obey His commands, they became arrogant and stiff-necked. They refused to listen and failed to remember the miracles Jehovah Maginnenu, the Lord Our Defense, performed among them. Yes, they became stiff-necked and in their rebellion appointed a leader in order to return to their slavery.

But Jehovah Goelekh, the Lord Thy Redeemer, is a forgiving God, gracious and compassionate slow to anger and abounding in love. Jehovah Immeke, the Lord is With You, did not desert them, even when they cast for themselves an image of a calf and said, 'This is our god, who brought us up out of Egypt,' or when they committed awful blasphemies.

Because of the great compassion of Jehovah Ruiom Rosh, Lord the Lifter up of My Head, they were not abandoned in the desert.

Elohe' Asah, God my Maker, gave His good Spirit to instruct them.

Elohim Ozer Li, God My Helper, did not withhold His manna from their mouths, El Hayyay, God of My Life, gave them water for their thirst. For forty years El Mou Chayil, God my Power, sustained them in

the desert; they lacked nothing, their clothes did not wear out nor did their feet become swollen.

Jehovah Izuz Wegibbor, the Lord Strong and Mighty, gave them kingdoms and nations. Elohe Yisrael, God of Israel, made their sons as numerous as the stars in the sky. But, they were disobedient and rebelled against Him; they put the law of Elohim Shophtim Ba-arets, God that Judgeth in the Earth, behind their backs.

They killed the prophets of El Rai, God Seest Me, Who had admonished them in order to turn them back to Jehovah Moshiekh, The Lord Your Savior; they committed awful blasphemies.

But when they were oppressed they cried out to Jehovah Nissi, the Lord My Banner. From heaven El Nekamoth, God that Avenges, heard them, and in His great compassion Jehovah Machsi, the Lord My Refuge, gave them deliverers, who rescued them from the hand of their enemies.

But as soon as they were at rest, they again did what was evil in the sight of El Shaddai, Almighty God. Then Jehovah Hashopet, the Lord

the Judge, gave them into the hand of their enemies so that they ruled over them.

And when they cried out again to Elohe Tishuathi, God of My Salvation, Jehovah Keren-yishi, the Lord the Horn of My Salvation, heard from heaven, and in His compassion Jehovah Magen, the Lord, the Shield, delivered them time-after-time.

Elohe Tsadeki, God of My Righteousness, warned them to return to His law, but they became arrogant and disobeyed His commands. They sinned against the ordinances of El Gibbor, Mighty God, by which a man will live if he obeys them.

Stubbornly they turned their backs on Jehovah Mauzzam, the Lord Their Strength, they became stiff-necked and refused to listen. For many years Jehovah Shalom, the Lord Our Peace, was patient with them.

By the Spirit of Jehovah Makkeh, the Lord that Smiteth, admonished them through His prophets. Yet they paid no attention. In His great mercy, Elohim Checed, God of My Mercy, did not put an end to them

or abandon them, for Eli Malekhi, God my King, is a gracious and merciful God.”

Now therefore, Adonai Jehovah, O Lord our God, heard their plea, ‘Do not let the hardships that come upon us be trifling in Your eyes, Jehovah Eli, the Lord My God. In all that has happened to us Jehovah Rophe, the Lord Our Healer, has been just; Jehovah Mishgabbi, the Lord My High Tower, acted faithfully, while we did what was wrong.’

They did not pay attention to the commands of Jehovah Sabaoth, the Lord of Hosts, or the warnings He gave them. Even while they were in their kingdom, enjoying the great goodness of El Hakabodh, the God of Glory, showed them, they did not serve Him or turn from their evil ways.

Because of our sins the abundant harvests from the land Jehovah-Jireh, the Lord Shall Provide, gave our forefathers went to the kings He had placed over us.

They rule over our bodies and our cattle as they please. We are in great distress. In view of all this, we are making a binding agreement with El

Hay, the Living God, putting it in writing, and our priests are affixing their seals to it (Nehemiah 9:5-38).



Those who remain faithful to God's Word, who like Nehemiah and David, pour out their heart to Him, know our salvation and our honor depend on God. The Lord is our mighty Rock, our refuge. We are learning to trust what He says at all times (Ps. 62:7-8). For the Lord preserves both man and beast. How priceless His unfailing love!

Both high and low among mankind find refuge in the shadow of His wings. They feast on the abundance of His house. For the Lord gives them drink from His River of Delights, with Him is the Fountain of Life; in His light we see light. Continue Your love, O Lord, to those who know You, Your righteousness to the upright in heart (Ps. 36:6-10).

Now may the God of peace [Who is the Author and the Giver 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), strengthen (complete, perfect) and make us what we ought to be, and equip us with everything good that we may carry out His will; [while He Himself]

works in us and accomplishes that which is pleasing in His sight, through Jesus Christ (the Messiah); to Whom be the glory forever and ever. Amen (so be it), [Heb. 13:20-21 AMP].



From the beginning, Satan has been able to distort and twist the Truth. For the battle of wills began in heaven, when the first heart turned prideful, and was cast down to the earth for coveting ALL God's great and abounding goodness:

I will ascend to heaven

I will raise my throne above the stars of God

I will sit enthroned on the mount of assembly, on  
the utmost heights of the sacred mountain

I will ascend above the tops of the clouds

I will make myself like the Most High

Isa. 14:13-14



The deceiver of the brethren who saw and coveted God's glorious kingdom, works frantically to conceal it with the darkness of deception, doubt and disbelief with the heartache of shame and ridicule and

regret. Not wanting us to know nor understand how essential God's Word of Truth:

Even fathers and mothers forsake, but the Lord receives us to teaches us His ways and lead us on paths that are straight (unswerving, undeviating, honest and true) (Ps. 27:10-11)

The Lord does not cast us away even when we are old, nor does He forsake us when our strength seems to have gone (Ps. 71:9)

The Lord gives light and truth and life and shows us the way to be strong and courageous; not to be afraid or terrified because of them (whoever/whatever must be confronted), for the Lord your God goes with you; He will never leave you nor forsake you (Deut. 31:6)

The Lord gives strength to His people, and blesses them with peace (Ps. 29:11)



His peace He gives us. Not as the world gives. So don't let your heart be troubled and do not be afraid (John 14:27)

You must know things (that can only be received from God's Word so you) may have peace at all times and in every way knowing the Lord will be with you (2 Thess. 3:16)

For in this world you will have trouble. But take heart for Jesus has overcome the world (John 16:33)

(God's Word of Truth will counter and prove wrong every belief that misleads, deceives or maligns). For Love and Truth and Revelation give breath to all people and Life to those who walk on the earth (Isa. 42:5)

(Yet, it is to those who choose restraint, discipline and self-control) that the Lord gives His peace, bringing delight to their soul (Prov. 29:17)

God's Word gives relief from suffering and turmoil and cruel bondage (Isa. 14:3)

For the Lord gives wisdom, and from His mouth come knowledge and understanding (Prov. 2:6)

Truth gives sight to the blind, and lifts up those who are bowed down (Ps. 146:8)

That we may fix our eyes on Jesus, the Author and Perfecter of our faith, Who looked past the horrors of crucifixion and saw the joy that God set before Him (Heb. 12:2)

Jesus knew eyes would be opened, so choices could be made to turn from darkness to Light and from the power of the one who deceives to the Truth in God's Word. Who sets apart those with faith in Him, who have learned (and know with all their heart) what it means to receive forgiveness from and peace with God (Acts 26:18)

Those who through God's Word truly understand we love because God first loved us (1 John 4:19)

The Lord blesses us and keeps us; His face shines upon us and He is gracious to us; He has turned His face toward us

and has given us His peace (Num. 6:24)



Yes, the Lord takes delight in His people, and crowns the humble with salvation (Ps. 149:4). God's Word counters Evil with Good so His grace and loving-kindness could abound to all who call to Him (Ps. 86:5):

I will not give My glory to another or My praise to idols  
(Isa. 42:8)

I will grant salvation to Zion, My splendor to Israel. I am  
bringing My righteousness near, it is not far away (Isa.  
46:13)

I will sustain you and I will rescue you; I have made you and  
I will carry you (Isa. 46:4)

I will make an everlasting covenant with you, My faithful  
love promised to David. Give ear and come to Me; hear Me,  
that your soul may live (Isa. 55:3)

I will make justice the measuring line and righteousness the  
plumb line; See, I lay a Stone in Zion, a tested Stone, a

precious Cornerstone for a sure foundation; the one who trusts will never be dismayed (Isa. 28:16-17)

I will astound these people once more with wonder upon wonder; the wisdom of the wise will perish, the intelligence of the intelligent will vanish. Woe to those who go to great depths to hide their plans from the Lord, who do their work in darkness and think 'Who will know' (Isa. 29:14-15)

I will pour out My Spirit and My blessings (Isa. 44:3)

I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand. So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God (Isa. 41:10)

I will lead the blind by ways they have not known; I will turn the darkness into light before them and make the rough places smooth. These are the things I will do; I will not forsake them. Those who trust in idols and other gods will be turned back in utter shame (Isa. 42:16-17)

I will punish the world for its evil, the wicked for their sins. I will put an end to the arrogance of the haughty and will humble the pride of the ruthless. I will make the heavens tremble and the earth will shake from its place at the wrath of

the Lord Almighty, in the day of His burning anger (Isa.13:11-13)



Unfortunately for us, we live in the midst of deception (Jer. 9:6a) where the greatest of deceivers skillfully covers us in the darkness of deception. When in the presence of denial, doubt and disbelief there is refusal to acknowledge the Lord (Jer. 9:6b), Christ Jesus is the Way, the Truth and the Life (John 14:6a).

This journey of renewal and recovery of which I speak, points us to Truth a Power so much greater than ourselves.

A spiritual journey with God's Spirit as the guide Who gives us entrance into heaven's Wellness Resort where regeneration and rejuvenation occurs. A spiritual make-over, a renewal in the spirit of our mind so we can have a fresh mental and spiritual attitude, as we put on the new nature, the regenerate self, created in God's image (Eph. 4:23-24 AMP).

Heaven's wellness program is designed so we can clothe ourselves with the new spiritual self, which is ever in the process of being renewed

and remolded into fuller and more perfect knowledge upon knowledge after the image and likeness of Him Who created it (Col. 3:10).

When God's Word is desired, His righteousness gives us renewed life. His mercy and loving-kindness come also to us, even His salvation according to His promise (Ps. 119:40-41 AMP).



Heaven's wellness program sets us on a course of teaching conducted by Christ Jesus Himself (Luke 4:15 AMP), as Holy Spirit reveals the way and the means of recovering by the power of Truth, by application so we don't remain as merely hearers who delude themselves (James 1:22).

Knowledge is necessary. Without it how would we know that Satan asks to sift us as wheat (Luke 22:31), but Jesus, Who is at the right hand of God is actually interceding (Rom. 8:34) in our behalf for He knows the spirit may be willing, but the flesh is weak (Mark 14:38).

Willing as defined in the Merriam-Webster Dictionary:

- to be inclined or favorably disposed in mind; prompt to act or respond;
- done or accepted by choice without reluctance; and relating to the will or power of choosing

So I share knowledge of God, of this process of renewal and recovery, of being Codependent and dependent on self and others instead of depending on God's Word, and the harsh effects of emotional trauma so we may be unified because

## OUR SPIRITUAL LIFE MATTERS



Fear must leave when Truth is believed:

“The Lord your God is with you, He is mighty to save. He takes great delight in you, for the Word will quiet you with knowledge of God's love, for God rejoices over you with singing. So do not let your hands (and heart and soul) sink down or be slowed and made listless.”

Zeph. 3:16-17

For the Lord:

Delivers the needy who cry out,  
the afflicted who have no one to help.  
He will take pity on the weak and the needy  
and save the needy from death (Ps 72:12-13)

God's Word stands at the right hand of the needy one,  
to save their life from those who condemn (Ps 109:31)

The Lord hears the needy, and does not despise His  
captive people (Ps 69:33)



Knowledge makes it possible for a robust faith to be recovered (Titus 1:14 Message), so God can restore the joy of His salvation, and sustain us with a willing spirit (Ps. 51:12). Because it is for freedom from guilt, shame, condemnation, regret...that Jesus sets us free. So we can stand firm, and not allow ourselves to be burdened again by a yoke of slavery (to the sin of addiction, fear, disbelief...) (Gal. 5:1).

With knowledge of God and His straightforward approach lasting change will occur. So do as Jesus instructs:



“Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. For these are God’s promises, everyone who asks receives; those who seek finds; and to those who knock, the door will be opened.”

Luke 11:9-10



Because of His compassion (Zech.10:6), God desires to restore us and make us strong, firm and steadfast (1 Peter 5:10).

In view of the fact that we are those who have become permanently united with Him with respect to the likeness of His death, certainly also we shall be those who as a logical result have become permanently united with Him with respect to the likeness of His resurrection, knowing this experientially, that our old [unregenerate] self was crucified once for all with Him in order that the physical body [heretofore] dominated by the sinful nature might be rendered inoperative [in that respect], with the result that no longer are we rendering a slave's habitual obedience to the sinful nature, for the One who died once for all stands in the

position of a permanent relationship of freedom from the sinful nature.

Now, in view of the fact that we died once for all with Christ, we believe that we shall also live by means of Him, knowing that Christ, having been raised up from among those who are dead, no longer dies. Death over Him no longer exercises lordship. For the death He died, He died with respect to our sinful nature once for all. But the life He lives, He lives with respect to God (Rom. 6:5-10 Wuest NT).



We must remind ourselves when life gets really difficult not to jump to the conclusion that God isn't on the job. The Lord is for you, He will never leave you; never will He forsake you (Heb. 13:5 Message).

Don't allow fear to seize you, to have such a stronghold on your life; instead, trust in God and decree His Word. For the Lord your God is He Who goes with you to fight for you against your enemies, to give you the victory (Deut. 20:4).

During those tumultuous times I experienced, it was Love that made all the difference. Not the sort of love that is dependent on emotion or what is done to earn a person's affection or acceptance or validation.

Instead, a Love so different it's unconditional, absolutely no strings attached. I had arrived at a place where I knew God is love, and He loved me with love that was patient and kind, no envy or boasting or pride attached.

Love that is not rude or self-seeking or easily angered; Love that keeps no record of my wrongs for the love of God does not delight in evil, but rejoices with the Truth. An amazing love that always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres; Love that will never falter or diminish because the love of God will never fail (1 Cor. 4-8).



God's love kept me so I could get up to face each day. Love that I didn't know about protected me so many years ago so I wouldn't be separated from Him permanently. Yes, I once believed God didn't want me, but to my sheer joy and amazement the brilliant splendor of Truth dissolved that horrible lie from the pit of hell.

God had already given me His most precious gift Life and Truth and the only Way to walk across that great chasm and draw near to Him. I just had to accept God's Word as Lord, and invite Jesus, to be Savior of my life.

So do be wise and don't listen to the words of unbelievers. Know the Lord will test you to find out whether you love Him with all your heart and with all your soul. It is the Lord you must follow, and Him you must revere. Keep His commands and obey Him (Deut. 13:3-4a) and you will surely discover it is not our heavenly Father Who falters.

Whatever you do, whether in word or deed, serve the Lord and hold fast to Him (Deut. 13:5b), so all glory and thanks will be given to God the Father through Christ Jesus (Col. 3:17).



So take a strong, firm hold of gratitude, for Jesus makes us adequate and gives us sufficient courage for His power is made perfect in weakness (2 Cor. 12:9). And those of us who place our trust in God would be much more careful to devote ourselves to doing what is good.

These things – giving what we can to support and encourage and uplift - a listening ear, offerings of kindness and concern and respect – are excellent and profitable for everyone (Titus 3:8).

Yes, those who place their trust in the Lord regardless of what they may think and feel have discovered beliefs and feelings are not facts. God's Word is Truth (accurate, dependable, reliable, trustworthy). God's Word is Life (fervor, power, might, zeal). God's Word is the Way (door, voice, discernment, entrance) in the Kingdom of God.



The Amplified Bible version of Eccl. 7:12 offers this explanation, the excellence of knowledge is wisdom because it's a defense as money is a defense giving life to those who have it. We are all familiar with the benefits of currency in this topsy-turvy world where time is so fleeting. The question is what preparations have we made for our eternal being (Luke 12:20 Message)?

Without applying the wisdom that Jesus imparts, we cannot receive all the benefits that come from spending heaven's currency – FAITH in God not in self-importance. For self-importance not only utilizes logic but also works to justify any means for acquiring everything we can.

By His goodness and for our sake God made Jesus to be sin, though He knew no sin, so that in and through Him we might become the righteousness of God (we exchange the mundane for the miraculous when we are in a right relationship with God) (2 Cor. 5:21).

One day at a time, in every circumstance faith and trust and confidence is gained, and He Who began this good work in us will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus

Despite our evil heart, and despite the fact that we walk after our own devices to do as our stubborn heart (and soul - intellect, emotion and will) dictates (Jer. 18:12) the desire of God's heart has always been to sprinkle us with clean water so we would be clean.

To cleanse us from all our impurities and from all our idols and to give us a new heart, and to put a new spirit in us; to remove from us our heart of stone and give us a heart of flesh; to put His Spirit in us so to move us (to desire with all our heart and soul) to follow His Word (Ezek. 36:25) that we would choose the Way of Life, which God has set before us instead of the way of Death (Jer. 21:8).



The Lord knows everyone's heart (Acts 1:24), and God has placed His Son as great High Priest to rule over His house (Heb. 10: 21), so we could be inwardly clean and no one (not even our own heart) would be able to criticize or condemn (Phil. 1:10b TLB).

For it is through the Word of Truth we gain confidence to enter the Most Holy Place because of the blood of Christ. By His death, Jesus opened a new and life-giving way through the curtain that is His body (Heb. 10:19-20 NIV & NLT).

Now we can draw near to God with the absolute trust and confidence that is brought about by faith (which makes it possible for us to lean on and rely in the power, wisdom and goodness of God's Word of Truth). For our guilty consciences are sprinkled with Christ's blood to make us clean, and our bodies are washed with pure water (Heb. 10:22-23 NLT).



In chapter 17 of his Gospel, John recorded the prayer Jesus prayed prior to His betrayal by Judas. A prayer meant to focus us on Love and Truth and Salvation:

This is **eternal life**: that they may **know You**, the only true God, **and Jesus Christ**, Whom You have sent. (vs3)

I have revealed You to those whom You gave Me out of the world. They were Yours; You gave them to Me, and they have **obeyed Your Word**. (vs 6)

Now they know that everything You have given Me comes from You. For **I gave them the words you gave Me**, and **they accepted them**. (vs 7-8)

They **knew with certainty** that I came from You, and they believed that You sent Me. (vs 9)

Holy Father, protect them by the power of Your name – the name You gave Me – so that they **may be one as We are One**. (Vs 11)

**I have given them Your Word**, and the world has hated them, for they are not of the world any more than I am of the world. (vs 14)

**Sanctify them by the Truth; Your Word is Truth.**



(vs 17)

Father, just as You are in Me and I am in You, may they also be in Us so the world may believe that you sent Me. (vs 21)

I have given them the glory that You gave Me, that they may be one as We are One. (vs 22)

I (the Word) in them, and You in Me. May they be brought to complete unity. (vs23)

Eternal Life comes to us through Jesus, God's Word, Who gives us knowledge of God. A decision must be made if Jesus is believed to be our Savior, then we too must believe with all certainty as Lord, the Word of Truth must be exalted high above our own thoughts and opinions and beliefs.

Paul wrote: I urge you by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you be in perfect harmony and full agreement in what you say, and that there be no dissensions or factions or divisions among you, but

that you be perfectly united in your common understanding and in your opinions and judgments (1 Cor. 1:10 AMP).



By looking at a few words that are synonymous with agreement, I'm hoping it will become apparent just how easy it is for the accuser of mankind to dupe those who are ignorant in regard to God's Word of Truth. And, why a lie, which brings about rebellion against God when believed, can cause the good things God will do for His people not to be seen (Jer. 29:32) or received:

- The prince of this world uses fear and deception and temptation so people will be in ACCORD with "*unsound*" doctrine, which is contrary to the sound doctrine that teaches and trains and helps an individual to conform (abide by, fall in with, keep to) the glorious Gospel of the blessed God
- Beelzebub "Lord of Dung" or "Lord of Flies" has the masses swarming to win the APPROVAL of people instead of God. Why? If we are still trying to please people, we will not be a servant of Christ

- The evil one knows an uncircumcised heart is inclined to submit and CONSENT to its own desires (yens, yearnings, longings), and thus be occupied (active, diligent, busy) in deeds of wickedness
- The tempter's goal is to heap sin upon sin on those who have formed an ALLIANCE, but not with God's Spirit, to carry out plans that are not God's
- The father of lies seduces people into CONFORMITY to the pattern of this world to prevent them from being transformed by the renewing of their mind.
- The Liar and Murderer does not want Truth to reveal a new way of thinking because then people would be able to test and APPROVE what God's will really is
- The god of this age distracts so this invitation from God will not be heard and responded to:

"Come now and we will sign a peace PACT,  
 You and I, and you will live (flourish, prosper, thrive)  
 By its terms"

- The ruler of the authority of the air persuades pride-filled hearts to demand miraculous signs and look at and consider the wisdom of man so God's wisdom will not be EMBRACED

- The adversary does not want UNDERSTANDING of God to be gained; instead, that the preaching of Christ crucified would remain a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles
- The angel of the abyss, a destroyer, does not want it to be known a PARTNERSHIP with God will reveal Christ is the power of God and the wisdom of God; that the foolishness of God is wiser than the wisdom of man, and the weakness of God, Christ on the cross, is stronger than man's strength
- Belial, the author of all "vileness," drives us to be self-centered and conceited so we will not live in HARMONY with one another
- That old serpent continues to slither in the way of deception so the masses will not join in UNISON praising and thanking the Lord, Who is good, for His mercy and loving-kindness endures forever
- The deceiver of the whole world does not want people ministering to God in ONENESS for then the glory of the Lord would fill these earthen vessels, that house Holy Spirit, Who ministers in behalf of Christ Jesus the Source of eternal salvation for all who obey God's Word



Not for our sake, O God, no, not for our sake, but for Your name's sake, show Your glory (Ps. 115:1 Message). Cause everyone to praise Your

loving-kindness and Your Truth. The Lord remembers! Yes, Jehovah is constantly thinking about us, and He will surely bless us. He will bless all, both great and small, who revere and reverence Him (Ps. 115:2, 12 TLB).

Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel; He came and set His people free. He set the power of salvation in the center of our lives, and in the very house of David His servant, just as He promised long ago. Deliverance from our enemies and every hateful hand; mercy to our fathers, as He remembers to do what He said He'd do a clean rescue from the enemy's camp.

So we worship Him without a care in the world, made holy before Him as long as we live. Through the heartfelt mercies of our God, God's Sonrise will break in upon us, shining on those in the darkness, those sitting in the shadow of death, then showing us the way, one foot at a time, step-by-step, done the path of peace (Luke 1:68-79 Message).



So give thanks to the Lord, call on His name, make known among the nations what He has done (Ps. 105:1) - presented the offering of

salvation to all people, the forgiveness of their sins (Luke 1:77 Message).

So sing to Him, sing praises to Him; tell of all His wonderful acts. Glory in His holy name; let the hearts of those who seek the Lord rejoice. Look to the Lord and His strength; seek His face always.

Remember the wonders He has done; His miracles, and the judgments He pronounced. He is the Lord our God, His judgments are in all the earth. He remembers His covenant forever, the Word He commanded, for a thousand generations (Ps. 105:1-8).

“I, even I, am He Who blots out your transgressions, for My own sake, and remembers your sins no more.”

Isa. 43:25



How many have exchanged the Truth of God for a lie to worship and serve created things rather than the Creator (Rom. 1:25)? Who refute (contradict, deny, reject) the Word of God is the name (Rev. 19:13) given to the One, God sent to open eyes, and turn those sitting in the darkness of fear and deception and disbelief to Light, and from the

power of Satan to God, so they may receive forgiveness of sins and a place among those who are sanctified by faith in God's Son, Christ Jesus (Acts 26:17-18).

So very long ago God's prophets spoke of the One Who would come forth, a Rod from the stem of Jesse, a Branch that would grow out of his roots (Isa. 11:1).

That One, Christ Jesus, is the Root and the Offspring of David the son of Jesse, and the bright Morning Star (Rev. 22:16). That Man whose name is the Branch, He branched out from His place to build the temple of the Lord (Zech. 6:12).

Isaiah asked: Who has believed our message, and to whom has the arm of the Lord been revealed? The One whose name is the Branch grew up before Him like a tender shoot, and like a root out of dry ground.

He had no beauty or majesty to attract us to Him, nothing in His appearance that we should desire Him. He was despised and rejected by men, a man of sorrows, and familiar with suffering. Like one from whom men hide their faces He was despised, and we esteemed Him not (Isa. 53:1-3).



Throughout this series each booklet began by highlighting a portion of the Book of Genesis from Chapter 1 to Chapter 8:16. When the fall of man occurred in the Garden of Eden, God made the consequence for our becoming familiar with evil crystal clear.

Evil did what it continues to do attack innocence so our own impurity and guilt, cynicism and worldliness would distort our perceptions of God – Love, Truth and Goodness.

Evil did what it continues to do LIE to kill, steal and destroy not only our relationship with God and others and ourselves, but our physical and spiritual lives as well. How? With words!

Sadly, evil forces such as hatred, fear, anger, frustration and resentment are being not just given verbal expression, they are being fueled by emotion. Whether words are written or spoken, they have the power to break and destroy healthy environments, as well as relationships.

Powerful, positive, and beautiful words can heal and uplift. When spoken in Truth, our words have the ability to change lives. Think



about how you communicate. Your words can encourage people to achieve greatness. Your words can support and even heal someone's suffering. Your words can nurture, nourish and inspire your children.

It is vital to always speak your truth, but we must be mindful about what we say and how we say it. Your words can change everything. Taken from the article "Your Words Have POWER – Use Them Wisely," written by Jo Ettles and posted on the website Lifehack.

<https://www.lifehack.org/411479/your-words-have-power-use-them-wisely>



There is a problem with what we think and believe and speak as our truth because it has been tainted by deception. And, there is a very big problem that occurs as a result of an inaccurate perception, like Adam and Eve we're not aware of the fact that we've been or are being deceived. Deception brings loss! Loss of friendship, faithfulness, hope, aspiration, esteem, life.....

In 1 Thess. 2:13 Paul wrote: We also thank God continually because, when you received the Word of God, which you heard from us, you accepted it not as the word of men, but as it actually is, the Word of God, which is at work in those who believe.

Jesus speaks Truth, which can prove much more difficult to receive:

“I don’t accept the words of praise from men. I know you. I know that you do not have the love of God in your heart. I have come in My Father’s name, and you do not accept Me; but, if someone else comes in his own name, you will accept him. How can you believe if you accept the words and praise you give to one another yet make no effort to obtain the words of Truth and Life that come from the only God?”

John 5:41-44



It is natural to be thankful when praise or a gift is received so your appreciation is made known; however, gratitude supersedes a natural response for it is a lasting expression of love.

Everyone who loves (with joy and gratitude for all the goodness God’s Word has shown them), are born of God and knows God (1 John 4:7). If you know that God is righteous, you know that everyone who does what is right has been born of God (1 John 2:29).

Sadly this is not always the case, from the creation of the world God's invisible attributes, that is, His eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly seen, being understood through what He has made.

We don't have to be deceived into accepting doubt or disbelief or confusion we can do what God's Word says (James 1:22). Think about what is excellent and praiseworthy. Think about what you have learned from the Word of Truth then put it into practice (Phil. 4:8-9a).

Don't be quick to fly off the handle for anger boomerangs (Eccl. 7:9 Message), and labels you a fool (NLT).



Those who hear the Word are not considered righteous in God's sight, but those who obey His Word will be declared righteous (Rom. 2:13). Those who don't deliberately forget or deny or ignore Truth that by God's Word the heavens existed and formed the earth out of water (2 Peter 3:5).

People have no excuse for not knowing God; for not worshipping Him or glorifying Him as God or not even giving Him thanks. With hearts unfamiliar with joy and gratitude, their minds became dark and

confused. Claiming to be wise, they instead became utter fools worshipping idols made to look like mere people and birds and animals and reptiles instead of worshiping the glorious, ever-living God.

So God gave them over to their foolish heart to do whatever shameful things it desires. As a result, they did vile things with their bodies. They traded the Truth about God for a lie. So they worship and serve the things God created instead of the Creator Himself, Who is so worthy of eternal gratitude and praise (Rom. 1:20-25 NLT).



The dilemma, God's Word uncovers and lays everything bare before the eyes of Him to Whom we must give account for our words, our choices and our behavior. The Truth is living and active penetrating to divide soul and spirit to judge the thoughts and attitudes of the heart (Heb. 4:12-13).

When God's Word is accepted and believed as Truth that comes from God, Holy Spirit will work in us giving us the desire and the power to do what pleases our heavenly Father (Phil. 2:13 NLT).

When God's Word is not accepted and believed, the spirit of fear, which does not come from God, works in us to cause weakness, rancor and self-indulgence. An interest and awe in the world bewitches, captives and immerses mankind into pridefulness (self-trust, self-opinion, self-love) and lust (wantonness, desire, compulsion) along with (coveting, greediness, bigotry, jealousy..).

God did not give us a spirit of fear, but of Love and of Power and of calm and well-balanced mind (2 Tim. 1:7 AMP). God gives us His Word so we could have the mind of Christ (1 Cor. 2:16), when the voice of Truth and Life and Hope are not only heard, but applied:

"I call you friend, for everything that I learned from My Father I have made known to you. When He, the Spirit of Truth, comes, He will guide you into all Truth. He will not speak on His own; He will speak only what He hears that you may know the mystery of God's Christ."

"This mystery, through the Gospel the Gentiles are heirs with Israel, members together of one body, and sharers together in the promise in Christ, God's Anointed One, Who revealed

God to those given to Him by His Father, Who sanctifies them by the Truth; His Word of Truth.”

“Jesus sent His disciples into the world as God sent Him. The Lord gave Himself as a holy sacrifice for them so they could be made holy by God’s Word of Truth. His prayers and His sacrifice were not just for the Apostles alone, Jesus prayed for those who would believe in Him through their message.”

John 15:15, John 16:12-13, Eph. 3:6, John 17:6-8,17-19



How many have rejected, turned from and walked away from the One Who said:

“Most assuredly, those who believe in Me have everlasting life. I am the Bread of Life. Your fathers ate the manna in the wilderness, but they all died. This bread comes down from heaven so you may eat of it and not die. I am the Living Bread which came down from heaven. The bread I shall give is My flesh, which I gave for the life of the world.”

“Most assuredly, I say to you, unless you eat (taste, partake of, savor) the flesh of the Son of Man and drink His blood, you cannot have eternal life within you. However, anyone who eats (relishes, feasts, consumes) My flesh and drinks My blood has eternal life, and I will raise them up at the last day.”

“My flesh is food indeed, and My blood is drink indeed. Those who eat My flesh and drink My blood abide in Me, and I in them. As the living Father sent Me, and I live because of the Father, so those who feed on God’s Word will live because of Me.”

John 6:47-57



How many are among those who said: This teaching is hard (harsh, severe, inhumane)! Who can accept it (John 6:60)? But those who are not offended do not look and consider the things that are seen for they are temporal (brief and fleeting).

We consider and look to the things that are unseen for the things that are invisible to us are deathless and everlasting (2 Cor. 4:18 AMP),

which provides a very different meaning to hard - enduring, immortal, imperishable, stable, flourishing and thriving.

Yes, we believe the Son of Man ascended to where He was before. That Holy Spirit gives Life, the flesh (human effort) counts for nothing. The very Word of God spoken to you is Spirit and Life, but some just don't believe Jesus (John 6:62-64). Matt. 4:4 states:

“It is written: ‘Man does not live (endure, breath, exist) on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.”



Will you leave? I pray your reply is as Peter's was: Lord, to whom would we go? You have the words that give eternal life. We believe, and we know you are the Holy One of God (John 6:68-69 NLT). As many times as I have read how Jesus spoke about His body being bread to be eaten and His blood to drink my skin cringes a bit.

However, my lips and my soul, which He has redeemed, greatly rejoices in Him (Ps. 71:23 NKJV). For I now know, very shortly after that first communion was offered by the Lord, He was betrayed. Death



is always waiting. At the age of 33 Jesus died at the hands of people with hearts hardened by the evil of self-interest.

The One sent by God said:

“I have eagerly desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer.”

Luke 22:13

While they were eating, Jesus took bread, gave thanks and broke it, and gave it to His disciples, saying:

“Take and eat, this is my body.”

Matt. 26:26

Then Jesus took the cup, gave thanks and offered it to them:

“Take this and divide it among you. Drink from it, all of you. This is My blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins. I tell you, I will not drink of this fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it anew with you in My Father’s Kingdom.”

Luke 22:17, Matt. 26:27-29



This is God's message of Wisdom, but not the wisdom of this age or of the rulers of this age, who are coming to nothing. None of the rulers of that age understood it, for if they had, they would not have crucified the Lord of Glory (1 Cor. 2:6-8). For Christ died for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, to bring us to God (1 Peter 3:18a).

Jesus said:

“Here I am, Father, I have come to do Your will.”

Heb. 10:9a

Yes, in accordance with God's pleasure and will, in love He predestined us to be adopted as His sons through Christ Jesus (Eph. 1:5), the Righteous One, Who is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, not only for ours but also for the sins of the whole world (1 John 2:1-2).



Just as mankind is destined to die once, and after that to face judgment, so Christ was sacrificed once to take away the sins of many people, and

He will appear a second time, not to bear sin, but to bring salvation to those who are waiting for Him (Heb. 9:27-28).

The law requires that nearly everything be cleansed with blood, and without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness (Heb. 9:22). To the praise of His glorious grace, which God has freely given us in the One He loves, for in Jesus we have redemption through His blood (Eph. 1:6-7a).

Through Christ, God has reconciled to Himself all things, whether things on earth or things in heaven, by making peace through the Lord's blood, which He shed on the cross (Col. 1:20).

The Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life as a ransom for many (Matt. 20:28). Jesus came to serve God, to do His will, to set aside the first covenant to establish the second. By the will of God, we are made holy through the sacrifice of the body of Jesus Christ once for all (Heb. 10:9-10).



Only God makes things grow. The one who plants heaven's Seed, God's Word, and the one who waters have one purpose to point you to

the Source of Truth, to Christ Jesus, and each will be rewarded according to their own labor.

We are God's fellow workers; you are God's field, God's building (1 Cor. 3:7-9). This is why, beloved, I want you to know that through Jesus the forgiveness of sins is proclaimed to you (Acts 13:38).

So see to it that no one takes you captive through philosophy and empty deception, according to the tradition of men, according to the elementary principles of the world, rather than according to Christ (Col. 2:8 NASU).



Allow God to water the natural responses of appreciation and thankfulness until gratitude grows and overwhelms your heart with love and honor and reverence for how awesome the Lord Most High is.

The great King over all the earth! He chose our inheritance (Ps. 47:2-4). God heals our waywardness with His Word and loves us freely, for the Lord has turned His anger away from us (Hos. 14:4).



God's Word encourages, comforts and urges us to live lives worthy of God, Who calls us into His Kingdom and Glory (1 Thess. 2:12); Who blesses those who hear His Word and commit their way to the Lord (Luke 11:28).

Why? The mind of a sinful person is death, but the mind guided by the Spirit of Truth is life and peace. The sinful mind is hostile to God. It does not submit to God's Word, nor can it do so. Those controlled by the sinful nature cannot please God (Rom. 8:6-8). The Word of God has said:

*"Not by might nor by power, but by My Spirit. Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid or discouraged. No king is saved by the size of his army, no warrior escapes by his great strength. There is a greater Power with you, for with them is only the arm of flesh, but with you is the Lord God to help you and fight your battles."*

*"The eyes of the Lord are on those who fear Him, on those whose hope is in His unfailing love to deliver them from death and keep them alive. Know the Lord saves His*

anointed; He answers them from His holy heaven with the saving power of His right hand.”

“So wait in hope for the Lord, He is your help and your shield. In Him your heart rejoices, when you trust in His holy name. Not by the sword, nor does their arm bring them victory. It is God’s right hand, His arm, and the light of His face, for He loves you.”

“Your King and Your God decrees victories for you. Through His Word your enemies are pushed back, through His name your foes are trampled. May His unfailing love rest upon you, even as you put your hope in Him.”

“Is it not written in the Law, ‘I have said you are gods?’ If God called them ‘gods,’ to whom the Word of God came – and the Scriptures cannot be broken – what about the One Whom the Father set apart as His very own and sent into the world?”

“Why then do you accuse Me of blasphemy because I said, ‘I am God’s Son?’ Do not believe Me unless I do what My

Father does. But, if I do, even though you do not believe Me, believe the miracles, that you may know and understand the Father is in Me, and I am in the Father.”

Zech. 4:6, Ps. 33:16-22, 2 Chron. 32:7-8, Ps. 20:6, Ps. 44:3-5, John 10:34-39



God said of His Word:

“Impress My words on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up. Tie them as symbols on your hands and bind them on your foreheads. Write them on the doorframes of your houses and on your gates.”

Deut. 6:4-25

Why? God’s Word softens a calloused heart, and transforms a mind. The Lord blesses and protects those who choose not to walk in the counsel of the wicked, who delight in God’s Word of Truth meditating on it day and night (Ps. 1:1-6). The Lord keeps those whose minds are stayed on His Word of Life, of Truth in perfect peace, because they trust in Him (Isa. 26:3).



We must take care not to forget the Word of God. We must train our hearts and souls to bless God and to bless the Lord so all the glorious things He has done for us won't be forgotten or taken for granted.

We have placed our hope and trust and faith in ourselves and others only at times to be cast away brokenhearted, downcast, depressed, miserable and oh so very woeful. The result of accepting the deceivers bribe to ignore, neglect and reject God's Word, Who cautions to protect:

“A bribe blinds the eyes of the wise,  
and twists the words of the righteous.”

Deut. 16:19

James 4:7 tells us to submit therefore to God. Submitting to the Lord doesn't mean we wait for Him to do what we need to do. It means we concede our words, our ways, our will because our heart could never accomplish for us, what only speaking, trusting God's Word, doing the work He requires of us to believe in the One He has sent (John 6:28-29) and align ourselves to God's way of thinking by putting into practice His teachings.

~



God sees His people and has knowledge of them and concerns Himself about them knowing all, understanding, remembering all (Ex. 2:25 AMP). Remembering at the end of the hundred and fifty days the waters had gone down.

On the seventeenth day of the seventh month the ark rested. (The number 150 represents the curse of evil sons, the meaning of number 17 is Victory, sword of the Lord, and number 7 is fullness, completion, perfection)

In previous booklets the symbolism of numbers was investigated to gain deeper meaning into God's Word. However, before we do so there is additional information about the Word of God I would like share with you from an essay written by J. V. Fesko.

The Bible claims in various ways the Word is God Himself. At times, God spoke directly to the prophets of old and told them to write His words down, even going as far as to write His law Himself and giving them to Moses. The New Testament claims that God "breathed out" all Scripture and that those who wrote were guided by Holy Spirit; these claims constitute both the Old and New Testaments as God's own words.

Rather than being convinced by multiple rational proofs, Christians are ultimately convinced of the truthfulness of these claims by the internal witness of Holy Spirit to their validity. The Spirit enables a person to trust in God's Word and gives them assurance in the face of doubt that God assuredly speaks to us through the pages of Holy Scripture.

The Scriptures bear witness about themselves in various ways that they are the true Word of God, and Holy Spirit effectively applies this witness to give us confidence in the written Word of God.

The doctrinal implication of the ultimate divine authorship of the Scriptures is significant. It means that, though the Bible is a book, it is a book unlike any other – it is of divine origin. It also means that we determine the authority of this book on the basis of its divine authorship.

To confirm the authenticity of the Scripture's self-attesting character, Protestant theologians have historically appealed to the doctrine of the internal witness of Holy Spirit.

The Westminster Confession, for example, notes that there are many noteworthy things about the Scriptures: the efficacy (power, strength, energy) of the doctrine, the heavenly nature of its matter, the beauty of its style, the consent of its various parts, and its perfections.

The Confession nevertheless maintains that all of these things abundantly demonstrate the Bible is the Word of God, but “our full persuasion and assurance of the infallible Truth and divine authority thereof, is from the inward work of Holy Spirit bearing witness by and with the Word in our hearts.”

In other words, fallen sinners will never humbly submit to the Word of God. Rather, Holy Spirit must first convict sinners of their need for repentance so that they will trust in Christ for their salvation. Once the Spirit helps us to understand the sinful nature of our heart, we no longer come to the Scriptures with malice and rebellion but as hungry children seeking bread from our heavenly Father.

Beyond Holy Spirit’s work of effectual calling and regeneration, the Spirit positively enables us to trust in God’s Word and gives us assurance in the face of doubt that God assuredly speaks to us through the pages of His Holy Scripture. The Spirit works in concert with the written Word of God to convince us of its truthfulness.

An implication of the self-attesting of Scripture and the internal witness of the Spirit is that God is His own interpreter. Another way of saying this is that Scripture interprets Scripture (*analogia Scripturae*). While historical contexts, commentaries old and new, and linguistic studies are certainly helpful tools in the interpretive process, the Bible is its own interpreter. We find this principle on both large and small scales. In the big picture, the New Testament interprets the Old Testament.

According to some sources, the New Testament cites the Old Testament nearly 900 times.

Ultimately, Christians can rejoice in the knowledge that God has inspired the Bible, as numerous passages affirm. The self-attesting character of the Scriptures and the accompanying internal witness of Holy Spirit is a great source of comfort and assurance. When we have doubts about the authority of God's Word, we can turn to Scripture and pray for Holy Spirit, "The Comforter," to relieve our fears.

As Paul wrote to the Thessalonians: When you received the Word of God, which you heard from us, you accepted it not as the word of men but as what it really is, the Word of God, which is at work in you believers (1 Thess. 2:13). Paul recognized Jesus's teaching:

“For it is not you who speak, but the Spirit of your Father speaking through you!”

Matt. 10:20. Luke 10:16, John 13:20

Therefore, when you worship God, give thanks for His self-attesting Word and the work of His Holy Spirit. An Essay written by J. V. Fesko, “The Self Attestation of Scripture and Internal Witness of the Holy Spirit,” which can be found in its entirety at

<https://www.thegospelcoalition.org/essay/self-attestation-scripture-internal-witness-holy-spirit/>



I invite you to humble yourself, and continue taking new steps to seek a deeper, more intimate relationship with God. Continue to put into practice the principles for taking new steps toward renewal and recovery every day so you will become more God-dependent instead of Co-Dependent.

- The first key is to maintaining an honest view of reality not only considering particular circumstances and events as substantial, but recognizing the substance 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 – God could and would if He were sought
- Admitting I am powerless – If God is your co-pilot, switch seats
- Acknowledging in certain areas my life became unmanageable – Sorrow shared is halved; Joy shared is doubled
- Believing God will restore me with Love, a Sound Mind and Power – Success means getting your BUT out of the way
- Believing God will help me stay committed to this decision to put all of who I am into His possession and safekeeping – There is no magic in this process of renewal and recovery only miracles
- Believing the Word of God will encourage, support and strengthen me as I make a searching and fearless moral inventory of myself – There is pain in this process. Misery is optional
- 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 – The road to resentment is paved with expectation
- With Truth as my solid foundation I have become entirely ready to have God remove all my defects of character – Courage is faith that has said its prayers

- Having received faith and hope and love for the Surety God has given I humbly ask Him to remove my shortcomings -  
F.A.I.T.H. = Fantastic Adventure In Trusting Him
- 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 - Just for today I will try to live through this day only, and not tackle my whole life problems at once
- Having gained confidence and trust in God's refuge I have become willing to step out with the mindset I am doing this with God and for His glory to make my amends whenever possible unless to do so would cause injury to others -  
Remembering nothing is going to happen today that you and God can't handle
- 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 - We are not human beings having spiritual experiences; we are spiritual beings having human experiences
- 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 – If God seems far away, who moved?

- 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 – Worry is a conversation you have with yourself about things you cannot change. Prayer is conversation you have with God about things He can change



And it is the Lord's intention the God of Peace be with you (Phil. 7:9b). That you would always be thankful for God has entrusted you with His Word so you could know and do His will (Rom. 3:2-4), and put on love, which binds all these virtues – compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience – together in perfect unity, and allows the peace of Christ to rule in your heart all because God's Word is dwelling in you richly (Col. 3:12-16).

So you can forgive as you have been forgiven (Col. 3:13) so that Satan will not outsmart you or take advantage of you, and you are not ignorant or unaware of His schemes (2 Cor. 2:11 TLB).



From the beginning he lured mankind into believing we would be like God (Gen. 3:5). What he accomplished was to make our heart prideful. He knew the arrogance and insolence of a haughty heart would always prove to be futile and its boasting would accomplish nothing (Jer. 48:29-30) because the pride of our heart deceives us (Obad. 3).



What do you think the Scriptures meant when they said that God made Abraham the father of many nations? Abraham had such faith in God that he believed God gives life to the dead, and speaks of the nonexistent things that He has foretold and promised as if they already existed (Rom. 4:17).

To have faith as Abraham is to know God gives life to hope and faith and love and joy and peace. So when life causes us not to feel their presence, we can speak the good things from God into existence in our life, for they are truly there.

The power to achieve such an accomplishment dwells within the Word of God, for it is Jesus Who asks:

“Are you tired? Worn out? Burned out? Come to Me. Get away with Me and you’ll recover your life. I’ll show you how to take a real rest. Walk with Me and work with Me – watch how I do it. Learn the unforced rhythms of grace. I won’t lay anything heavy or ill-fitting on you. Keep company with Me and you’ll learn to live freely and lightly. Remember to seek first God’s kingdom and His righteousness! Yes, seek the counsel of the Lord your God, first!”

Matt. 11:28-30 Message, Matt. 6:33, 2 Chron. 18:4



## FIRST THINGS FIRST

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0nwFjdo6nNY>

All the things that I have held dear  
The vanities that whispered in my ear  
What would I do if they all disappeared  
Riches and fame and all that they could buy  
I've come to find they never satisfy  
What would I gain if my soul's the price  
I don't wanna love what the world loves  
I don't wanna chase what the world does

I only want You  
I only want You  
First thing's first  
I seek Your will  
Not my own  
Surrender all my wants to You  
Keep the first thing first  
To live Your truth  
Walk Your ways  
Set my eyes  
Lord I fix my face on You  
All my desires reversed  
To keep the first thing first  
I give it all  
My life an offering  
My heart is Your's  
So have Your way in me  
Your kingdom's all I wanna seek  
I don't wanna love what the world loves  
I don't wanna chase what the world does

I only want You  
I only want You  
First thing's first  
I seek Your will  
Not my own  
Surrender all my wants to You  
Keep the first thing first  
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All my desires reversed  
To keep the first thing first  
To keep the first thing first  
First thing's first  
I seek Your will  
Not my own  
Surrender all my wants to You

Keep the first thing first  
To live Your truth  
Walk Your ways  
Set my eyes  
Lord I fix my face on You  
All my desires reversed  
To keep the first thing first  
To keep the first thing first  
To keep the first thing first  
All my desires reversed  
To keep the first things first  
Song by Consumed by Fire



- During this journey of renewal and recovery you will learn, we begin and continue by changing behaviors, paying attention to our thoughts, and dealing with our feelings
  - We are getting to that miraculous deep healing and change that takes place in the very core of our being
  - We may hurt a little, sometimes a lot, to be healed – but our issues and behaviors have hurt a lot, too – any pain we feel in the process

of healing has a promise and a reward at the end of it – we are no longer suffering needlessly and endlessly – we are hurting only as much as is needed to finally heal from our pain – then we feel better than we ever imagined possible

- The promise of working these steps is the core healing we are seeking through a spiritual awakening
- We become aware that we no longer have the right to inundate our life with sabotaging, self-defeating fears and beliefs – fears that want to control, and beliefs that want to destroy our joy – it is time to let go of them and heal
  - We become aware we are not separate from God – we can take His hand and be co-creator, allowing Him to take the lead – we are not helpless – we do have choices
  - We learn to be connected to others – to look to them for comfort and compassion
  - We learn that nurturing ourselves is our job, we will be in trouble if we expect someone else to do that job for us
  - We will learn daily to accept ourselves and that all our feelings are valid and important – we learn to take care of our feelings and ourselves

- We no longer have to become enmeshed in the downward spiral of trying to control others, and allowing them to control us, our lives or our happiness
- We will unpack those negative beliefs that have been controlling our lives
- We may discover the biggest pain we have felt and faced in our lives is the pain of being us – this journey of renewal and recovery will unmask and heal that pain
  
- Many have been (or are) the victims of recurrent physical or sexual abuse
- The threat of abuse is always present
- Whether it stems from abusive incidents or merely from feeling like a hostage to the angry rantings or depressed ruminations of an out-of-control spouse or parent, it lodges in the heart like a thorn
- We tend to minimize both the amount of violence in our relationships, and the level of stress we live under
- We do not see ourselves as victims except in the most extreme cases, and even then we frequently take the blame; either we “Caused” the abuse, or we “Deserve” to be treated abusively

- Our denial system prevents us from viewing the situation realistically
- When others are unhappy, we often see it as a result of our own inadequacy, and being abused further lowers our self-esteem
- As often happens in hostage situations, we begin to identify with our aggressors and empathize with our aggressors' frustrations and disappointments
- Our own needs take second place, or are not considered at all
- In the end, they stop believing they should be treated with respect
- The victims of abuse are usually too embarrassed to speak freely about it
- Telling the truth requires them to "Betray" their family, and the resulting sense of guilt may activate the tendency to minimize what they have just said
- It may release a flood of dammed-up feelings
- We now know that abuse is cyclical, and that many of its victims grow up to become abusive themselves
- Many suffer stress-related illnesses
- Home life is highly stressful



- We compound this constant exposure to stress by denying that it exists and/or by denying that we are affected by it
- We are capable of getting through times that might slow down or stop people with less determination or willpower
- This in itself becomes a source of pride, which serves to offset our chronically low self-esteem
- Since the minimization of our behavior (or the minimization of ourselves) is a symptom of our dis-ease, it is difficult to persuade us to look honestly at our situation
- Many of us have remained in a primary relationship with an active substance abuser or with someone who has narcissistic traits or behaviors for at least two years, without seeking outside help
- No one wants to expose their family to the scrutiny of others
- There is a point at which these reasons become excuses, and the desire to stand on one's own two feet becomes martyrdom
- When one refuses to seek outside support to avoid having one's denial system confronted, silence has become self-serving
- When one is motivated by fear of the chemical dependent or someone who is controlling, the situation is no longer healthy

- When one is blocked by pride, passivity has become dangerously self-destructive

“Father, I will thank You, and confide in You forever,

For You have done it

(Delivered me and kept me safe)

I will wait on, hope in and expect in Your name.

You have made me like a green olive tree,

And I’m thriving in Your house.

I will trust You, and confidently rely on Your

Loving-kindness and mercy.

I will praise You forever and ever

For all that You have done.”

Psalm 52:8-9