

KINGDOM FOUNDATIONS

1.1

1. Hebrews 6 Principles

Hebrews 6:1-3“Therefore leaving the principles of the doctrine of Christ, let us go on unto perfection; not laying again the foundation of repentance from dead works, and of faith towards God, of the Doctrine of Baptisms, of the laying on of hands, of the resurrection of the dead, and of eternal judgment. And this we will do if God permit.”

God’s intention is to take us on to perfection and bless our lives. Heb 6:9-15

James 1:4 “that you may be perfect and entire, wanting nothing..”

Ephesians 4:11-15 “For the perfecting of the saints...unto the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ.”

2 Tim 3:16 “thoroughly equipped for every good work” (blessed and fruitful)

To obtain this we must allow God to train us as children. Come to Maturity.

We can be perfect in each state we are at. If a child behaves like a child this is perfect.

But if an adult acts like a child, then this is not perfect and they have lessons still to learn.

God does not teach us new things until we come to terms with what he has already taught us.

God issues a ‘building permit’ for our lives. Until the foundations are laid, no construction can really begin.

THE FOUNDATIONS MUST BE STRONG

The foundations listed in Hebrews 6 are:

1 REPENTANCE FROM DEAD WORKS

Proverbs 14:12 “there is a way that seems right unto a man, but the end thereof is death” (Everything is about the Heart)

Ezekiel 18:4 “Behold all souls are mine, the soul that sins it shall die”

Isaiah 64:6 “and all our righteousness is as filthy rags”

Acts 17:29-31 “and the times of this ignorance God winked at, but now commands all men everywhere to repent”

Mark 1:15 “repent and believe the gospel.”

1 John 1:9 “if we confess our sinsforgive our sinscleanse us....”

Nothing we do of our own effort can make us good in God’s sight. All our good works are tainted by sin. Until we repent and acknowledge our sinfulness everything we do is separate from God’s kingdom and has no eternal value.

Remember Sin is first against God c/- Ps 51: 4 , Ex 20:1-----

2 FAITH TOWARD GOD

Hebrews 11:6 “But without faith it is impossible to please him....”

Galatians 3:24-26 “Wherefore the law was our schoolmaster to bring us to Christ, that we may be justified by faith. But after that faith has come, we are no longer under a schoolmaster. For ye are all children of God by faith in Christ Jesus”

Faith is the Unseen connection we have with God, not Natural but Spiritual.

Note: 1 Pet 1:8

Rom 10:17 “ faith comes from hearing

Rom 1: 20-22 God is evident to all and speaking to all

Rom 12: 3 “a measure of Faith.....

God gives Faith to all, but to Trust God is our individual choice.

3 THE DOCTRINE OF BAPTISMS (Covered in section 3 of this study)

(Baptise = to immerse)

Baptism of Repentance

Mark 1:4 “John did baptise in the wilderness and preach the baptism of repentance”

Baptism of Water

Mark 16:16 “he that believeth and is baptised shall be saved” (Rom 6: 3-4)

Baptism of the Holy Ghost

Acts 1:4,5 “for John truly baptised with water but you shall be baptised with the Holy Ghost not many days hence” (Acts 2 : 1-----)

Baptism of Fire

Luke 3 : 16 “ He will baptize with the Holy Ghost and with Fire.” (James 1:2-3)

Explain: Eph 4:5 “ .one baptism.” This is the Baptism into Christ (H/G) , the new life.

4 THE LAYING ON OF HANDS (impartation)

Deuteronomy 34:9 “And Joshua the son of Nun was full of the spirit of wisdom, for Moses had laid his hands upon him”

Mark 16:16 “and you shall lay hands on the sick and they shall recover”

Acts 8:18 “and when Simon saw that through the laying on of hands the Holy Ghost was given...”

1 Timothy 4:14 “Neglect not the gift that is within thee, which was given thee by prophecy, with the laying on of the hands of the

1 Timothy 5:22 “Lay hands suddenly on no man, neither be partakers of other men’s sins, keep thyself pure”

2 Timothy 1:6 “that thou stir up the gift of God, which is in thee by the putting on of my hands”

Mark 10:16 “and he took them up in his arms put his hands upon them and blessed them” The children

Through the laying on of hands there is a Spiritual impartation. Spirit to Spirit.

Not hovering over people but actually laying on of hands !!!!

5 RESURRECTION OF THE DEAD

Rom 10:9	“ and believe in your heart that God as raised Him from the dead.....”
Luke 24:5-6	“He is not here.....”
Rom 1:4	“by the resurrection.....”
John 45:28,29	“Marvel not at this for the hour is coming in the which all that are in the graves shall hear his voice and shall come forth”
1 Cor 15:12-26	“For if the dead rise not, then is not Christ raised”
1 Cor 15:51-54	“For this corruptible must put on incorruption and this mortal must put on immortality”
1 Thess 4:13-16	“and the dead in Christ shall rise first”
Revelation 20:4-6	“..but the rest of the dead lived not again until the thousand years were finished. This is the first resurrection”
Revelation 20:12	“And I saw the dead small and great, stand before God” (Second Resurrection)

6 ETERNAL JUDGEMENT

John 5:22	“For the Father judgeth no man, but hath committed all judgment to the Son” (Jn 12: 46-48)
Acts 10:42	“And he commanded us to preach unto the people, and to testify that it is he which was ordained of God to be the judge of the quick and the dead”
Romans 14:10	“For we shall stand before the judgment seat of Christ”
Hebrews 9:27	“And its appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment”
2 Thess 1: 3-10	“ God’s vengeance on the unbelievers.....”

For God to be just, he must implement justice. Eternal judgment will designate our eternal dwelling, heaven or hell. God does not send us to hell, we are forced to go as a result of refusing the mercy of God. Just as it was with Noah , 120 years then Judgement , so it will be again. 2000 years and then Judgement.

Discuss:

Math 25: 30-46	Faithful servants, Sheep and Goats etc
2 Tim 4:6	Paul to receive his crown

Conclusion:

The Foundations are everything. Without them we will fail. These are the basis of our hope “ The Way, The truth and The Life.”

2. The Gospel of the Kingdom

1. WHAT IS THE FIRST PRIORITY IN LIFE ?

Matthew 6:33	“Seek ye first the Kingdom of God and His righteousness and all these things shall be added unto you”
Matthew 6:19-21	“..but lay up for yourselves treasures in Heaven, where moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal”
Matthew 3:1-2	John the Baptist preaching KOG
Matthew 4:17	Jesus preaching KOG
Luke 9:1,2	The Disciples commission(Power, Authority)preaching KOG

2. WHAT IS THE GOSPEL OF THE KINGDOM OF GOD ?

“Gospel” literally means “Good News” Is 52: 7 (an invitation)
 “Kingdom” means the dominion of the King. Who, what and where He rules.
 God being the creator and ruler of all things is therefore the King.
 The gospel of the Kingdom of God is the good news of a Kingdom which operates under the Ruler-ship / Leadership of God the King. His Kingdom.
 Rom 8 : 20-22 “ all creation groans ...”

3. HOW DO WE SEEK IT?

When we find the King and submit to His leadership, we find the Kingdom.

Matthew 12:28	“...if I cast out devils by the Spirit of God, then the kingdom of God has come unto you”
Mark 10:21-23	the rich young ruler close to the Kingdom.
Luke 17:20-21	the Kingdom of God is within you.
John 18:36	“...my Kingdom is not of this world”

4. WHAT IS THE KINGDOM OF GOD ?

Romans 14:17	“For the Kingdom of God is not meat or drink, but righteousness, peace and joy in the Holy Ghost”
Col 3:1	“ seek things that are above ..”
It is a spiritual authority/confidence that we have through our relationship to the King. It is not the ruler-ship of this world.	
2 Corinthians 10:3-5	Our weapons are not carnal but mighty through God
Ephesians 6:12	“For we wrestle not against flesh and blood but against principalities, powers, the rulers of the darkness of this world”

5. HOW DO WE GET INTO THE KINGDOM ?

John 3:3-6	Born again, born of water, born of the Spirit to enter KOG
Mark 16:16	“ believes and is baptized”
Acts 2:36-38	What must we do? Repent and be baptized...
Acts 8:35-39	Phillip and the eunuch, repent, believe and be baptized
Acts 19:1-6	Paul checks the foundations of the Ephesian believers

6. CAN A PERSON BE SAVED WITHOUT ALL THE FOUNDATIONS ?

Remember Salvation begins in the heart and is an unfolding revelation

Rom 10 : 9 “... confess the Lord Jesus shall be saved...”

Forgiveness for salvation, then obedience to enter KOG

Mark 16:16 (Math 28:19) “...believes and is baptized shall be saved...”

Luke 23 : 39-43 The thief on the cross

James 4:17 “to him who knows to do good and does it not, to him it is sin.”

The spiritual birth is comparable to a natural birth A = natural B = spiritual

- A) At conception a natural egg is fertilized, Blood is present, new life begins.
- B) We are brought to life by the Blood of Jesus, we are born again. Born Again.
- A) In the womb we are immersed in water, growth continues.
- B) In water baptism we are immersed in water , growth continues. Born of Water.
- A) At birth Breathe is received and a new life is born. A new voice is release.
- B) We receive the breathe of the Holy Spirit and a new voice is born. Born of the Spirit.

Note: A baby is not considered BORN until out of the mother’s womb. Fully Born into the World. Consider miscarriage etc , 4 types of ground etc.

John 8:30-31 “if ye continue in my word, then are ye my disciples indeed”

John 6:64-69 “Jesus knew from the beginning who they were that did not believe.”

7. CAN WE BE A CHRISTIAN WITHOUT ALL THE FOUNDATIONS?

A Christian is a person who has willingly submitted their life to Christ. God’s covenant promise to us is that He will forgive us, be our Father and we will become His children.

Jn 1:12 He is committed to your salvation process. Our commitment is to learn to Trust Him. It is a Heart condition and this will determine the next steps.

A Christian who does not go on to establish the foundations will find life very difficult. For a natural baby to be healthy and well, it must respond to the parenting. If a child continually refuses parent food or guidance, they will die.

Mark 16:16 “ he who believes and is baptized shall be saved (Math 28:19)
Remember Salvation is the beginning Not the end .

8. WHAT ARE THE CHARACTERISTICS OF THE KINGDOM OF GOD?

2 Corinthians 5:17	“Therefore if any man be in Christ he is a new creature..”
Colossians 1:13	“Who hath delivered us from the power of darkness..”
Romans 5:19	Obedience verses disobedience Heart condition
Acts 2:42	Apostles Doctrine Breaking of Bread Prayer Fellowship
John 1:12	“power to become sons of God”

9. WHO WILL ENTER THE KINGDOM OF GOD?

Matthew 7:18-23 “..not everyone that says unto me Lord, Lord..”

10. COST/BENEFIT

Cost:

i) Life	
Matthew 16:24-26	“....deny himself...”
2 Cor 6: 17-18	“ come out
ii) Priorities	
Matthew 19:29	“..and everyone that has left houses, brothers...”
Matthew 6:33	“..but seek ye first.....” Heavenly Priority
iii) Commitment	
Luke 9:62	“..no man having put his hand to the plough and looking back.....”

Benefit:

i) Eternal Life	
John 3:16	“should not perish, but have everlasting life..”
John 12:25	“.....loses his life... will save it for eternity.”
ii) Righteousness, Peace and Joy	
Romans 14:17	“righteousness, peace and joy in the Holy Ghost”
iii) Faith, Hope and Love	
1 Corinthians 13:13	“now abides faith, hope and love”
iv) Power (Authority)	
Acts 1:8	“but ye shall receive power..”
2 Timothy 1:7	“power, love and a sound mind”

HALLELUJAH

3. The Doctrine of Baptisms

Hebrews 6:1-2 “.....of the doctrine of baptisms,.....”
 The word BAPTISM literally means to “immerse” (NB: 1 Cor 10:2, Gal 3:27)

The Bible teaches 4 distinct Baptisms.

1. The Baptism of Repentance (the Baptism of John) Forgiveness/Sanctification
2. The Baptism of Water (Baptism into Jesus Christ) Separation
3. The Baptism of the Holy Ghost (Jesus) Resurrection Power
4. The Baptism of Fire (Jesus) Purified

Note: Mark 1: 4,8, Luke 3 : 16

John 3:3-5 Born again, born of water, born of the Spirit

Acts Chapter 8,10, and 19 The Apostles always checked these foundations in believers.

Typified in the Old Testament by Israel escaping Egypt. 1Cor 10:2

BLOOD	WATER	SPIRIT
LAMB	RED SEA	CLOUD
CLEANSSES	SEPARATES	EMPOWERS

(c/f 1 Peter 3:20-22 Noah through the flood)

1 THE BAPTISM OF REPENTANCE (a conviction of sin)

Mark 1:4 “John did baptize in the wilderness and preached the baptism of repentance for the remission of sins.

Mark 1:15 “repent and believe the gospel”

Acts 19:3-4 “Unto what then were you baptized...?”

Acts 17:30 “but now commands all people everywhere to repent”

2 Peter 3:9 “..but that all should come to repentance.”

Luke 13:3-5 “except you repent you shall all likewise perish..”

The baptism of repentance is the result of being “immersed” in the conviction of sin and choosing to believe the Gospel. Repentance and faith towards God causes a person to be born again. **Note the 4 types of ground in the Gospels**

Hebrews 11:6 “he that comes to God must first believe..”

James 2:19 “.devils believe and tremble.” Belief not enough, must repent.

Repentance is a change of heart and will. Rebellion and stubbornness give way to willingness and obedience.

Luke 15:11-32 “the prodigal son...came to himself (his right mind)

Note: Heb 4 : 1-7 “..harden not your heart.” and I Samuel 15:23 “...rebellion and stubbornness...”

2 THE BAPTISM OF WATER (Separates the old from the new)

(i) What is the Significance of Water Baptism? (Jesus was water baptized)

A) It is a command

Matthew 28:19 "go therefore and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name..."

Mark 16:16 "He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved"

Acts 2:38 "Repent and be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ"

B) Public Confession of your Faith

Matthew 10:32 "Whosoever confesses me before men.."

C) Burial Service

Romans 6:1-7 "that the body of sin might be destroyed"

Romans 5:17-18 "one man's offence.. one man's righteousness"

Adam	Disobedience	Death
Jesus	Obedience	Life
Old Man	Sin	Adamic Nature
New Man	Righteous	Last Adam (Jesus)
Death	Burial	Resurrection

1 Corinthians 10:1-2 Old Testament type of Israel. Egyptians buried- 2 in 1 out; also Noah and the flood, sinners buried in water, righteous saved by faith.

D) Type of Circumcision (note: OT pattern Gen 17 : 10-14)

Colossians 2:11-15 "putting off the body of sins of the flesh by the circumcision of the flesh"

Romans 2:25-29 "Circumcision is of the heart"

Galatians 5:6 "For in Jesus Christ neither circumcision nor uncircumcision...."

Acts 15:1,5,11,19,20 New Testament confusion (circumcision not necessary)

E) Naming Ceremony (Note: Rev 3:12)

Matthew 28:19 "baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost"

What is the name of the Father?

Exodus 15:3 "the Lord is a man of war; the Lord is His name"

Isaiah 42:8 "I am the Lord that is my name"

What is the name of the Son?

Luke 1:31 thou shalt conceive in thy womb, and bring forth a son,
and shall call his name Jesus”
Matthew 1:21- 23 “And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shall call his
name Jesus” (Immanuel)

What is the name of the Holy Spirit?

1 Corinthians 1:24 “Christ the power of God”
Colossians 1:27 “Christ is in you, the hope of glory”

The Lord Jesus Christ fully represents the Godhead.

Luke 2:11 “For unto you is born this day in the city of David a
Saviour, which is Christ the Lord.”
Acts 2:36 “.....Jesus is the Lord’s Christ...”
Gal 3 : 27 “ baptized into Christ has put on Christ “

Note: the disciples baptized in Jesus Name Acts 2, 10 and 19. WHY ??

(ii) WHO SHOULD BE BAPTISED?

Acts 2:38 “repent and be baptized every one of you”
Acts 8:35-37 “If thou believe with all thy heart.....”

(iii) QUESTIONS CONCERNING WATER BAPTISM

Should we be re-baptized?

Yes - If we have backslidden for a period of time in deliberate rebellion, or if we were baptized without realizing what it signified, or for the wrong reason.

Should infants be baptized?

No - baptism is for those who have understood repentance.
Jesus blessed the little children in Matthew 19:13,14
Children are sanctified by the believing parent - 1 Corinthians 7:14

Is Sprinkling Valid?

Only if full immersion is not practical, ie sickness, persecution, old age, cripple.
Baptizo = to immerse
Dead bodies are buried, not just sprinkled with dirt.

When should we be baptized?

As soon as possible Acts 2:41 “..the same day”

Who should do the baptizing?

Authorized believer, Matthew 28:19 “Go ye therefore..”

3 THE BAPTISM OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

A WHO IS THE HOLY SPIRIT?

The Holy Spirit is the Presence of God. He is God in the Earth.

1 John 5:7 “For there are three that bear witness in heaven; the Father, the Word, and the Holy Spirit; and these three are one.”

The presence of God in the earth is the Holy Spirit. The omni- presence of God.

Genesis 1:2 “the Spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters”

Genesis 2:7 “the breath of life”

Psalms 139:7-8 “where shall I go from your Spirit?”

Luke 1:67 “and his father Zacharias was filled with the Holy Ghost”

John 20:22 “he breathed on them, and said to them, receive the Holy Ghost”

He is the Breath, Presence, Anointing, and the Power of God in the earth.

B WHAT IS THE MINISTRY OF THE HOLY SPIRIT?

In the old testament the Holy Spirit came upon certain ones to empower them to perform tasks or to bring the “Word of the Lord” (Samson, Daniel, Gideon, David etc).

In the New Testament He indwells and anoints (covers) anyone who will repent and believe.

Acts 2:17 “I will pour out my Spirit on all flesh.....”

(i) His ministry to unbelievers: Through the word of God.....

John 16:7-11 “will convict the world of sin.....”

SIN - because they don't believe.

RIGHTEOUSNESS - because Jesus proved he is the Son of God by the Resurrection.

JUDGEMENT - Jesus victory over death also reveals the His power over satan

(ii) His ministry to believers

John 16:7 The comforter

Romans 8:16 The witness of our salvation.(Sealed by the H/S)

1 John 2:27 The teacher

Colossians 3:15 Our peace

Romans 8:14 Our guide

Romans 15:16 Our sanctifier

Acts 1:8 Our power to witness

Romans 8:26	Our Intercessor
1 Corinthians 12	Spiritual Gifts (power, vocal and revelation)
1 Thess 5:19	Our Life “ Do not quench the Spirit”
Ephesians 4:30	Our Life “And do not grieve the Holy Spirit”

C BAPTISM, A SIGNIFICANT PERSONAL EXPERIENCE OF THE HOLY SPIRIT.

The usual pattern for believers is;

BORN AGAIN	WATER BAPTISM	HOLY SPIRIT BAPTISM
Jesus Math 1:18	Matthew 3:16	Math 3 :17
Apostles Jn 20:22	???	Acts 2:1-4
Paul Acts 9:6	Acts 9:18	Acts 9:17
Samaritans	Acts 8:12	Acts 8:17
Gentiles	Acts 10:46-47	Acts 10: 44-45
Ephesians	Acts 19:2	Acts 19:6

This is normal Christian life. Baptism of Holy Spirit (This is the ONE BAPTISM of Eph 4) is not an additional experience. It is Christianity.

D WHAT IS THE EVIDENCE OF BAPTISM IN THE HOLY SPIRIT?

2 Cor 5:17	“..they are a changed person. “
Mark 16:17	“they will speak with new tongues”
Acts 2:3,4	“and began to speak with other tongues”
Acts 10:46	“For they heard them speak with tongues”
Acts 19:6	“and they spoke with tongues and prophesied”
1 Corinthians 14:8	“I thank God I speak with tongues more than you all”
1 Corinthians 13:1	“Though I speak with tongues..”

E WHAT HAPPENS WHEN WE SPEAK IN TONGUES?

Acts 2:11	“speak in our tongues the wonderful works of God”
Romans 8:26	“Spirit makes intercession for us..”
1 Corinthians 14:2	“For he who speaks in a tongue does not speak to men but to God.....in the spirit he speaks mysteries”
1 Corinthians 14:4	“he who speaks in a tongue edifies himself”

Note : 1 Cor 13 : 1-3 Tongues is the evidence, it is not the experience. It is the overflow of the river of God through our life.

F HOW DO WE RECEIVE THE BAPTISM OF THE HOLY SPIRIT?

Must be born again and baptized in water andNote : Luke 24:49.

Acts 2:38 "ye SHALL receive the Gift of the Holy Ghost "

Acts 9:17, Acts 10:44, Acts 19:6

It is received by faith, or it can be received via the laying on of hands. Begin to worship God, surrendering your tongue to him and allowing it to form the new words and utterances that come. You have complete control over your tongue and the use of tongues. The spirit does not override your self-control. If you make no sound, then no sound will come out.

G ONE BAPTISM BUT MANY FILLINGS.

John 4:14 "...shall be in him a well of water springing up"

John 7:38 "...rivers of living water"

Acts 4:31 "...and they were all filled with the H/S.."

We are like clay pots, and God desires to fill us with His presence and overflow our lives with the running water of the Word of God and Spirit of God. Washed in the Word, and refreshed by the continual presence of God in our lives.

Ephesians 5:18 "but be filled with the Spirit"

H NOTE: This is not the Gift of Tongues (1 Cor 12).That is for a specific purpose and must be accompanied by Interpretation of Tongues to edify the Church.

4 THE BAPTISM OF FIRE

Fire in the Bible symbolizes the purifying presence of God. The God ordained trials of life that destroy the "dross" and purifies the vessel and brings maturity. A clay pot needs to be "fired" before it can contain the water of God.

Hebrews 12:29 "for our God is a consuming fire"

Luke 3:16 "baptize you with the Holy Ghost and with fire"

Luke 12:49-50 "I am come to send fire on the earth"

1 Peter 1:7 "the trial of your faith...be tried with fire"

Daniel 3:17-30 Shadrach, Meshach, Abednego

Romans 8:16,17 "if so be that we suffer with him"

2 Timothy 2:12 "If we suffer.."

1 Peter 4:1-2 "he that suffered in the flesh hath ceased from sin"

1 Peter 5:10 "after you have suffered a while"

Matthew 20:22-23 Jesus said " ...the baptism I am baptized with...

James 1: 2-4)

1 Pet 1:7) God's testing for His Glory. Pure Gold.....

1 Pet 4:12-19)

Conclusion:

Baptism into CHRIST = one Baptism Ephesians 4:5. This is Christianity

4. Faith

Romans 1:17 “the just shall live by faith..”
 Galatians 3:11-14 “the just shall live by faith”
 Galatians 2:16-21 “and the life that I now live in the flesh, I live by faith in the
 Son of God”

**Faith is the Inner Conviction that God is Real and that Jesus Christ is the
 Son of God and Saviour of the World**

**Faith is our unseen connection with God - Spirit to Spirit – evidenced by
 having “peace with God”**

1 THE REALITY OF FAITH (not imagination)

Hebrews 11:1-40 “Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the
 evidence of things unseen”
 Hebrews 6:16-20 “That by two immutable things in which it was impossible
 for God to lie”
 Mark 9:23,24 “Jesus said unto him, if thou can believe, all things are
 possible to him that believe”
 Mark 11:20-26 “whosoever shall say to this mountain”
 Luke 17:5,6 “Lord increase our faith...if you had faith as the grain of
 a mustard seed”

Faith must be real for the believer

2 HOW WE INCREASE OUR FAITH - Grow in Faith

A) GOD’S WORD

Romans 10:17 “So then faith comes by hearing and hearing by the
 Word of God” (2 Pet 3:18)

B) FASTING

Mark 9:17-19,29 “This kind can come forth by nothing but prayer and
 fasting”

C) EXPERIENCE

James 2:17 “Even so faith, if it has not works, is dead, being alone”
 1 Samuel 17:34-38 David-Lion-Bear-Goliath (1Cor 10:13 “ not more than you
 can bear”)

D) REVELATION

Romans 14:23 “whatsoever is not of faith is sin”

“According to your Faith”We grow through increased faith/ trust/ confidence.

3. WHAT IS SAVING FAITH

John 3:15,16 "That whosoever believes in him shall not perish"
John 5:24 "He that hears my Word and believes on him that sent me"
Romans 10:9-10 "that if you shall confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus"
Ephesians 2:8 "For by grace you are saved through faith"
Galatians 3:26 "For you are all sons of God through faith in Jesus"

I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God and Savior of the world

4. WHAT ABOUT LIVING FAITH

2 Timothy 3:16,17 "All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good ..."
Ephesians 6:10-17 "be strong in the Lord and in the power of his might, put on the whole armor of God that you may be able to stand"
Matthew 6:33 "but seek you first the kingdom of God and His righteousness and all these things shall be added unto you."

Trusting God every day for everything.

5. DIRECTING FAITH – Gods leadings

Proverbs 3:5-7 "Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not to your own understanding, in all your ways acknowledge him and he shall direct your paths; Be not wise in thy own eyes; fear the Lord and depart from evil"
Romans 8:14 "For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God"
Ps 119:105 "Your Word is a Lamp to my feet and a light to my pathway".

Learning to trust God's Word and His thoughts to our heart.

6. THE POWER OF FAITH – the Kingdom of God

Acts 1:8	“But you shall receive power, after the Holy Ghost is come upon you”
Luke 10:18-20	“Behold I give unto you power to tread on serpents and scorpions”
Mark 16:17	“And these signs shall follow them that believe”
John 14:12	“the works that I do he shall do also and greater..”
Matthew 8:8	“heal the sick, cleanse the lepers, raise the dead, cast out devils”

We are the Head not the tail, above and not beneath.

7. HINDRANCES TO FAITH

a. LACK OF KNOWLEDGE

Romans 10:12-17	“How then shall they call on him in whom they have not believed, how shall they believe in him of whom they have not heard, how shall they hear without a preacher?”
Hosea 4:6	“ my people are destroyed through the lack of knowledge..”
2 Tim 2:15	“ study to shew yourself approved to God

b. UNBELIEF

Matthew 13:58	“And he did not many mighty works there because of their unbelief”
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c. DOUBLE - MINDEDNESS

James 1:2-8	“let him ask in faith, nothing wavering”
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d. FEAR (covered in another lesson) 2 Tim 1:7

Conclusion :

WITHOUT FAITH IT IS IMPOSSIBLE TO PLEASE GOD

5. Transparency

Transparency is having a clear and open conscience toward God and man. Guilt and shame will cause us to hide as was the case with Adam and Eve. God wants us to be forgiven, and deal with issues so we can face Him and the world with a clear conscience and our head held high.

- John 8:36 “ He who the son sets free is free indeed” (**inside not outside - inner peace**)
- Acts 24:16 “And herein do I exercise myself, to have always a conscience void of offense toward God and toward men”
- 1 Timothy 1:19 “Holding faith and a good conscience”
- 1 John 3:20,21 “if our heart condemn us not, then we have confidence toward God”
- Luke 2:52 “And Jesus increased in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and man”

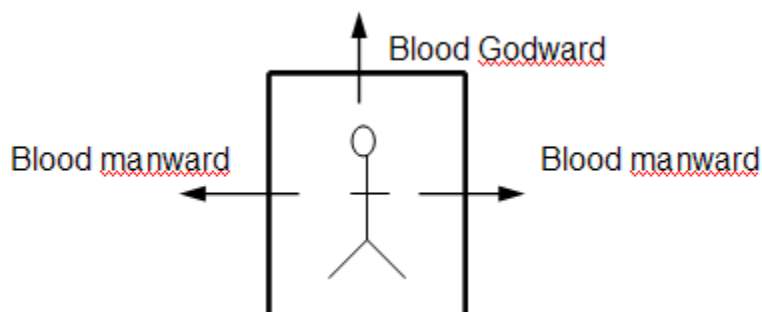
If we are not free of offence then our guilt will create wrong behavior and attitudes. **We must be open and clear towards God and man.**

1 DEALING WITH SIN TOWARDS GOD

- 1 John 1:9 “If we confess our sins he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness”
- Math 6 : 12 “ Father forgive me my sin.....”
- 1 Thess 5:19 and Eph 3:30 “ Grieve/Quench not the Spirit

2 DEALING WITH SIN TOWARDS TOWARDS MAN

- Matthew 5:23,24 “Therefore if you bring your gift to the altar, and there remember that your brother has ought against thee, go thy way and be reconciled to thy brother and then come and offer thy gift.”
- Math 6:12 “Forgive me my sin as I forgive others
- Exodus 12:7 “And they shall take of the blood and strike it on the two side posts, and the upper doorpost of the houses.”



3 THE BENEFITS OF TRANSPARENCY

a) If we are clear toward God we then have access to the throne of God and His authority and power in the Holy Spirit. (Faith and confidence toward God)
 Hebrews 10:16-22 “having therefore brethren, boldness to enter into the Holiest..” (boldness because of our relationship with God)
 Mark 16:17 “in my name they shall cast out devils”

b) If we are clear towards man the devil is silenced.

Revelation 12:10 “for the accuser of our brethren is cast down”
 John 14:30 “the prince of this cometh and hath nothing in me”

c) Four areas of Forgiveness i) Toward God – Father forgive me
 ii) Toward ourself – I forgive myself
 iii) Toward our offenders- I forgive them
 iv) Seek forgiveness of others who I have offended

While it is easy to ask God for forgiveness it is sometimes a more difficult thing to ask forgiveness from people. We judge others by their actions, but we judge ourselves by our intentions. We expect others to forgive us but sometimes it requires that we acknowledge our wrong behavior and ask them for forgiveness. Man’s natural inclination is to shift blame. God wants us to accept responsibility and to use Kingdom principles to put things right.

4 HOW TO REMOVE GUILT

- 1 Allow God to examine us and convict us of offences that need to be put right.
- 2 Choose to clear up offences (including reparation if necessary) as soon as possible.
- 3 Check our attitudes;
 - Have we forgiven others ?
 - Do we accept responsibility for any offence we have caused ?
 - Can we go in love?
 - Are we prepared for any response?
- 4 If they don’t know - then don’t go. **Clear it with God and move on.**
- 5 Choose words carefully. Don’t blame shift.
- 6 Don’t put it off - just do it and get yourself free.
- 7 If people do not accept your heart act of reconciliation and will not forgive you, this is not your concern. Our heart is clear and they must deal with their own heart.

6. CHECK LIST EXERCISE

- Are there people you have offended eg family, employers, neighbors etc or are there things that have been stolen from others that need returning or restitution made?
- Have you lied to anyone?
- Have you lost your temper with anyone?
- Have you damaged the reputation of anyone by gossiping, backbiting, slander etc?
- Have you been ungrateful for what others have done for you?
- Have you held a bitter spirit towards someone? Do not hold unforgiveness.
- Have you rebelled or shown disrespect against authorities over you? - parents, teachers, employers, the law etc ?

In light of the above, do you need to put anything right with anyone?

If so determine when and where is the best time to do this and pray for opportunity to do so. Be as brief and clear as possible. Don't involve others in your confession. Clear your conscience quickly, don't put it off.

Genesis 32:6-11 Jacob fears Esau's response, wrestles with God and then finds Esau's heart is changed towards him. Genesis 33:4

Proverbs 28:13 "...whoso confesses and forsakes....."

James 5:16 "...Confess your faults one to another....."

Humility allows us to maintain a clear conscience.

Pride justifies its actions, builds barriers that put us in bondage and prevent us from being free. It sears our conscience, destroying our "navigation" system that will lead us to "shipwreck".

Conclusion:

To be forgiven, to forgive others, and to seek the forgiveness of those we have offended, clears our conscience and allows us to walk with God free from guilt and shame, and enables us to freely minister into the world.

6. Personal Acceptance

Unless we can accept and love ourselves as a worthwhile creation of God we will not be free to enjoy life. To understand our value we need to see what the intent of God is for us, and the value He places upon us.

Math 22:37-39 “ Love God.....Love Neighbour..... **AS YOURSELF**”

1 GOD’S INTENTION

- Genesis 1:26-31 “And God said let us make man in our image, after our likeness” and God saw everything that he made, and behold it was very good” (**For His pleasure we were created**)
- Genesis 5:1-2 “...in the likeness of God made he him, male and female created he them; and blessed them”
- Psalm 8:3-6 “For thou has made him a little lower than the angels, and has crowned him with glory and honour”
- James 3:9 “..we men which are made after the similitude of God”

We were created by God to be like Him and reveal His Nature. Note: Gal 5:22-23 Holy, Righteous, loving, kind, patient, creative etc. **In the beginning it was good.**

2 THE PROBLEM (Sin in the garden of Eden)

- Genesis 3:4,5,22 “Behold man has become as one of us, to know good and evil”

Disobedience caused man to lose his innocence. The ‘fall’ produced in us the nature of sin. The nature of sin is the exaltation of “I”. (ourselves above God) No longer does man trust in God and the goodness of God but rather in himself. The result: **When we forsake God we loose our identity.**

- Genesis 6:5-6 “And God saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually”
- Psalm 14:1-3 “..they are all gone aside, they are all together become filthy, there is none that doeth good, no not one”
- Isaiah 59:1-4 “but your iniquities have separated between you and your God, and your sins have hid his face from you”

Sin destroys in us the image of God we were created to fulfill. The result is a conflict of conscience, confusion and a lack of identity and purpose.

- Romans 7:15-21 “for the good that I would I do not; but the evil that I would not, that I do” “ who will deliver me from this body of death”

3 RESTORATION

- Romans 8:28 “For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son...moreover whom he did predestinate, them he also called”
- Jeremiah 1:5 “Before I formed you in the belly I knew thee..”
- Joel 2:25 “And I will restore to you the years that the locust have eaten, the cankerworm and the caterpillar..”
- Ezekiel 36:33-35 “In the day that I shall have cleansed you from all your iniquities will also cause you to dwell in the cities, and the wastes shall be inhabited”
- 2 Cor 5:21 “ He who knew no sin, became sin for us

Renewed self-esteem comes from renewed relationship with God.

- 1John 1:9 “ if we confess our sinand cleanse us from all unrighteousness”
- Matthew 22:37-39 “thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind...and the second is like unto it, thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself”

In loving God you find your purpose and discover your worth. God values you more than all the things created. To redeem you back into His original purpose, He was willing to die the death of the cross for you.

4 OVERCOMING HINDRANCES TO SELF ACCEPTANCE

a) Dealing with the Past- forgive and be forgiven

- Hebrews 12 : 1-2 “.....laying aside every weight.....”
- 2 Corinthians 5:17 “Therefore if any man be in Christ he is a new creation, old things are passed away, all things are become new”
- Romans 8:33 “Who shall lay anything to the charge of God’s elect, it is God that justifies”

b) Having a sense of Belonging (identity restored)

- Romans 8:16,17 “The spirit itself bears witness with our spirit that we are the children of God”

c) Having a sense of Destiny

Philippians 3:13 "...this one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, reaching forth unto those things that are before"

d) Dealing with negative Words

Isaiah 54:17 "No weapon that is formed against you shall prosper; and every tongue that shall rise against thee in judgment you shall condemn..."

Pr 18:21 "Life and death are in the power of the tongue"

e) Don't compare ourselves with others, Be yourself.

2 Corinthians 10:12 "but they measuring themselves and comparing themselves with themselves are not wise"

Ps 139:14 "I am fearfully and wonderfully made.."

f) Don't be self-conscious, be God conscious.

Matthew 16:24 "If any man will come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me"

5 SOME EVIDENCES OF SELF-REJECTION

- a Vanity - excessive emphasis on appearances and clothes (trying to gain acceptance from external appearances and worldly values).
- b Difficulty trusting in God (lack of acceptance and love from previous authority figures)
- c Difficulty in loving others. (love your neighbour as yourself, if you don't love and accept yourself you can't give what you don't have)
- d Excessive shyness (often a result of early rejections making you feel that you have nothing of worth to contribute).
- f Excessive attention seeking behaviors (trying to gain acceptance by being noticed)
- g Self-criticism (negative attacks on your own abilities to justify the results, often stems from comparing yourself with others).
- h Bitterness and blame shifting for the way things are.
- i Perfectionism (seeking to gain acceptance by the things you do rather than the person you are.)
- j Wrong priorities and motives. (Being led by insecurities instead of your own convictions).

6 OVERCOMING

Overcoming self-rejection happens as we take the focus off “self” and begin to seek God and to serve others.

Mark 10:43-45 “...he that desires to be great let him be your servant....”

Colossians 3:1 “If ye then be risen with Christ seek those things which are above”

Hebrews 12:1-2 “..looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith..”

1 Corinthians 10:24 “Let no man seek his own but every man another’s well-being ”

Luke 6:38 “Give and it shall be given unto you..”

Change the changeable

Thank God for the unchangeable and be the best you can be !

Address strongholds of negative words and wrong attitudes.

Romans 12:1,2 “But be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind”

1 Cor 13: 4-8, 13 Love overcomes all things

Conclusion:

Love God , love yourself, love others, What a beautiful life.

7. Problems and Conflicts

Romans 8:18 “ the sufferings of the present age.....”

Once the foundations are laid, you are born again, born of water and the spirit, now you have to get on with the process of **Daily Living and deal with the conflicts of daily life.**

Matthew 7:24 “Therefore whoever hears these sayings of mine and does them,... builds upon a rock ..”

Matthew 11:28-30 “Come to me all you who labour..... and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me”

1 Corinthians 10:13 “There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man...but God will shew you the way of escape.. ”

Romans 12:1-2 “but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind..”
We must change our attitudes and our World view

Even though we are not of this world, we have to live in the world and deal with the challenges of daily life.

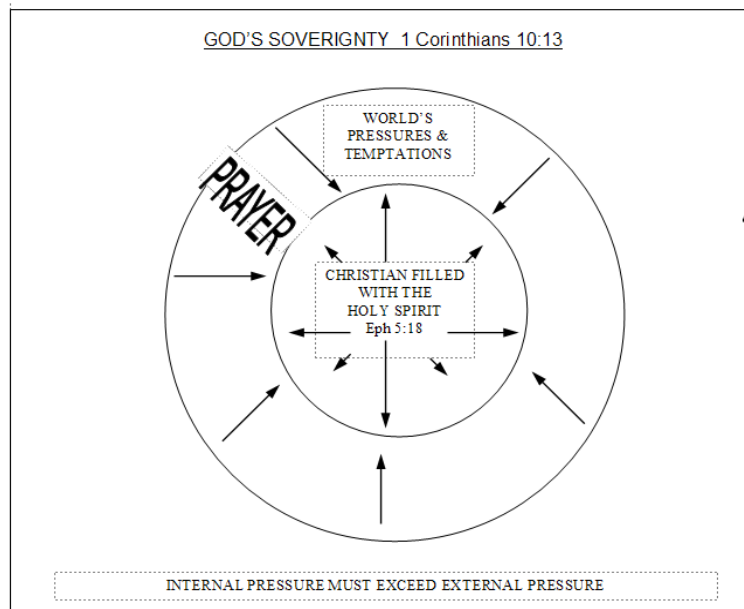
John 17:14-17 “they are not of this world”

John 16:33 “In the world you shall have tribulation”

Colossians 3:1 “If ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above ..”

1 Jn 4:4 “.. Greater is He that is in you, than he that is in the world.”

THE LORD WANTS TO TEACH US HOW TO OVERCOME



1. Understanding the Human Condition

(A) THE LAW OF SIN AND DEATH VERSES THE LAW OF THE SPIRIT OF LIFE IN CHRIST. Inner conflict. God consciousness alive now.

Romans 7:14, 8:2 "I find then a law, that when I would do good, evil is present with me"
 Colossians 1:13 "Who hath delivered us from the power of darkness"
 Galatians 5:16 "Walk in the Spirit and you shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh"

Problems in life accentuate the fallen nature and bring it to our attention. God uses this to show us attitudes and behavior we need to change. The power of Christ in us enables us to change.

(B) OVERCOMING IS A PROCESS. We are learning new ways.

John 3:30 "He must increase, but I must decrease"
 1 John 2:12-14 "I write unto you little children. young men ,old men....."
 The process of coming to maturity.

Belief = Attitudes = Behavior
Behavior determines result and feelings (positive or negative)
Good attitude = good behavior = good result (feelings)
Negative attitude = bad behavior = conflict = bad feelings

Ephesians 4:17-32 " Put off the old and put on the new.."

2. Keys to resolving problems and conflicts

A) YOU ARE DEAD AND CHRIST IS ALIVE IN YOU

Galatians 2:20 "It is no longer I that liveth but Christ.."
 What is my response in situations?

B) FORGIVENESS

Matthew 6:14,15 "For if ye forgive men their trespasses your heavenly Father will also forgive you"
 Romans 12:17-21 " .. do not repay evil for evil.."
 Matthew 5:44,45 "Love your enemies, bless them that curse you"

WE MUST FORGIVE OUR TRANSGRESSORS

Forgiveness allows YOU to be free
 It does not free your offender.. God's will ensure that justice is done.

Unforgiveness is like an infection in a wound.
 It will breed anger, bitterness, hatred and murder.
 Forgiveness acts like an anti-biotic, cleansing the wound from infection.
 Forgiveness allows the wound to heal. The more the wound is interfered
 with the longer it will take to heal. The scar may remain but it can become
 a testimony to others of God's healing power

C) RELEASE CARES AND BURDENS TO GOD

Matthew 13:22 "and the cares of this world and the deceitfulness of riches
 choke the word and it becomes unfruitful."
 Matthew 6:25 "Take no thought for your life, what you shall eat, or what you
 shall drink; not yet for your body..."
 1 Peter 5:7 "Casting all your care upon him for he cares for you"
 Philippians 4:6 "Be careful for nothing, but in everything by prayer and
 supplication"
 Ephesians 6:13 "..and having done all stand"

D) THE WORD AND WORSHIP

2 Corinthians 3:18 "But we all with open face beholding as in a glass the glory
 of the Lord, are changed into the same image from glory to
 glory, even as by the Spirit of the Lord"
 Psalm 17:15 "As for me, I will behold your face in righteousness, I shall be
 satisfied when I awake with thy likeness"
 James 1:22 "But be ye doers of the Word and not hearers only deceiving
 our own selves"
 2 Timothy 3:16,17 "All scripture is given by inspiration of God and is profitable
 for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in
 righteousness, that the man of God may be perfect,
 thoroughly furnished unto all good works"
 1Jn 2:28-1Jn3:1-3 Read and consider

Conclusion:

**Becoming a Christian does not mean an end to troubles, in fact it
 introduces you to the reality of the spiritual conflict for the souls of men.
 Instead of flowing with the tide of humanity you now must swim against it.
 The Bible record shows us the history of conflict that every believer must
 face to some degree. Think of the conflict and troubles of the following;**

Noah	Joseph	Moses	David
Daniel	Jesus	James	John the Baptist
Peter	Stephen	Paul	John

Hebrews 11:32, 12:4 "And what more shall I say? For the time would
 fail me to tell.."

8. Fighting Fear

A) THERE ARE THREE BASIC TYPES OF FEAR. (Some good , some bad).

1 FEAR OF GOD- Good

To fear God is to understand that He is the . He is the creator, we are the created being.

Math 10:28 “fear Him who can destroy body and soul into hellfire.”

Heb 10:31 “ it is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the Living God”

Psalms 111:10 “The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom”

Proverbs 14:26 “in the fear of the Lord is strong confidence”

Psalms 33:8 “let all the earth fear the Lord”

Acts 5:9-14 “and great fear came upon all the church” Annanias and Sapphira

Eccl 12:13 “Let us hear the conclusion of the matter, fear God and keep His commandments, or this is the whole duty of man”

So let us fear the Lord - Honor Him and be Thankful every day - Hallelujah

2 NATURAL FEAR- Good (natural cautiousness)

Natural fear is the inbuilt mechanism that motivates us for survival

Judges 7:9-10 Gideon is encouraged by God when facing a natural fear.

Judges 7:2,3 God encourages the fearful to depart.

2 Samuel 15:14 David flees from Absalom

2 Corinthians 7:5 Paul's natural fear of the circumstances

We must never open our SOUL to fear, we must never be placed in situations where we are overwhelmed by fear. This can open us up to a Spirit of Fear.

Traumatic situations, being forced outside our comfort zone, being terrified etc can open us up to a Spirit of Fear.

Some fears we can overcome, this is our choice, but we must never be overcome by fear.

3 THE SPIRIT OF FEAR- Bad (unnatural, immobilized by fear)

A spirit of fear is the enemy of Faith. It robs God's people of their victory.

2 Timothy 1:7 “For God has not given us a spirit of fear but of power, love and a sound mind”

Proverbs 29:25 “The fear of man brings a snare..”

Numbers 13:33-14:9 “...neither fear ye the people of the land, for they are bread for us”

1 Samuel 17:23,24 The Israelites fear Goliath

Deuteronomy 20:8 Officers separate the fearful from the faithful

FOR THE SPIRIT OF FEAR WE NEED DELIVERANCE

B) WHAT ARE THE RESULTS OF FEAR

Job 3:25	“For the thing that I greatly feared came upon me, and what I was afraid of has come upon me” (Note : the power of words)
Isaiah 66:4	“I will choose their delusions and will bring their fears upon them” The consequence of unbelief
John 7:13	“ no man spoke openly for fear of the Jews..” (afraid to witness) Fear of man
1 Samuel 28:4-7	“Saul in fear seeks a familiar spirit.” (fear causes bad decisions) Result of not Trusting God
Revelation 21:8	“But the fearful, and unbelieving, and the abominable, and murderers..” Disobedience to God

C) COMMON FEARS

Failure: Romans 8:31 “if God be for us, who can be against us”
Death: Hebrews 2:14,15 “deliver them who through fear of death”
Embarrassment: Colossians 3:3 “For ye are dead, and your life is hid with Christ
Inability: Philippians 4:13 “I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me”
Poverty: Philippians 4:19 “But my God shall supply all your need..”
 Sickness, Old Age, Criticism, the dark, flying, talking to people etc
 There are literally hundreds of things that hold people in fear.

God’s kingdom does not operate by fear but by Faith in a faithful God.

Fear cripples people and prevents them from achieving their full potential. The devil uses fear tactics, he will intimidate you like a bully. If we are ‘in Christ’ then dominion and authority is restored to us. The devil fears any Christian who believes and applies the Word of God.

D) OVERCOMING FEAR

Daniel 11:32	“but the people that do know their God shall be strong and do exploits” Have faith and trust in God
Joshua 1:6-9	“be strong and very courageous”

Having a real relationship with God is the key to overcoming fear. There are over 365 “fear not” in the Bible. Nothing can happen to our lives that God does not know about or allow. Developing our relationship with God will develop in us these eternal qualities below. (1 Corinthians 10:13)

i) OUR FAITH

Mark 4:40 "why are ye so fearful? How is it that you have no faith?"
 1 Thessalonians 5:8 "putting on the breast-plate of faith and love.."
 John 8:32 "You shall know the truth.." (Faith in the truth sets us free)

ii) OUR HOPE

Hebrews 6:18,19 "That by two immutable things, in which it was impossible for God to lie, we might have a strong consolation, who have fled for refuge to lay hold upon the hope set before us. Which hope we have as an anchor of the soul, both sure and steadfast, and which enters into that within the veil."
 1 Peter 1:3,4 "has born us again into a lively hope"

Hope of the future rewards and nature of heaven enable us to overcome the fears of temporal things.

iii) GOD'S LOVE

1 John 4:18 "There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear"
 2 Timothy 1:7 "For God has not given us a Spirit of fear, but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind"
 Psalm 34:4-9 "I sought the Lord and he heard me, and delivered me from all my fears"
 Matthew 10:26-31 "and fear not them which kill the body but are not able to kill the soul"
 Matthew 28:20 "and lo I am with you always, even unto the end of the world"

Conclusion:

With our eyes on the Lord and peace in our heart , we learn we can trust God to guide us perfectly, and Faith/Trust becomes the anchor of our life.

9. Stewardship

- 1 Corinthians 6:19-20 “Do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost... you are no longer your own.”
 2 Cor 5:14-15 “ ...we should live for Him who died for us”

We are now accountable to God for the issues of life. We are no longer a law unto ourselves –

We are responsible for the following elements of daily life:

A) **OURSELF** Our relationship with God, our goals, aspirations etc God's plan is perfect.

1 Tim 4:16 “ take heed to yourself.....”

B) **TIME** If we don't organise ourselves someone else will. We are not controlled by circumstances but in control of circumstances!

Ephesians 5:15-16 “redeeming the time because the days are evil.....”

1 Cor 14:40 “ all things decent and in order.”

Priorities

God

Family/Work

Self

Others

Time Wasters

TV/cell phone

Excessive hobbies/socialising

Social media or gossiping

Excessive sleep/laziness

Excessive meetings (church included)

C) **MONEY/ RESOURCES** -

God's provision for your life:

1 Tim 5:8 “ But if any provide not for his own.....”

Tithes:

Gen 14:18-20 “Then Melchizedek king of Salem brought out bread and wine, he was the priest of the most high God; And he blessed him and said; Blessed be Abram of the most high God, possessor of heaven and earth....and he gave him tithes of all”

Malachi 3:10 “Bring all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house and prove me not in this says the Lord of Hosts, if I will not open for you the windows of heaven and pour out for you such a blessing.....”

Offerings:

Luke 6:38 “Give and it shall be given to you; good measure, pressed Down, shaken together and running over....”

Gen 12: 2 “....and you shall be a blessing.....”.

D) **MATERIAL THINGS** - attitude toward earthly possessions

- Colossians 3:1 "If then you were raised with Christ, seek those things that are above, where Christ is, sitting at the right hand of God"
- Acts 2:44-47 "Now all who believed were together, and had all things in common,....."
- 1Tim 6:6-10 " now Godliness with contentment is great gain...."

E) **COMMITMENTS BEFORE GOD** - Priorities

- Work** - Colossians 3:22-24
"And whatever you do, do it heartily, as to the Lord and not to men"
- Family** - Colossians 3:18-21
"Wives submit to your own husbands as is fitting in the Lord, husbands love your wives.."

Note : Break ungodly commitments - Proverbs 6:2-3 "You are snared by the words of your mouth" Humble yourself.

F) **WORDS**

- Matthew 12:36,37 "But I say unto you that for every idle word that men may speak, they will give account of it in the day of judgment"
- James 3:10 "Out of the same mouth proceed blessing and cursing. My brethren these things ought not to be so.."

G) **TALENTS**

- Matthew 25 The Parable of the Talents. God given abilities.
- James 1:17 " every good and perfect gift comes from above"

H) **BEING A WITNESS**

- Acts 1:8 "..and you shall be witnesses unto me in Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria and the utter most parts of the Earth"
- Thess 5:22 "Abstain from every form of evil"
- Romans 14:16 "Let not then your good be evil spoken of.."

Conclusion:

Stewardship recognises we are accountable for what we have and what we do, and there is a day of accountability.

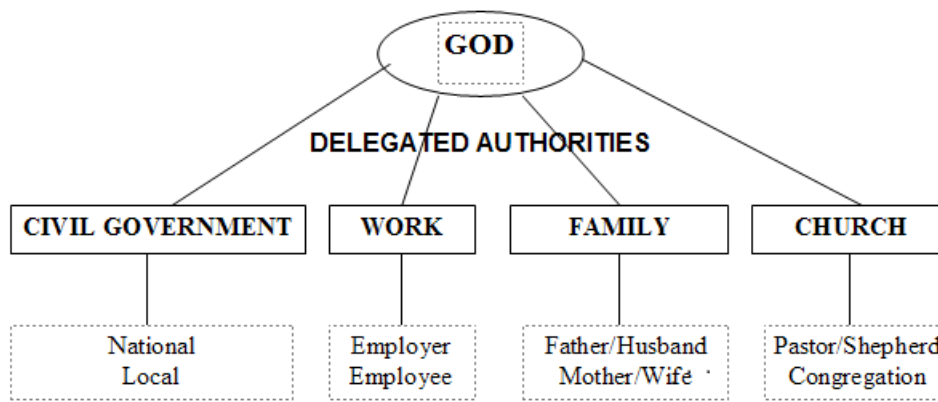
We are all stewards of God's Grace and need to be able to stand before God knowing we have done our best to honour Him in our life.

" every good and perfect gift comes from God " James 1:17

10. Authority and responsibility

I Cor 14: 40 “ let all things be decent and In order”
As God is the Creator of all things, He therefore has authority over all things. The Kingdom of God is decent and orderly. God delegates authority and flows through it.

A) WHAT ARE GOD’S LEGITIMATE ORDAINED AUTHORITIES



1 Timothy 2:1-4 “and giving of thanks be made for all men; for Kings, and for all that are in authority.”

Romans 13:1-7 “Let every soul be subject unto the higher powers. For there is no power but of God; the powers that be are ordained of God”

All authorities have God-given boundaries and have God-given authority within those boundaries. No-one has the authority to operate outside those boundaries.

All leadership is ordained to be servant leadership for the benefit of all.

All leadership is delegated and accountable to God.

We are anointed/empowered to function as we are authorised by God.

1. **Civil Government (law and order in civil society)**

Proverbs 21:1	“The Kings heart is in the hand of the Lord”
Titus 3:1	“Put them in mind to be subject to principalities and powers, to obey magistrates..”
John 19:10-11	“you could have no power at all against me, except it were given you”
Acts 23:1-5	“..you shall not speak evil of the ruler”
Acts 4:18-21	This is not rebellion. Just authorities acting out of order.

2 Work

Colossians 3: 22-24	“ Bondservants, obey your masters according to the flesh...”
Colossians 4:1-2	“ Masters, give your bondservants what is just and fair...”
1 Pet 2 : 18-20	“ Servants, be submissive to your masters with all fear.....”
2 Thess 3:10	“ if anyone does not work neither shall he eat.”

3 Home/family order

Ephesians 6:1-	“Children obey your parents...fathers provoke not your children”
Luke 2:51	“Jesus was subject to them..”
Colossians 3:18-21	“..wives submit...husbands love.. children obey”
Headship:	
1 Corinthians 11:3	“For I would have you to know that the head of every man is Christ, and the head of the woman is man; and the head of Christ is God”

4 Church

Hebrews 13:7	“Obey them that have the rule over you, and submit yourselves; for they watch for your souls, as they must give account.”
Acts 20:28	“Take heed therefore unto yourselves and to all the flock, over which the Holy Ghost has made you overseers..”
1 Peter 5:1-4	“..feed the flock of God which is among you..”

B) GOD'S PURPOSE IN AUTHORITIES

They are delegated for our benefit.

i) **To learn obedience**

1 Samuel 15:22 “..to obey is better than sacrifice”

ii) **To learn commitment**

Luke 12:48 “..to whom much is committed, much is required”

iv) **To learn faithfulness**

Luke 16:10-13 “...if you have not been faithful in the unrighteous mammon, who will commit to your trust the true riches”

v) **To learn right responses**

John 14:21 “He who hath my commandments and keeps them”

C) ALL AUTHORITY MUST BE SUBJECT TO OBEDIENCE

Matthew 8:6- “ I am a man under authority..”

Acts 19:13-16 “..certain of the itinerant Jews..”

D) DEALING WITH AUTHORITIES THAT ARE OUT OF ORDER

i) Deal with respect

Romans 13:7 “..honor to whom honor”

ii) Suggest another way

James 1:5 “ If any of you lack wisdom let him ask of God”

iii) Explain the Godly principle

Daniel 3:16-18 “..if it be so, our God whom we serve is able to deliver us”

iv) Take the results with gladness

Matthew 5:10,11 “ Blessed are they which are persecuted for righteousness sake”

Conclusion:

God gives us POWER (dunamis) to operate/ live within His delegated AUTHORITY (exousia). We are empowered ambassadors for God while we abide within the Kingdom principle of submission to authority, to demonstrate the Kingdom of God in the earth.

The devil has power, but no authority over the Christian. He seeks to rob us of our authority by getting us to go outside our mandated position of Authority. Jesus submitted to God's will (the cross) and received all power and authority restoring it back to us.

REMEMBER ALL CHRISTIAN LEADERSHIP IS SERVANT LEADERSHIP