

GETTING TO THE ROOT OF THE MATTER (BIBLE STUDY)

INTRODUCTION (WE MUST CHOOSE TO FIGHT?)

Imagine stepping blindly into a boxing ring with a professional fighter. Imagine being untrained, unknowledgeable of your opponent's strengths and weaknesses, and the boxing game itself. Imagine being knocked down repeatedly due to the inability to see your opponent, his movements, or tactics. Visualize receiving punishing blows and bruises but not knowing how to fight back defensively or offensively. You are in the fight of your life and unable to fight back! Unfortunately, this is the reality for many of God's people today.

The Bible declares, **"My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge" (Hosea 4:6)**. Many of us suffer from Satan's bruises and beatings simply because we refuse to believe a spiritual fight is happening! While others of us recognize we are in a fight but have convinced ourselves that we are supposed to suffer at our opponent's hand. We accept it as God's will and refuse to fight back! These false belief systems are some of the greatest weapons of the adversary.

Discuss the underlined statements:

- a. The adversary is a professional fighter
- b. The adversary has strengths and weaknesses
- c. The adversary's ability to be undetectable, his movements, and his tactics (purpose)
- d. Believers knowing how to fight back defensively or offensively
- e. We all are in the fight for our lives
- f. Why do some refuse to believe that a spiritual fight is occurring?
- g. Why do some refuse to fight back and accept it as God's will?

WE MUST MAKE A CHOICE (IT IS NOT GOD'S FAULT)

God gave us several weapons and tools to fight with and to be successful in spiritual battles. If we fail to use these tools and weapons given to us, can we truly say it is God's will for us to remain in many situations, or is it our CHOICE? The Bible states in **(2 Chronicles 7:14 NIV)** **"if my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and I will forgive their sin and will heal their land."**

However, if we fail to humble ourselves, pray, seek, and turn from our wicked ways – is it God's fault for not hearing, answering, forgiving, and healing? No, the blessing (the healing of the land) is based upon a condition of correct CHOICES (humbling, praying, seeking, and turning)! God gives us a CHOICE between life and death as well as prosperity and disaster **(Deut 30:15-20)**. We Must Choose To Fight the good fight of faith and use the tools and strategies given to us!

Discuss the underlined statements:

- h. If we fail to humble ourselves, pray, seek, and turn from our wicked ways – is it God's fault for not hearing, answering, forgiving, and healing?
- i. Why do you believe God gave us a Choice? What is that Choice?



1. According to **Hosea 4:6 AMP**:

- (a) Why are God's people destroyed? (b) Where does God reveal his will?
- (c) What are the consequences of rejecting God's knowledge?

(Hosea 4:6 AMP) My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge [of My law, where I reveal My will]. Because you [the priestly nation] have rejected knowledge, I will also reject you from being My priest. Since you have forgotten the law of your God, I will also forget your children.

2. According to **2 Corinthians 10:4 AMP, KJV**: What is the purpose of our weapons of warfare?

(2 Corinthians 10:4 AMP) The weapons of our warfare are not physical [weapons of flesh and blood]. Our weapons are divinely powerful for the destruction of fortresses.

3. According to **Ephesians 6:10-13**:

- (a) How do we become strong in the Lord (verse 10)?
- (b) What is the purpose of God's Armor (verses 11,13)?
- (c) What (or who) do we wrestle (contend) against (verse 12)?

(Ephesians 6:10-13 AMPC) **(10)** ...Be strong in the Lord [be empowered through your union with Him]; draw your strength from Him [that strength which His boundless might provides]. **(11)** Put on God's whole armor [the armor of a heavy-armed soldier which God supplies], that you may be able successfully to stand up against [all] the strategies and the deceits of the devil. **(12)** For we are not wrestling with flesh and blood [contending only with physical opponents], but against the despotisms, against the powers, against [the master spirits who are] the world rulers of this present darkness, against the spirit forces of wickedness in the heavenly (supernatural) sphere. **(13)** Therefore put on God's complete armor, that you may be able to resist and stand your ground on the evil day [of danger], and, having done all [the crisis demands], to stand [firmly in your place].

4. According to **1 Timothy 6:12** and **2 Tim 4:7**: How did Paul define a good fight of faith?

(1 Timothy 6:12 KJV) Fight the good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life, whereunto thou art also called, and hast professed a good profession before many witnesses.

(2 Tim 4:7 KJV) I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith:

7. According to **Deut 30:15-20 NLT**: (a) What did God give Israel? (b) What was the key to life?

(Deuteronomy 30:15-20 NLT) **(15)** "Now listen! Today I am giving you a choice between life and death, between prosperity and disaster ...**(19)** "Today I have given you the choice between life and death, between blessings and curses. Now I call on heaven and earth to witness the choice you make. Oh, that you would choose life, so that you and your descendants might live! **(20)** You can make this choice by loving the Lord your God, obeying him, and committing yourself firmly to him. This is the key to your life...

8. According to **2 Peter 3:9**:

- (a) What is God's Will (desire) concerning mankind?
- (b) Why will people perish and go into eternal judgment?

(2 Peter 3:9 KJV) The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance.



GETTING TO THE ROOT OF THE MATTER (BIBLE STUDY)

WEAPONS AND TOOLS TO FIGHT WITH

God gave us several weapons and tools to fight (war) with.

The Blood

The Name

The Word of God

The Mind of Christ

The Holy Spirit

The Heavenly Angels

The Body of Christ

The Armor of God

The Spiritual Gifts

The Garment of Praise

Prayer

RECONCILED BY THE BLOOD

(Genesis 3:7 Amplified Bible) (6) And when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was delightful to look at, and a tree to be desired in order to make one wise and insightful, she took some of its fruit and ate it; and she also gave some to her husband with her, and he ate. (7) Then the eyes of the two of them were opened [that is, their awareness increased], and they knew that they were naked; and they fastened fig leaves together and made themselves coverings. (21) The Lord God made tunics of [animal] skins for Adam and his wife and clothed them.

Adam and Eve chose leaves from a fig tree as a covering. But Adam and Eve would soon realize that the leaves from a fig tree could cover their nakedness from one another but could not hide their sin (shame and transgression) from God. Their restoration and reconciliation could only be achieved by God Himself and not by man's feeble efforts or works. Many theologians believe that the Bible indirectly records the first animal sacrifice in **Genesis 3:21. "The Lord God made tunics of [animal] skins for Adam and his wife and clothed them"** The Bible does not provide details on how these animal skin garments were made. But many believe that a blood sacrifice is explicitly implied in the text and it foreshadows the ultimate sacrifice (redemption by the blood of the Lamb) that God Himself also established. It is also believed that this sacrifice (covering/atonement) was the reason why Adam and Eve were not banished from God's presence even though they were driven out of the garden.

Discuss the questions/statements:

1. A fig tree could cover their nakedness from one another but couldn't hide their sin (shame/transgression) from God.
2. Who made tunics of animal skins for Adam and Eve?
3. Restoration and reconciliation could only be achieved by God Himself and not by man's feeble efforts or works.
4. Sacrifice (covering/atonement) was the reason why Adam and Eve were not banished from God's presence even though they were driven out of the garden.
5. God took the responsibility upon Himself to reconcile mankind. Discuss the following Scripture: (Colossians 1:19-20 AMP) (19) For it pleased the Father for all the fullness [of deity—the sum total of His essence, all His perfection, powers, and attributes] to dwell [permanently] in Him (the Son), (20) and through [the intervention of] the Son to reconcile all things to Himself, making peace [with believers] through the blood of His cross; through Him, [I say,] whether things on earth or things in heaven.



6. Many believe they can set their guidelines for righteous living. Discuss the following Scripture:
(Isaiah 64:6 AMPC) For we have all become like one who is unclean [ceremonially, like a leper], and all our righteousness (our best deeds of rightness and justice) is like filthy rags or a polluted garment; we all fade like a leaf, and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away [far from God's favor, hurrying us toward destruction].

THE SPIRIT OF THE BLOOD COVENANT

(Exodus 24:7-8 KJV) (7) And he took the book of the covenant, and read in the audience of the people: and they said, All that the LORD hath said will we do, and be obedient. (8) And Moses took the blood, and sprinkled it on the people, and said, Behold the blood of the covenant, which the LORD hath made with you concerning all these words.

(Hosea 2:13-20 NLT) (14) "But then I will win her back once again. I will lead her into the desert and speak tenderly to her there. (16) When that day comes," says the LORD, "you will call me 'my husband' instead of 'my master.' (19) I will make you my wife forever, showing you righteousness and justice, unfailing love and compassion. (20) I will be faithful to you and make you mine, and you will finally know me as the LORD.

Contrary to popular belief, this was not a covenant solely based upon God's judgments and Israel's strict obedience. Its' true nature and spirit are revealed in the Book of Hosea. Hosea illustrates that God's covenant pledged His faithfulness, commitment, love, and mercy towards Israel. In addition, the relationship between God and His people figuratively compares to the binding oath between a loving devoted husband and his wife. In Hosea, even when the wife (God's people) became repeatedly rebellious and disloyal, the husband (God) remained committed and faithful. Even after words of great condemnation and acts of judgment against Israel, God lovingly and patiently calls them to repentance so He could redeem them and restore them to Himself.

Discuss the questions/statements:

7. Why do many believe that salvation is solely based on God's judgments and our strict obedience?
8. The relationship between God and His people compares to the binding oath between a loving devoted husband and his wife. God's covenant pledged His faithfulness, commitment, love, mercy, protection, and provision.
9. What is our covenant pledge to God?
10. Who is the bride in the New Testament and who is the Groom?

DIVINE ACCESS BY THE BLOOD

(Exodus 19:12-21 NLT) (12) Mark off a boundary all around the mountain. Warn the people, 'Be careful! Do not go up on the mountain or even touch its boundaries. Anyone who touches the mountain will certainly be put to death. ...(21) Then the LORD told Moses, "Go back down and warn the people not to break through the boundaries to see the LORD, or they will die.)

(Exodus 24:9-10 AMP) (9) Then Moses, Aaron, Nadab, and Abihu, and seventy of the elders of Israel went up [the mountainside]. (10) and they saw [a manifestation of] the God of Israel; and under His feet there appeared to be a pavement of sapphire, just as clear as the sky itself. (11) Yet He did not stretch out His hand against the nobles of the Israelites; and they saw [the manifestation of the presence of] God, and ate and drank.



Recall that the Lord commanded Moses to set boundaries (barriers or limits) all around Mount Sinai so the people would not touch the mount or gaze through the smoke to see the Lord and perish. However, we see those same physical and spiritual barriers practically removed after the atoning blood of the covenant was sprinkled upon them. Some of them could go up the mount to a certain distance; some were also allowed to gaze upon a manifestation of God and eat and drink in His presence. In addition, God did not attempt to conceal Himself from them or even harm them for gazing. He revealed Himself to Aaron, Nadab, Abihu, and the 70 elders on the mount.

God intended His people to be peculiar and distinguished from all others on earth. They are to be a holy nation (a kingdom of priests) set apart unto the Lord. As a royal priesthood, they may boldly (fearlessly and confidently) approach God's presence (God's throne) to receive mercy for their failures (sins) and find grace to help in their time of need (**Hebrews 4:16**). As consecrated priests and ministers, they are mandated to offer acceptable sacrifices, prayer, praise, and worship unto the Lord their God. God encourages them to draw near in intimate communion to freely receive His wisdom (understanding of His will in given situations), His knowledge (revelation of particular facts), His counsel (divine guidance, instruction, and discernment), His strength (faith, grace, and spiritual empowerment), and other gifts to accomplish their purposes on earth.

Discuss the questions/statements:

11. What were the consequences in **Exodus 19:12-21**, if the people went up the mountain, touched the mountain or its boundaries, or broke through to see the Lord?
12. Why were these barriers removed in **Exodus 24:9-10**? Was everyone allowed to move beyond these barriers?
13. What was God's intention for His people (Old and New Testament)?
14. Explain the term royal priesthood. What is the role of a royal priest?
15. God encourages His people (priests) to draw near in intimate communion to freely receive:
 - a. His wisdom (understanding of His will in given situations),
 - b. His knowledge (revelation of particular facts),
 - c. His counsel (divine guidance, instruction, and discernment),
 - d. His strength (faith, grace, and spiritual empowerment),
 - e. His gifts to accomplish their purposes on earth.
16. Explain the following Scripture:
(Hebrews 4:16 AMP) Therefore let us [with privilege] approach the throne of grace [that is, the throne of God's gracious favor] with confidence and without fear, so that we may receive mercy [for our failures] and find [His amazing] grace to help in time of need [an appropriate blessing, coming just at the right moment].

COVERING BY THE BLOOD

(Exodus 12:21-23 AMPC) (21) Then Moses called for all the elders of Israel, and said to them, Go forth, select and take a lamb according to your families and kill the Passover [lamb]. (22) And you shall take a bunch of hyssop, dip it in the blood in the basin, and touch the lintel above the door and the two side posts with the blood; and none of you shall go out of his house until morning. (23) For the Lord will pass through to slay the Egyptians; and when He sees the blood upon the lintel and



the two side posts, the Lord will pass over the door and will not allow the destroyer to come into your houses to slay you.

*In their Foundations of Pentecostal Theology,
Duffield and Van Cleve underline the urgency of applying the Blood.*

“The Israelite family was to kill a lamb and sprinkle the blood upon the door posts and the lintel of their homes and then they were to abide in the house. God said, ‘And the blood shall be to you for a token upon the houses where you are: and when I see the blood, I will pass over you, and the plague shall not be upon you to destroy you, when I smite the land of Egypt’ (Ex. 12:13).

God was not going to look out in the backyard where the lamb was slain. He was going to look upon the doorposts of each home. When He saw the blood there, the death angel passed by. There must be a personal application, by faith, of the precious blood that was shed for us on Calvary.”

Applied Science by R. L. Gilstrap

Struggling to cut firewood with only an axe, a backwoodsman went into town and purchased a well-advertised chain saw. Not having any better success at cutting wood with the chainsaw, he returned to the store and complained. The salesperson gave him a demonstration of how to operate the chainsaw. As the salesperson pulled the cord starting the gasoline engine, the woodsman said, “What is that noise?”

Having a chainsaw alone does not help us cut wood. We must start the engine. Some seem never to understand that salvation requires action. We have to do something. Jesus came in the flesh and shed His blood, but that blood must be applied to be effective for us. Scripture gives a detailed step-by-step formula for the application of that blood. The blood of Jesus Christ is efficacious, but it must be properly applied.

Discuss the questions/statements:

17. The Lord will pass through to slay the Egyptians; and when He sees the blood upon the lintel and the two side posts, the Lord will pass over the door and will not allow the destroyer to come into your houses to slay you.
18. God was not going to look out in the backyard where the lamb was slain. He was going to look upon the doorposts of each home. It must be a personal application, by faith.
19. Some will never understand that salvation requires action, blood must be applied.
20. Without the blood of Christ applied:
 - a. We could not initially believe the Gospel.
 - b. Repentance would be of no effect, and baptism would just get us wet.
 - c. The Holy Spirit could not take up residence within us.
 - d. Cleansing and Holiness would be impossible.
 - e. Death and the grave would remain victorious.
21. How do we apply the blood of Christ in our everyday lives?
22. How can the blood of Christ be used as a weapon/tool against the enemy/adversary?



THE NAME OF THE LORD

The Revelation of God - Church Alive

God wants people to know about His identity and character, but often they are not quite ready to see (comprehend) what He wants to show them. Slowly and continuously, over the course of thousands of years, God made His name known, culminating in the ultimate revelation of His name through the Incarnation - Jesus Christ (Hebrews 1:1-3). Isaiah prophesied the Christ child's name would be Immanuel (Isaiah 7:14), which Matthew interpreted as "God with us" (Matthew 1:23). **Salvation was not something, but Someone. Jesus was that Someone who came to save mankind.** The Greek name (Jesus) means the Lord is salvation or Jehovah-saves. His name reveals the purpose of His coming—to seek and save lost people from their sins (Luke 19:10).

(Matthew 1:23 AMP) "Behold, the virgin shall be with child and give birth to a Son, and **they shall call His name Immanuel**"—which, when translated, means, "God with us."

(Hebrews 1:1-3 NLT) (1) Long ago God spoke many times and in many ways to our ancestors through the prophets. (2) And now **in these final days, he has spoken to us through his Son.** God promised everything to the Son as an inheritance, and through the Son he created the universe. (3) The Son radiates God's own glory and expresses the very character of God, and he sustains everything by the mighty power of his command. When he had cleansed us from our sins, he sat down in the place of honor at the right hand of the majestic God in heaven.

SALVATION IN THE NAME OF JESUS CHRIST

1. Outside of Jesus Christ, no other name exists that could bring about salvation.

(Acts 4:12 AMP) And there is salvation in no one else; for there is no other name under heaven that has been given among people by which we must be saved **[for God has provided the world no alternative for salvation]."**

2. Everyone (at some point of time) will bow and confess that Christ is Lord.

(Philippians 2:9-11 AMP) (9) For this reason also [because He obeyed and so completely humbled Himself], God has highly exalted Him and bestowed on Him the name which is above every name, (10) so that **at the name of Jesus every knee shall bow [in submission], of those who are in heaven and on earth and under the earth,** (11) and that every tongue will confess and openly acknowledge that Jesus Christ is Lord (sovereign God), to the glory of God the Father.

3. Everyone who calls upon the name of the Lord (trusts, believes, and adheres to) shall be saved.

(Acts 2:21 AMP) And it shall be that **everyone who calls upon the name of the Lord [invoking, adoring, and worshiping the Lord Jesus] shall be saved** (rescued spiritually).

(Romans 10:9-10 AMPC) (9) Because if you acknowledge and confess with your lips that Jesus is Lord and in your heart believe **(adhere to, trust in, and rely on the truth)** that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. (10) For with the heart a person believes **(adheres to, trusts in, and relies on Christ)** and so is justified (declared righteous, acceptable to God), and with the mouth he confesses (declares openly and speaks out freely his faith) and confirms [his] salvation.



(Luke 24:46-47 AMP) (46) and said, "And so it is written, that the Christ (the Messiah, the Anointed) would suffer and rise from the dead on the third day, (47) and **that repentance [necessary]** for forgiveness of sins would be preached in His name to all the nations, beginning from Jerusalem.

EVEN THE DEMONS BELIEVE! – GotQuestions.Org

(James 2:19 KJV) Thou believest that there is one God; thou doest well: the devils also believe, and tremble.

The "faith" of demons is useless, even though they tremble at what they know to be true.

People who say they "believe" in God while showing no evidence of faith have a level of "belief" similar to that of demons. The **demons aren't changing their behavior despite their knowledge of who God is.**

POWER IN THE NAME OF JESUS CHRIST

1. There is no other name greater in heaven or in earth.

(Ephesians 1:21 AMP) far above all rule and authority and power and dominion [whether angelic or human], and [far above] every name that is named [above every title that can be conferred], not only in this age and world but also in the one to come.

2. Believers have been given authority in the name of Jesus.

- Calling on Jesus' name produces healings.
- Calling on Jesus' name devils/demons are cast out.
- Calling on Jesus' name calls forth the authority of His presence.
- Calling on Jesus' name brings Him tangibly into our midst.
- Calling on Jesus' name acknowledges His Lordship and Supremacy
- Calling on Jesus' name causes amazing miracles, signs, and wonders.

(Luke 10:17-20 AMPC) (17) The seventy returned with joy, saying, Lord, even the demons are subject to us in Your name! (19) Behold! I have given you authority and power to trample upon serpents and scorpions, and [physical and mental strength and ability] over all the power that the enemy [possesses]; and nothing shall in any way harm you.

(Acts 4:9-10 NLT) (9) are we being questioned today because we've done a good deed for a crippled man? Do you want to know how he was healed? (10) Let me clearly state to all of you and to all the people of Israel that he was healed by the powerful name of Jesus Christ the Nazarene, the man you crucified but whom God raised from the dead.

(Acts 19:14-17 NLT) (14) Seven sons of Sceva, a leading priest, were doing this. (15) But one time when they tried it, the evil spirit replied, "I know Jesus, and I know Paul, but who are you?" (16) Then the man with the evil spirit leaped on them, overpowered them, and attacked them with such violence that they fled from the house, naked and battered. (17) The story of what happened spread quickly all through Ephesus, to Jews and Greeks alike. A solemn fear descended on the city, and the name of the Lord Jesus was greatly honored.



(Acts 16:16-18 NLT) (16) One day as we were going down to the place of prayer, we met a slave girl who had a spirit that enabled her to tell the future. She earned a lot of money for her masters by telling fortunes. (17) She followed Paul and the rest of us, shouting, "These men are servants of the Most High God, and they have come to tell you how to be saved. (18) This went on day after day until **Paul got so exasperated that he turned and said to the demon within her, "I command you in the name of Jesus Christ to come out of her." And instantly it left her.**

PRAYING IN NAME OF JESUS

- Prayer was to be made in Jesus' name.
- We can ask anything in His name and confidently receive an answer.

(John 14:13 AMP) (13) And I will do whatever you ask in My name [as My representative], this I will do, so that the Father may be glorified and celebrated in the Son. (14) **If you ask Me anything in My name [as My representative], I will do it.**

Footnote: John 14:13 Acting as Jesus' representative means that the person calling on His name is in a close relationship with Him and wants what He wants.

(1 John 5:14-15 AMP) (14) **This is the [remarkable degree of] confidence which we [as believers are entitled to] have before Him: that if we ask anything according to His will, [that is, consistent with His plan and purpose] He hears us.** (15) And if we know [for a fact, as indeed we do] that He hears and listens to us in whatever we ask, we [also] know [with settled and absolute knowledge] that we have [granted to us] the requests which we have asked from Him.

PERSECUTION BECAUSE OF THE NAME OF JESUS

- The early church was threatened, ordered to stop speaking / teaching in the name of Jesus Christ, and they were beaten and even later killed when they refused to obey. Ironically, the apostles rejoiced that they were counted worthy to suffer shame for his name" (Acts 5:41).

(Matthew 10:22 KJV) And **ye shall be hated of all men for my name's sake:** but he that endureth to the end shall be saved.

(Acts 4:17-18 KJV) (17) But that it spread no further among the people, let us straitly threaten them, that they speak henceforth to no man in this name. (18) **And they called them, and commanded them not to speak at all nor teach in the name of Jesus.**

(Acts 5:40 KJV) (40) And to him they agreed: and when they had called the apostles, and beaten them, they commanded that they should not speak in the name of Jesus, and let them go. (41) And they departed from the presence of the council, **rejoicing that they were counted worthy to suffer shame for his name.**

(2 Timothy 3:12-17 AMPC) Indeed all who delight in piety and are determined to live a devoted and godly life in Christ Jesus will meet with persecution **[will be made to suffer because of their religious stand].**



THE WORD OF GOD

BY THE WORD – ALL THINGS WERE CREATED

The Word Was with God

The thoughts of God were His source of counsel (Ephesians 1:11), for there was no higher authority than Himself. (See Hebrews 6:13.) The Scriptures reveal that God calls “things which be not as though they were” (Romans 4:17), which exhibits His knowledge and direction of all future events. (See also Isaiah 46:10.) Consequently, in His ultimate knowledge, authority, and power, God looked ahead in time and constructed this world according to His divine will and purpose. This He did by the power of His word.

Church Alive Series (Beholding His Glory)

(St. John 1:1-14 NIV) (1) **In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.** (2) He was with God in the beginning. (3) **Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made.** (14) **The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us...**

(Hebrews 11:3 AMP) By faith [that is, with an inherent trust and enduring confidence in the power, wisdom and goodness of God] **we understand that the worlds (universe, ages) were framed and created [formed, put in order, and equipped for their intended purpose] by the word of God, so that what is seen was not made out of things which are visible.**

(Genesis 1:1 AMP) In the beginning God (Elohim) created [by forming from nothing] the heavens and the earth.

Ten times God spoke the words **"And (and) God said"** during creation.

- (1) Genesis 1:3 And God said, Let there be light...
- (2) Genesis 1:6 And God said, Let there be a firmament...
- (3) Genesis 1:9 And God said, Let the waters under the heaven...
- (4) Genesis 1:11 And God said, Let the earth bring forth grass...
- (5) Genesis 1:14 And God said, Let there be lights...
- (6) Genesis 1:20 And God said, Let the waters bring forth...
- (7) Genesis 1:24 And God said, Let the earth bring forth...
- (8) Genesis 1:26 And God said, Let us make man...
- (9) Genesis 1:28 ...and God said unto them, Be fruitful, and multiply...
- (10) Genesis 1:29 And God said, Behold, I have given you every herb...

Discuss the questions/statements:

1. All things seen (manifested) in the natural were first created (formed, put in order) in the Spirit.
2. **Lo-gos** – the Word of God, or principle of divine reason and creative order, the incarnate in Jesus Christ. The divine wisdom manifested (revealed) in the creation, government, and redemption of the world.
3. **Rhema** – a word that is spoken and means “an utterance.” A rhema is a verse or portion of Scripture that the Holy Spirit brings to our attention with application to a current situation or need for direction. The Holy Spirit illuminates particular Scriptures for application in a daily walk with the Lord.
4. Why do you believe God was so specific (detailed) in His commands during creation?



OUR words – CREATE DEATH AND LIFE

(Proverbs 18:21 AMP) Death and life are in the power of the tongue, **And those who love it and indulge it will eat its fruit and bear the consequences of their words.**

(Matthew 12:36-37 AMPC) (36) But I tell you, on the day of judgment **men will have to give account for every idle (inoperative, nonworking) word they speak.** (37) **For by your words you will be justified and acquitted, and by your words you will be condemned and sentenced.**

Discuss the questions/statements:

5. Created in the image of God and in His likeness (**Genesis 1:26-27**), man can speak both death and life.
 - a. Speak death - to curse is to wish (hope) that bad things happen to someone or something.
 - b. Speak life - to bless is to wish (hope) that good things happen to someone or to something.
 6. (**Numbers 13:31-33 AMP**) (31) But the men who had gone up with him said, **"We are not able to go up against the people [of Canaan], for they are too strong for us."** (32) So they gave the Israelites a bad report about the land which they had spied out, saying, **"The land through which we went, in spying it out, is a land that devours its inhabitants. And all the people that we saw in it are men of great stature. (33) There we saw the Nephilim (the sons of Anak are part of the Nephilim); and we were like grasshoppers in our own sight, and so we were in their sight."**
 - a. There are individuals that the enemy will use to discourage us, speak doubt, and unbelief in our lives. Our faith (trust and confidence) can be affected by the words of others (recall Israelite's bad report).
 - b. We must not accept all words spoken to and over us (**believe not every spirit but try the spirits whether they are of God - 1 John 4:1-5**). This also includes words from false spiritual leaders, family members, co-workers, and so-called friends.
- (Exodus 14:12 ERV) (11) They said to Moses, **"Why did you bring us out of Egypt? Did you bring us out here in the desert to die? We could have died peacefully in Egypt; there were plenty of graves in Egypt. (12) We told you this would happen! In Egypt we said, 'Please don't bother us. Let us stay and serve the Egyptians.' It would have been better for us to stay and be slaves than to come out here and die in the desert."**
- c. We can speak death and life over our own lives.
 - The Israelites repeated those same words in the wilderness; "Why did you bring us out of Egypt? Did you bring us out here in the desert to die?"
 - We may also speak death in and over our lives:
 - I will never get out of this situation.
 - I will always be sick, broke, alone, and unhappy.

(John 12:49-50 KJV) (49) For **I have not spoken of myself; but the Father which sent me, he gave me a commandment, what I should say, and what I should speak.** (50) And I know that his commandment is life everlasting: **whatsoever I speak therefore, even as the Father said unto me, so I speak.**

- d. Jesus only spoke what He heard the Spirit of God say.
- e. We must learn to speak, meditate, pray, and declare what the Word of God (God) says.



THE WORD IS LIKE A TWO-EDGED SWORD

(Hebrews 4:12 AMP) **For the word of God is living and active and full of power [making it operative, energizing, and effective]. It is sharper than any two-edged sword, penetrating as far as the division of the soul and spirit [the completeness of a person], and of both joints and marrow [the deepest parts of our nature], exposing and judging the very thoughts and intentions of the heart.**

(Revelation 19:12-15 AMP) (12) His eyes are a flame of fire, and on His head are many royal crowns; and **He has a name inscribed [on Him] which no one knows or understands except Himself.** (13) **He is dressed in a robe dipped in blood, and His name is called The Word of God.** (14) And the armies of heaven, dressed in fine linen, [dazzling] white and clean, followed Him on white horses. (15) **From His mouth comes a sharp sword (His word) with which He may strike down the nations, and He will rule them with a rod of iron; and He will tread the wine press of the fierce wrath of God, the Almighty [in judgment of the rebellious world].**

Discuss the questions/statements:

7. Footnote for **Hebrews 4:12** - In addition to "sword," the word in Greek was used for the knife used by the priests to slit the throats of the sacrificial lambs and for the knife (scalpel) used by a surgeon.
8. The WORD exposes sin (a discerner of thoughts and intentions).
9. The WORD convicts us of sin (for correction of error and restoration to obedience).
10. The WORD trains us in righteousness (teaches/conforms us to holy living to God's will in thought, purpose, and action)
11. The WORD judges all rebellion.

THE WORD IS LIKE FIRE AND A HAMMER

(Jeremiah 23:29 AMPC) **Is not My word like fire [that consumes all that cannot endure the test]? says the Lord, and like a hammer that breaks in pieces the rock [of most stubborn resistance]?**

(Zechariah 13:9 NLT) **I will bring that group through the fire and make them pure.] I will refine them like silver and purify them like gold. They will call on my name, and I will answer them. I will say, 'These are my people,' and they will say, 'The Lord is our God.'**"

Discuss the questions/statements:

12. Fire purifies/refines (burns our conscience, separates precious metals from impurities).

THE PATIENCE OF THE REFINER

Precious metals are usually found in nature bonded with (attached to) other compounds and require extraction. During this extraction process called smelting, the refiner patiently sits and attentively observes its' progression (**Malachi 3:3**). The refiner fiercely blows air on the fire with bellows (**Jeremiah 6:29, Ezekiel 22:20**) - a bag-like device with handles used to blow air on the fire to increase the flame (heat) when needed. If there is not enough heat (fire) or time spent in the furnace or pot, the extraction process will not occur properly. Once the melting point is reached, and it turns into a liquid or molten state, the refiner either blows off or skims off the dross or slag (impurities or unwanted scum and waste material) that floats to the top (**Isaiah 1:25**).



13. Hammer used by the silversmith to mold precious vessels into shape.

THE HANDS OF THE SILVERSMITH

After the refining process, the pure metal is placed into the hands of the silversmith to form and shape into a vessel of his choice. **(Proverbs 25:4 AMP Take away the dross from the silver, And there comes out [the pure metal for] a vessel for the silversmith [to shape])** According to **1 Chronicles**, such metal (refined gold and silver) was dedicated to the Temple of the Lord for vessels, furnishings, and to overlay the walls **(1 Chronicles 28:18, 1 Chronicles 29:4)**. We can now appreciate how diligently and tirelessly ancient refiners worked to extract and purify precious metals from common ores (natural rocks). They must have felt great satisfaction when these purified metals were finally formed and shaped into precious vessels.

14. Every man's work (quality, character, and worth) shall be revealed (tried, tested) by fire **(1 Cor 3:13)**.
15. Fire produces passion, fervor, intensity, and rebirth (baptized with Holy Ghost and fire - **Matt 3:11**)
16. Fire consumes - refers to God's wrath in judgment (a jealous God) - **Deut 4:24**

THE WORD IS MAGNIFIED ABOVE HIS NAME

(Psalm 138:2 AMPC) I will worship toward Your holy temple and praise Your name for Your loving-kindness and for Your truth and faithfulness; for You have exalted above all else Your name and Your word and You have magnified Your word above all Your name!

(Isaiah 55:11 AMP) So will My word be which goes out of My mouth; It will not return to Me void (useless, without result), Without accomplishing what I desire, And without succeeding in the matter for which I sent it.

Discuss the questions/statements:

17. God's Word is His communication, His promise, the revelation of His nature and character to His people.
(2 Peter 1:21 KJV) For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost.
(Psalm 119:9 NLT) How can a young person stay pure? By obeying your word.
(Psalm 119:11 NLT) I have hidden your word in my heart, that I might not sin against you.
(Psalm 119:105 NLT) Your word is a lamp to guide my feet and a light for my path.
18. God's Word teaches us God's will and not our own will (way).
(Proverbs 14:12 AMP) There is a way which seems right to a man and appears straight before him, But its end is the way of death.
19. To disregard God's Word, which is holy, pure, and absolutely true, is to defame God's name and character. To honor God's Word is to honor the God of the Word
(Hebrews 6:18 AMPC) This was so that, by two unchangeable things [His promise and His oath] in which it is impossible for God ever to prove false or deceive us, we who have fled [to Him] for refuge might have mighty indwelling strength and strong encouragement to grasp and hold fast the hope appointed for us and set before [us].



USE THE WORD WHEN FACING TEMPTATION

(Matthew 4:1-11 NLT)

- (1) Then Jesus was led by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted there by the devil.
- (2) For forty days and forty nights he fasted and became very hungry.

Temptation #1

- (3) During that time the devil came and said to him, "If you are the Son of God, tell these stones to become loaves of bread."
- (4) But Jesus told him, "No! The Scriptures say, 'People do not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.'"

Temptation #2

- (5) Then the devil took him to the holy city, Jerusalem, to the highest point of the Temple,
- (6) and said, "If you are the Son of God, jump off! For the Scriptures say, 'He will order his angels to protect you. And they will hold you up with their hands so you won't even hurt your foot on a stone.'
- (7) Jesus responded, "The Scriptures also say, 'You must not test the Lord your God.'

Temptation #3

- (8) Next the devil took him to the peak of a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory.
- (9) "I will give it all to you," he said, "if you will kneel down and worship me."
- (10) "Get out of here, Satan," Jesus told him. "For the Scriptures say, 'You must worship the Lord your God and serve only him.'
- (11) Then the devil went away, and angels came and took care of Jesus.

Discuss the questions/statements:

20. Why do you believe the devil tempted Jesus in the first place?
21. How did Jesus respond to the devil's temptations?
22. Explain the devil's statement in **verse 6** (temptation #2).



THE MIND OF CHRIST

(Romans 12 AMP) (1) Therefore I urge you, brothers and sisters, by the mercies of God, to **present your bodies [dedicating all of yourselves, set apart] as a living sacrifice, holy and well-pleasing to God**, which is your rational (logical, intelligent) act of worship. (2) And do not be conformed to this world [any longer with its superficial values and customs], **but be transformed and progressively changed [as you mature spiritually] by the renewing of your mind [focusing on godly values and ethical attitudes]**, so that you may prove [for yourselves] what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect [in His plan and purpose for you].

A LIVING SACRIFICE AND A ROYAL PRIESTHOOD

A sacrifice is something consecrated and offered to God as an act of service and worship. In the Old Testament, God desired Israel to be a kingdom of priests and a holy nation (**Exodus 19:5-6**). Only selected individuals were allowed to offer physical sacrifices, but everyone was called to serve and obey. In the New Testament, all born-again believers (brothers and sisters in Christ) are called to continually present their bodies (dedicate all their members and faculties) as living sacrifices (surrendering and yielding themselves entirely to God for His service). They, too, are called royal priests (**1 Peter 2:9**).

(Exodus 19:5-6 NLT) (5) Now if you will obey me and keep my covenant, you will be my own special treasure from among all the peoples on earth; for all the earth belongs to me. (6) And **you will be my kingdom of priests, my holy nation.** This is the message you must give to the people of Israel.”

(1 Peter 2:9 AMP) But **you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a consecrated nation**, a [special] people for God’s own possession, so that you may proclaim the excellencies [the wonderful deeds and virtues and perfections] of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light.

Discuss the questions/statements:

1. How do we present our bodies as living sacrifices to God? How often should we do this?
2. We are called to be the following:
 - a. A chosen race - God makes no distinction between physical race, only spiritual race (born again and unbelievers).
 - b. A royal priesthood - Every born-again believer is called a priest in the kingdom of God regardless of gift, talent, or position. (**Rev 1:6 KJV - And hath made us kings and priests unto God...**)
 - c. A consecrated nation - As a kingdom of priests, we are called to perform the following services:
 - ❖ Offer up to God sacrifices of praise
 - ❖ Offer up to God thanksgiving - acknowledging and confessing and glorifying His name
 - ❖ Do good, contribute to the needy, and provide spiritual support
 - ❖ Intercede and mediate on behalf of others

BE NOT CONFORMED

(Romans 12:2 AMP) And do not be conformed to this world [any longer with its superficial values and customs]...

(Romans 12:2 NLT) Don’t copy the behavior and customs of this world...



Discuss the questions/statements:

3. We are told to do the following:

- a. Be not conformed to this world [walking, living, and seduced by the lusts/cares of this world] **(1 John 2:16 AMPC)** **For all that is in the world—the lust of the flesh [craving for sensual gratification] and the lust of the eyes [greedy longings of the mind] and the pride of life [assurance in one's own resources or in the stability of earthly things]—these do not come from the Father but are from the world [itself].**
- ❖ Lust of the flesh is the intense craving for anything that satisfies physical needs (excessive desire for food, drink, sex, etc...)
 - ❖ Lust of the eyes is the intense craving for whatever we see, long for, or covet after in our minds
 - ❖ Pride of Life is the false sense of assurance, stability, and confidence in our resources, possessions, or achievements (ambition that puffs us up)
- b. Don't be overtaken by worldly (foolish and harmful) desires **(1 Timothy 6:9-10 NLT)** **(9) But people who long to be rich fall into temptation and are trapped by many foolish and harmful desires that plunge them into ruin and destruction. (10) For the love of money is the root of all kinds of evil. And some people, craving money, have wandered from the true faith and pierced themselves with many sorrows.**
- Who was/is **1 Timothy 6:9-10** speaking to?
 - Why does it state that money is the root of all kinds of evil? Does it state that?
 - How can money be evil if Solomon stated, “...money answereth all things - Eccl 10:19”?
- c. Mortify (kill) our members **(Colossians 3:5-9)** from the Lusts (works) of the flesh **(Galatians 5:19-21)** **(Colossians 3:5 AMPC)** **So kill (deadens, [deprive of power]) the evil desire lurking in your members [those animal impulses and all that is earthly in you that is employed in sin]:**
- ❖ Immorality, Impurity, Sinful passion, Evil desire
 - ❖ Greed, which is [a kind of] idolatry [because it replaces your devotion to God].
 - ❖ Anger, Rage, Malice, Slander, Obscene (abusive, filthy, vulgar) language
 - ❖ Do not lie to one another
- (Galatians 5:17-19 NLT)** **(17) The sinful nature wants to do evil, which is just the opposite of what the Spirit wants.... (19) When you follow the desires of your sinful nature, the results are very clear...**
- ❖ Immorality, Impurity, Indecency, Idolatry, Sorcery, Enmity
 - ❖ Strife, Jealousy, Anger (ill temper), Selfishness, Divisions (dissensions)
 - ❖ Party spirit (factions, sects with peculiar opinions, heresies), Envy, Drunkenness, Carousing

BUT BE TRANSFORMED (SPIRITUAL AWAKENING)

(Romans 12:2 NLT) ...let God transform you into a new person by changing the way you think...

(Romans 12:2 AMPC) ...but be transformed (changed) by the [entire] renewal of your mind [by its new ideals and its new attitude]...

In order to fulfill our calling of being a chosen race, a royal priesthood, and a consecrated nation, we must have a renewed mind. A renewed mind will precede (come before) a transfigured life. A transfigured life is shown as a transformation of character and conduct.



Discuss the questions/statements:

4. A Spiritual Awakening – A renewal of the Holy Spirit must first take place.

(2 Corinthians 5:17 AMP) Therefore if anyone is in Christ [that is, grafted in, joined to Him by faith in Him as Savior], **he is a new creature [reborn and renewed by the Holy Spirit]; the old things [the previous moral and spiritual condition] have passed away.** Behold, new things have come [because spiritual awakening brings a new life].

- a. Blinded eyes open (hearts and minds understand the Gospel)

(John 12:40 AMPC) **He has blinded their eyes and hardened and benumbed their [callous, degenerated] hearts [He has made their minds dull],** to keep them from seeing with their eyes and understanding with their hearts and minds and repenting and turning to Me to heal them.

(2 Corinthians 4:4 AMPC) **For the god of this world has blinded the unbelievers' minds [that they should not discern the truth],** preventing them from seeing the illuminating light of the Gospel of the glory of Christ (the Messiah), Who is the Image and Likeness of God.

- b. Fresh mental and spiritual attitude (a new set of views, new set of convictions, a new nature, new beliefs, and a new outlook/attitude)

(Ephesians 4:22-24 AMP) (22) that, regarding your previous way of life, you put off your old self [completely discard your former nature], which is being corrupted through deceitful desires, (23) **and be continually renewed in the spirit of your mind [having a fresh, untarnished mental and spiritual attitude],** (24) **and put on the new self [the regenerated and renewed nature], created in God's image, [godlike] in the righteousness and holiness of the truth [living in a way that expresses to God your gratitude for your salvation].**

BE PROGRESSIVELY CHANGED

(Romans 12:2 AMP) ... but be transformed and **progressively changed [as you mature spiritually]** by the renewing of your mind [focusing on godly values and ethical attitudes], so that you may prove [for yourselves] what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect [in His plan and purpose for you].

Discuss the questions/statements:

5. As we continually walk with God (talk to, listen to, and fellowship intimately with); God's will for our lives (His plan and purpose) becomes a progressive revelation. He reveals His will as we walk with Him. And as we walk with Him, we become more like Him (growing in maturity, being transformed, and being conformed to His image).

- a. Results of walking with God (Walking in the Spirit produces Fruit)

(Galatians 5:22-23 AMP) (22) **But the fruit of the Spirit [the result of His presence within us] is.....**

- ❖ Love [unselfish concern for others], Joy, [Inner] Peace
- ❖ Patience [not the ability to wait, but how we act while waiting]
- ❖ Kindness, Goodness, Faithfulness, Gentleness, Self-control



- b. Keep focused and be clothed with righteousness (set our minds on heavenly things – His kingdom and His righteousness)

(Matthew 6:33 AMP) But first and most importantly seek (aim at, strive after) His kingdom and His righteousness [His way of doing and being right—the attitude and character of God],

(Colossians 3:12-15 AMP) (2) Set your mind and keep focused habitually on the things above [the heavenly things], not on things that are on the earth [which have only temporal value]. (3) For you died [to this world], and your [new, real] life is hidden with Christ in God. (12) So, as God's own chosen people, who are holy [set apart, sanctified for His purpose] and well-beloved [by God Himself], put on.....

- ❖ Heart of compassion, Kindness, Humility, Gentleness
- ❖ Patience [which has the power to endure whatever injustice or unpleasantness comes, with good temper]
- ❖ Willingly forgiving each other
- ❖ Put on and wrap yourselves in [unselfish] love
- ❖ Let the peace of Christ [the inner calm of one who walks daily with Him] be the controlling factor in your hearts [deciding and settling questions that arise]
- ❖ Be thankful [to God always]

- c. Be progressively changed (matured) by the Spirit and the power of God's Word

Hear the Word (we cannot please God without faith)

(Romans 10:17 KJV) So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.

(Hebrews 11:6 AMP) But without faith it is impossible to [walk with God and] please Him, for whoever comes [near] to God must [necessarily] believe that God exists and that He rewards those who [earnestly and diligently] seek Him.

Study the Word (we need to distinguish between the Spirit of Truth and the spirit of error)

(Acts 17:11 KJV) ...they received the word with all readiness of mind, and searched the scriptures daily, whether those things were so.

(2 Timothy 2:15 KJV) Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.

Meditate on the Word (that we may be prosperous and not sin against God)

(Psalm 119:11 KJV) Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee.

(Joshua 1:8 AMPC) This Book of the Law shall not depart out of your mouth, but you shall meditate on it day and night, that you may observe and do according to all that is written in it. For then you shall make your way prosperous, and then you shall deal wisely and have good success.

Be filled with and led by the Spirit (that we may be led and empowered by the Spirit)

(John 14:16-17 AMP) (16) And I will ask the Father, and He will give you another Helper (Comforter, Advocate, Intercessor—Counselor, Strengtheners, Standby), to be with you forever— (17) the Spirit of Truth, whom the world cannot receive [and take to its heart] because it does not see Him or know Him, but you know Him because He (the Holy Spirit) remains with you continually and will be in you.



THE HOLY SPIRIT

(Luke 24:49 AMP) Listen carefully: **I am sending the Promise of My Father [the Holy Spirit] upon you; but you are to remain in the city [of Jerusalem] until you are clothed (fully equipped) with power from on high."**

JESUS' RESURRECTION (40 DAYS AFTER HE SUFFERED AND DIED)

According to Luke (the author of Acts), Jesus appeared to his disciples (from time to time) for 40 days after His resurrection. ***[The number 40 represents a period of testing, trial, and triumph in the Bible. It symbolizes a time of challenges and growth, where faith is tested, and spiritual awareness is deepened. It can also mean or symbolize a generation of man - God's Grace by James Wohr].*** During those 40 days, Jesus forgave Peter and continued to help his disciples to believe. He also continued to teach them about the Kingdom of God.

- (Acts 1:3 NLT) During **the forty days after he suffered and died, he appeared to the apostles from time to time**, and he proved to them in many ways that he was actually alive. And **he talked to them about the Kingdom of God**.

During those 40 days, Jesus was seen by the women at the tomb, two of his followers walking to Emmaus, his disciples, and more than 500 at once.

- (Matthew 28:8-20 NLT) (8) The **women ran quickly from the tomb...** (9) And as they went, **Jesus met them and greeted them**. And they ran to him, grasped his feet, and worshiped him.
- (Luke 24:13-53 NLT) (13) That same day **two of Jesus' followers were walking to the village of Emmaus**, seven miles from Jerusalem. (15) As they talked and discussed these things, Jesus himself suddenly came and began walking with them. (16) But **God kept them from recognizing him**. (45) Then **he opened their minds to understand the Scriptures**.
- (John 20:19-31 NLT) (19) the **disciples were meeting behind locked doors** because they were afraid of the Jewish leaders. Suddenly, **Jesus was standing there among them!....** (20) As he spoke, he showed them the wounds in his hands and his side.... (22) Then **he breathed on them and said, "Receive the Holy Spirit**.
- (John 21:12-14 NLT) (12) "Now come and have some breakfast!" Jesus said. None of the disciples dared to ask him, "Who are you?" They knew it was the Lord. (13) Then **Jesus served them the bread and the fish**. (14) **This was the third time Jesus had appeared to his disciples since he had been raised from the dead**.
- (1 Corinthians 15:4-9 NLT) (4) He was buried, and he was raised from the dead on the third day, just as the Scriptures said. (5) **He was seen by Peter and then by the Twelve**. (6) After that, **he was seen by more than 500 of his followers at one time**, most of whom are still alive, though some have died. (7) Then **he was seen by James and later by all the apostles**.

Discuss the questions/statements:

1. Why do you believe Jesus showed Himself to His disciples and the multitude after His resurrection?
2. Where were His disciples after the crucifixion? Whom did Christ appear to first after His resurrection?
3. Jesus showed Himself (from time to time) for 40 days. What does 40 symbolize (represent)?
4. What did Jesus do during those 40 days?



5. Why couldn't some of Jesus' disciples not recognize Him after the resurrection (**Luke 24:13-53**)?

JESUS' ASCENSION (WAIT 10 DAYS FOR THE PROMISE)

Before Jesus was taken up into a cloud, He commanded His disciples to wait ten days (until Pentecost) so that they may receive the power of the Holy Spirit.

- **(Acts 1:4-5 AMP)** (4) While being together and eating with them, **He commanded them not to leave Jerusalem, but to wait for what the Father had promised**, "Of which," He said, "you have heard Me speak. (5) For John baptized with water, **but you will be baptized and empowered and united with the Holy Spirit, not long from now.**"

PENTECOST

The word Pentecost means the fiftieth, being fifty days from Passover. It was also called "the Feast of Weeks" (Exodus 34:22). It was one of those three great feasts in which all the males were required to appear before the Lord. The feast itself was appointed perhaps with a double view; first, to commemorate the giving of the law on Mount Sinai, which was on the fiftieth day after the children of Israel had left Egypt. Secondly, it was enjoined as a feast; Israel was called to cheerfully offer to him the first fruits of all their increase.

Hawker Bible Dictionary

The number 50 also symbolizes deliverance or freedom from a burden. God commanded Israel that every fiftieth year, on the Day of Atonement, a Jubilee would be declared with the sound of a trumpet (**Leviticus 25**). During the Jubilee year, all debts were settled in favor of the debtor, and inheritances were returned to their rightful owners. Also, those who worked as slave laborers to repay a debt were granted the freedom to return home to their families and land. On Pentecost, God first poured his Holy Spirit upon about 120 believers who had gathered to keep the day (**Acts 1:15, Acts 2**).

OLD AND NEW TESTAMENT COMPARISON (GOD FILLS SOLOMON'S TEMPLE AND HIS DISCIPLES)

1. The Day of Pentecost

(Acts 1:14-15 AMP) (14) **All these with one mind and one purpose were continually devoting themselves to prayer, [waiting together]** along with the women, and Mary the mother of Jesus, and with His brothers. (15) Now on one of these days Peter stood up among the brothers and sisters **(a gathering of about a hundred and twenty believers was there)** and he said,

(Acts 2 AMP) (1) When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place, (2) and suddenly a sound came from heaven like a rushing violent wind, and **it filled the whole house where they were sitting**. (3) **There appeared to them tongues resembling fire**, which were being distributed [among them], and they rested on each one of them [as each person received the Holy Spirit]. (4) And **they were all filled [that is, diffused throughout their being] with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues (different languages), as the Spirit was giving them the ability to speak out [clearly and appropriately].**



2. God's Glory fills Solomon's Temple

(2 Chronicles 5:11-14 KJV) (11) And it came to pass, when the priests were come out of the holy place: (for all the priests that were present were sanctified, and did not then wait by course: (12) Also the Levites which were the singers, all of them of Asaph, of Heman, of Jeduthun, with their sons and their brethren, being arrayed in white linen, having cymbals and psalteries and harps, stood at the east end of the altar, and with them an hundred and twenty priests sounding with trumpets:) (13) It came even to pass, as the trumpeters and singers were as one, to make one sound to be heard in praising and thanking the Lord; and when they lifted up their voice with the trumpets and cymbals and instruments of musick, and praised the Lord, saying, For he is good; for his mercy endureth for ever: that then the house was filled with a cloud, even the house of the Lord; (14) So that the priests could not stand to minister by reason of the cloud: for the glory of the Lord had filled the house of God.

(2 Chronicles 7 KJV) (1) Now when Solomon had made an end of praying, the fire came down from heaven, and consumed the burnt offering and the sacrifices; and the glory of the Lord filled the house. (2) And the priests could not enter into the house of the Lord, because the glory of the Lord had filled the Lord's house. (3) And when all the children of Israel saw how the fire came down, and the glory of the Lord upon the house, they bowed themselves with their faces to the ground upon the pavement, and worshipped, and praised the Lord, saying, For he is good; for his mercy endureth for ever.

Discuss the questions/statements:

6. Why did the disciples need to wait in Jerusalem before proceeding further to evangelize the world?
7. What power was Jesus referring to? The disciples were already preaching, healing, and casting out devils before the Book of Acts.
(Matthew 10 KJV) (1) And when he had called unto him his twelve disciples, he gave them power against unclean spirits, to cast them out, and to heal all manner of sickness and all manner of disease.
8. What does 50 symbolize (represent)? Why do you believe the Holy Ghost would come 50 days after the resurrection?
9. Witnessing and Ministry was more than mere words, it involves Conduct, Character, and Lifestyle.
 - a. Imagine Peter preaching one minute, getting upset then cutting someone (**John 18:10**), denying the faith then cussing the next (**Matthew 26:74**), speaking revelation one moment from the Father (Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God) then opposing the very purpose of God (Thou shalt not die and rise again) (**Matthew 16:16-23**).
 - b. Imagine the disciples continuing to debate who is the greatest among them (**Mark 9:33-34**).
 - c. God puts the disciples in a holding pattern until He equipped them to go further.
10. If Jesus tells the disciples to wait in Jerusalem for the baptism of the Holy Ghost, then explain the following Scripture:
(John 20:19-31 NLT) (20) As he spoke, he showed them the wounds in his hands and his side.... (22) Then he breathed on them and said, "Receive the Holy Spirit.



YOU WILL RECEIVE POWER AND ABILITY (YOU SHALL BE MY WITNESSES)

THE COMFORTER (PARAKLĒTOS)

A helper, succourer, aider, assistant

One who pleads another's cause with one, an intercessor.

The Holy Spirit destined to take the place of Christ with the apostles (after his ascension to the Father), to lead them to a deeper knowledge of the Gospel Truth and give them divine strength needed to enable them to undergo trials and persecutions on behalf of the divine kingdom.

Thayer Bible Dictionary

(Acts 1:5-8 AMP) (5) For John baptized with water, but you will be baptized and empowered and united with the Holy Spirit, not long from now." (8) But you will receive power and ability when the Holy Spirit comes upon you; and you will be My witnesses [to tell people about Me] both in Jerusalem and in all Judea, and Samaria, and even to the ends of the earth."

Discuss the questions/statements:

11. According to Thayer's dictionary, what is the purpose of the Comforter (Holy Spirit)?
12. **Acts 1:8** states that we will receive power and ability when the Holy Spirit comes upon us. Discuss the following Scripture. (Luke 10:19 AMPC) Behold! I have given you authority and power to trample upon serpents and scorpions, and [physical and mental strength and ability] over all the power that the enemy [possesses]; and nothing shall in any way harm you.
13. **Acts 1:8** states that the baptism of Holy Ghost would empower them to become witnesses. The Spirit operates in many elements/principles of witnessing:
 - a. CONVICTION – The Spirit of Truth reveals to us when we are operating in error and sin. (John 16 AMP) (8) And He, when He comes, will convict the world about [the guilt of] sin [and the need for a Savior], and about righteousness, and about judgment:
 - b. CONVERSION – The Spirit renews our thoughts and attitudes into righteousness and holiness. (Ephesians 4:23-24 NLT) (23) Instead, let the **Spirit renew your thoughts and attitudes.** (24) Put on your new nature, created to be like God—truly righteous and holy.
 - c. CONFORMATION – The Spirit conforms us into the image of Christ. (2 Corinthians 3:18 AMP) And we all, with unveiled face, continually seeing as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are progressively being transformed into His image from [one degree of] glory to [even more] glory, which comes from the Lord, [who is] the Spirit.
 - d. CONFIRMATION – The Spirit confirms the Word with signs and miracles. (Hebrews 2:4 NLT) And **God confirmed the message by giving signs and wonders and various miracles and gifts of the Holy Spirit whenever he chose.**



- e. CONNECTS – Spirit unites us as the **BODY** OF CHRIST (fitly joined together – function), God's **BUILDING** (structure and organization on one foundation), and the **BRIDE** (relationship).

THE CHURCH

(a) a body or organization of religious believers (b) the whole body of Christians

Merriam-Webster

The word translated "church" in the English Bible is ekklesia. The word means "the called out ones." However, others say that the English word "church" comes from the word kuriakon, which means "dedicated to the Lord." The idea seems to be that the group of Christians in the world constitute the physical representation of Christ on earth.

Dennis McCallum and Gary DeLashmutt

IN SCRIPTURE, THE CHURCH IS CALLED 3 THINGS

1. **BODY** - function, how it operates together in Unity.
(1 Corinthians 12 AMP) (12) **For just as the body is one and yet has many parts, and all the parts, though many, form [only] one body, so it is with Christ.** (13) For by one [Holy] Spirit we were all baptized into one body, [spiritually transformed—united together] whether Jews or Greeks (Gentiles), slaves or free, and we were all made to drink of one [Holy] Spirit [since the same Holy Spirit fills each life]. (14) **For the [human] body does not consist of one part, but of many [limbs and organs].** (18) But now [as things really are], **God has placed and arranged the parts in the body, each one of them, just as He willed and saw fit [with the best balance of function].** (21) The eye cannot say to the hand, "I have no need of you," nor again the head to the feet, "I have no need of you." (22) But quite the contrary, **the parts of the body that seem to be weaker are [absolutely] necessary;** (26) **And if one member suffers, all the parts share the suffering; if one member is honored, all rejoice with it.** (27) **Now you [collectively] are Christ's body, and individually [you are] members of it [each with his own special purpose and function].**



- ❑ **VERSE 13 - We were all baptized into one body, [spiritually transformed—united together]**
 - Cannot join the Body of Christ – we must be born again.
- ❑ **VERSE 21 - The eye cannot say to the hand, "I have no need of you," nor again the head to the feet, "I have no need of you."**
 - We can function (survive) without certain body parts but not optimally (ideally)
 - Usually one limb has to compensate for the lack of the other
 - Need every member to operate effectively (usher, teacher, preacher, cleaning, media)
- ❑ **VERSE 22 - The parts of the body that seem to be weaker are [absolutely] necessary**
 - Organs are vital to the body but they are not seen
 - We neglect the gifts of helps in the church. Helps essential to the body
- ❑ **VERSE 26 - If one member suffers, all the parts share the suffering;**
 - Should be praying and interceding and aiding one another



❑ **VERSE 26 - If one member is honored, all rejoice with it**

- Should not be envy, jealousy or covetousness
- Don't know test or sacrifices person made to get to that point (some look ending of Job)

❑ **VERSE 27 - Individually [you are] members of it [each with his own special purpose and function]**

- (Everyone is unique with their own special purpose and function)

PAUL ADDRESSED THE UNITY AND OPERATION OF THE BODY

Paul dealt with a number of problems that emerged in the young church. In a drive for prestige, some claimed superiority because they followed certain leaders. Others assumed that they were better than their brothers and more spiritual. It is important to realize that the issue Paul discussed was not spiritual gifts. Rather, he was concerned with the broader topic of spirituality (motive). One's MOTIVE must be for the building up of the church, NOT for self-gratification.

PAUL ADDRESSED SPIRITUAL GIFTS IN THE BODY - ALL SHOULD BE HARMONIOUS

- Ministry (office) gifts:** Apostle, Prophet, Evangelist, Pastor and Teacher – **(Eph 4:11-13)**
- Motivational (practical) gifts:** Exhortation, Giving, Leadership, Mercy, Helps and Administration – **(Rom 12:4-8, 1 Cor 12:28)**
- Charismatic (spiritual) gifts:** Wisdom, Knowledge, Discernment, Prophecy, Tongues, Interpretation, Faith, Healing and Miracles – **(1 Cor 12:8-10)**

BEING CARNAL VS BEING CARNAL MINDED

(1 Corinthians 3 KJV) (1) **And I, brethren, could not speak unto you as unto spiritual, but as unto carnal, even as unto babes in Christ.** (2) I have fed you with milk, and not with meat: for hitherto ye were not able to bear it, neither yet now are ye able. (3) For ye are yet carnal: for whereas there is among you envying, and strife, and divisions, are ye not carnal, and walk as men?

(1 Corinthians 3 AMP) (1) **However, brothers and sisters, I could not talk to you as to spiritual people, but [only] as to worldly people [dominated by human nature], mere infants [in the new life] in Christ!** (2) I fed you with milk, not solid food; for you were not yet able *to receive it*. Even now you are still not ready. (3) **You are still worldly [controlled by ordinary impulses, the sinful capacity]. For as long as there is jealousy and strife and discord among you, are you not unspiritual, and are you not walking like ordinary men [unchanged by faith]?**

(Romans 8:6-7 KJV) (6) For to be **carnally minded is death**; but to be spiritually minded is life and peace. (7) **Because the carnal mind is enmity against God: for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be.**

(Romans 8:6-7 AMP) (6) Now the **mind of the flesh is death** [both now and forever—because it pursues sin]; but the mind of the Spirit is life and peace [the spiritual well-being that comes from walking with God—both now and forever]; (7) **the mind of the flesh [with its sinful pursuits] is actively hostile to God. It does not submit itself to God's law, since it cannot,**



(Romans 8:6-7 NLT) (6) So letting your sinful nature control your mind leads to death. But letting the Spirit control your mind leads to life and peace. (7) For the sinful nature is always hostile to God. It never did obey God's laws, and it never will.

- ☐ To be carnally, or fleshly, minded means to have a "mind governed by the flesh"
- ☐ (**Romans 8:6**), living to please one's fleshly desires. A carnally minded person seeks to fulfill the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life (**1 John 2:16**).
- ☐ It is possible for a Christian to be carnal for a time.
- ☐ However, for a true Christian, carnality will only be a lapse; he will (should) not remain carnal for a lifetime.

A CALL TO ORDERLY WORSHIP

(1 Corinthians 14:26-40 AMP) (26) What then is the right course, believers? When you meet together, each one has a psalm, a teaching, a revelation (disclosure of special knowledge), a tongue, or an interpretation. Let everything be constructive and edifying and done for the good of all the church. (27) If anyone speaks in a tongue, it should be limited to two or at the most three, and each one speaking in turn, and one must interpret [what is said]. (28) But if there is no one to interpret, the one [who wishes to speak in a tongue] must keep silent in church; let him speak to himself and to God. (29) Let two or three prophets speak [as inspired by the Holy Spirit], while the rest pay attention and weigh carefully what is said. (30) But if an inspired revelation is made to another who is seated, then the first one must be silent. (31) For [in this way] you can all prophesy one by one, so that everyone may be instructed and everyone may be encouraged; (32) for the spirits of prophets are subject to the prophets [the prophecy is under the speaker's control, and he can stop speaking]; (33) for God [who is the source of their prophesying] is not a God of confusion and disorder but of peace and order. As [is the practice] in all the churches of the saints (God's people),

- ☐ **Verse 26** - Let everything be constructive and edifying and done for the good of all the church.
 - Everything (all gifts) done must be for the purpose of edifying the people of God
- ☐ **Verse 28** - But if there is no one to interpret, the one [who wishes to speak in a tongue] must keep silent in church; let him speak to himself and to God.
 - When worshipping (speaking in tongues) we have to be mindful of the order
- ☐ **Verse 30** - But if an inspired revelation is made to another who is seated, then the first one must be silent.
- ☐ **Verse 32** - for the spirits of prophets are subject to the prophets [the prophecy is under the speaker's control, and he can stop speaking];
 - Prophecy must be in order
 - Prophecy usually must occur with permission unless known
- ☐ **Verse 33** - As [is the practice] in all the churches of the saints (God's people),



2. BUILDING - structure and organization

CHRIST - THE CORNERSTONE

A cornerstone (or foundation stone or setting stone) is the first stone set in the construction of a masonry foundation. All other stones will be set in reference to this stone, thus determining the position of the entire structure. - [Wikipedia](#)

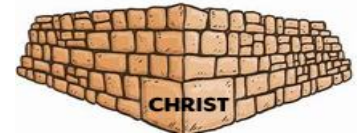
THE CORNERSTONE, MEASURING LINE, AND MASON'S LEVEL

(Isaiah 28:16-17 AMP) (16) Therefore the Lord God says this,

"Listen carefully, **I am laying in Zion a Stone, a tested Stone,**

A precious Cornerstone for the [secure] foundation, firmly placed. He who believes [who trusts in, relies on, and adheres to that Stone] will not be disturbed or give way [in sudden panic].

(17) "**I will make justice the measuring line And righteousness the mason's level...**



- ☐ The cornerstone was usually one of the largest, most solid, and most carefully constructed elements of the edifice.
- ☐ Once the cornerstone was set, it became the basis for determining every measurement in the remaining construction; everything was aligned to it.
- ☒ (Matt 16:16-18 KJV) (16) And Simon Peter answered and said, Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God. ...(18) And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and **upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.**

FOUNDATION AND THE HOLY TEMPLE

(Ephesians 2:20-22 NLT) (20) Together, we **are his house, built on the**

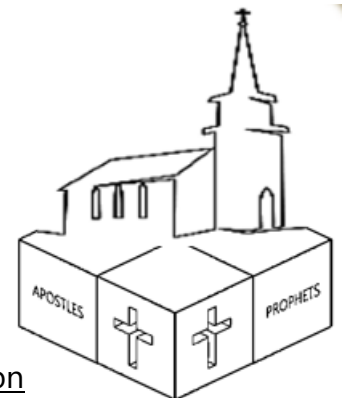
foundation of the apostles and the prophets. And the cornerstone is

Christ Jesus himself.

(21) **We are carefully joined together in him,**

becoming a holy temple for the Lord.

(22) Through him you Gentiles are also being made part of this dwelling where God lives by his Spirit.



- ☐ God's people and members of God's household were built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself, as the chief cornerstone.
- ☐ Which prophets and apostles are they referring to in Scripture?
- ☐ In Christ, the whole building is joined together and rises to become a holy temple in the Lord"
- ☐ **1 Corinthians 6:19** - your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit

WE ARE GOD'S SPIRITUAL HOUSE

(1 Peter 2:5 AMP) **You [believers], like living stones, are being built up into a spiritual house for a holy and dedicated priesthood,** to offer spiritual sacrifices [that are] acceptable and pleasing to God through Jesus Christ.

(1 Peter 2:4-5 NLT) (4) You are coming to **Christ, who is the living cornerstone of God's temple.** He was rejected by people, but he was chosen by God for great honor. (5) And **you are living stones that God is building into his spiritual temple.** What's more, you are his holy priests. Through the mediation of Jesus Christ, **you offer spiritual sacrifices that please God.**



- ❑ **Hebrews 13:15** - sacrifice of praise to God continually, the fruit of our lips giving thanks
- ❑ **Romans 12:1** - present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God
- ❑ **1 Samuel 15:22** - Obedience is better than sacrifice (obedience is the ultimate form of sacrifice)

BUILDING ON THE FOUNDATION

(1 Corinthians 3:9-11 NLT) (9) For we are both **God's workers**. And you are **God's field**. **You are God's building**. (10) Because of God's grace to me, I have laid the foundation like an expert builder. Now others are building on it. But whoever is building on this foundation must be very careful. (11) **For no one can lay any foundation other than the one we already have—Jesus Christ.**

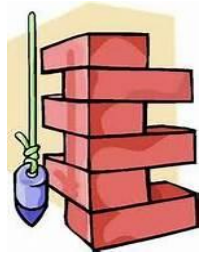
- ❑ **Galatians 1:8** - But even if we or an angel from heaven should preach a gospel other than the one we preached to you, let them be under God's curse!
- ❑ **(Isaiah 28:17 AMP)** "I will make justice the measuring line And righteousness the mason's level...
- ❑ **(Matthew 7:24-27 NLT)** (24) "Anyone who listens to my teaching and follows it is wise, like a person who builds a house on solid rock. (25) Though the rain comes in torrents and the floodwaters rise and the winds beat against that house, it won't collapse because it is built on bedrock. (26) But anyone who hears my teaching and doesn't obey it is foolish, like a person who builds a house on sand. (27) When the rains and floods come and the winds beat against that house, it will collapse with a mighty crash."

THE MEASURING LINE (THE PLUMB LINE)

THE PLUMB LINE

In carpentry and masonry, it is a tool that is used by masons and other contractors to build walls that are straight up and down — at a perfect right angle to the earth. When a plumb line has not been used. The result might be a wall that leans or appears warped, rather than straight and strong. - [Wikipedia](#)

Amos 7:7-8 Amplified Bible (7) Thus He showed me [a vision], and behold, the Lord was standing by a vertical wall with a plumb line in His hand [to determine if the wall was straight or if it needed to be destroyed]. (8) The Lord said to me, "Amos, what do you see?" And I said, "A plumb line." Then the Lord said, "Behold, I am setting a plumb line [as a standard] Among My people Israel [showing the defectiveness of the nation, requiring judgment]. I shall not spare them any longer. [The door of mercy is shut.]



- ❑ God would measure Israel against the straightness of that plumb line (the Law) and, when they did not measure up, would no longer spare them from punishment.
- ❑ The plumb line is God's holy and righteous standard for Israel. It measured how far they had fallen from God's guiding principles.
- ❑ The Law of Moses was a plumb line for Israel; the Word of God serves as ours.



WE ARE GOD'S SPIRITUAL HOUSE

(Revelation 21:10-14 AMP) (10) And he carried me away in the Spirit to a vast and lofty mountain, and showed me the holy (sanctified) city of Jerusalem coming down out of heaven from God, (12) It had a massive and high wall, with twelve [large] gates, and at the gates [were stationed] twelve angels; and on the gates the names of the twelve tribes of the sons of Israel were written. (13) On the east side [there were] three gates, on the north three gates, on the south three gates, and on the west three gates. (14) And the wall of the city had twelve foundation stones, and on them the twelve names of the twelve apostles of the Lamb (Christ).

3. BRIDE (wife) - relationship with God

God pledges His faithfulness, commitment, love, mercy, protection, and provision toward His people. In addition, the relationship between God and His people figuratively compares to the binding oath between a loving, devoted husband and his wife. This symbolism is shown in the Old Testament toward Israel and in the New Testament toward the church.

(Hosea 2:13-20 NLT) (14) "But then I will win her back once again. I will lead her into the desert and speak tenderly to her there. (16) When that day comes," says the LORD, "you will call me 'my husband' instead of 'my master.' (19) I will make you my wife forever, showing you righteousness and justice, unfailing love and compassion. (20) I will be faithful to you and make you mine, and you will finally know me as the LORD.



- ☐ God does not want to be a master to His wife but a loving husband.
- ☐ God desires justice, unfailing love, compassion, faithfulness, protection, and provision for His bride.
- ☐ God is the faithful husband who pursues his bride with His steadfast love.
- ☐ God remains faithful to a wife who was repeatedly unfaithful to him through idolatry.
- ☐ God accused Israel of adultery and prostitution
 - Spiritual prostitution (adultery, harlotry, or whoredom, as it is often called in the Bible) is when someone compromises, disregards, or departs from their religious beliefs and convictions in God and submits themselves to false gods (idols).
 - They commit acts to obtain profit, favor, or worldly gain.
- ☐ God accused the priests responsible for upholding, instructing, and encouraging the people to obey the Law did the very opposite. The priests delighted in the wickedness of the people and from the gain of the sin offerings, according to **Hosea 4:8-11.**

(Hosea 4:8-11 NLT) (8) "When the people bring their sin offerings, the priests get fed. So the priests are glad when the people sin! (9) 'And what the priests do, the people also do.' So now I will punish both priests and people for their wicked deeds. (10) They will eat and still be hungry. They will play the prostitute and gain nothing from it, for they have deserted the Lord (11) to worship other gods. "Wine has robbed my people of their understanding.

(Isaiah 62:4-5 NLT) (4) Never again will you be called "The Forsaken City" or "The Desolate Land. "Your new name will be "The City of God's Delight" and "The Bride of God," for the Lord delights in you and will claim you as his bride. (5) Your children will commit themselves to you, O Jerusalem, just as a young man commits himself to his bride. Then God will rejoice over you as a bridegroom rejoices over his bride.



How did Israel's marriage end with God, did it end



(Ephesians 5:24-27 NLT) (24) As the church submits to Christ, so you wives should submit to your husbands in everything. (25) **For husbands, this means love your wives, just as Christ loved the church. He gave up his life for her (26) to make her holy and clean, washed by the cleansing of God's word. (27) He did this to present her to himself as a glorious church without a spot or wrinkle or any other blemish. Instead, she will be holy and without fault.**

- ☐ God showed his love for us (sacrificed for us) while we were still sinners. Christ died for us (God in the flesh).
- ☐ God desires justice, unfailing love, compassion, faithfulness, protection, and provision for His bride.
- ☐ God cleanses us (we have no power to cleanse ourselves) and presents us as holy without fault.
 - (1 John 1:9 KJV) **"If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness"**
 - (1 John 1:9 AMPC) If we [freely] admit that we have sinned and confess our sins, He is faithful and just (true to His own nature and promises) and will forgive our sins [dismiss our lawlessness] and [continuously] cleanse us from all unrighteousness [everything not in conformity to His will in purpose, thought, and action].

(Revelation 19:7-8 AMP) (7) **Let us rejoice and shout for joy! Let us give Him glory and honor, for the marriage of the Lamb has come [at last] and His bride (the redeemed) has prepared herself."** (8) She has been permitted to dress in fine linen, dazzling white and clean—for **the fine linen signifies the righteous acts of the saints [the ethical conduct, personal integrity, moral courage, and godly character of believers].**

- ☐ The fine linen signifies the righteous acts of the saints [the ethical conduct, personal integrity, moral courage, and godly character of believers].

WARNING FROM THE BRIDEGROOM!

The betrothal period in biblical times was a time in which the bride and groom were separated until the wedding. The bride of Christ is now separated from her bridegroom during the church age. Our responsibility is to be faithful to the bridegroom during this time.

(Matthew 25 AMP) (1) **"Then the kingdom of heaven will be like ten virgins, who took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom. (2) Five of them were foolish [thoughtless, silly, and careless], and five were wise [far-sighted, practical, and sensible]. (3) For when the foolish took their lamps, they did not take any [extra] oil with them, (4) but the wise took flasks of oil along with their lamps. (5) Now while the bridegroom was delayed, they all began to nod off, and they fell asleep. (6) But at midnight there was a shout, 'Look! The bridegroom [is coming]! Go out to meet him.'** (7) Then all those virgins got up and put their own lamps in order [trimmed the wicks and added oil and lit them]. (8) **But the foolish virgins said to the wise, 'Give us some of your oil, because our lamps are going out.'** (9) **But the wise replied, 'No, otherwise there will not be enough for us and for you, too; go instead to the dealers and buy oil for yourselves.'** (10) **But while they were going away to buy oil, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went in with him to the wedding feast; and the door was shut and locked. (11) Later the others also came, and said, 'Lord, Lord, open [the door] for us.'** (12) **But He replied, 'I assure you and most solemnly say to you, I do not**



know you [we have no relationship].’ (13) Therefore, be on the alert [be prepared and ready], for you do not know the day nor the hour [when the Son of Man will come].

❑ Ten virgins (ten bridesmaids)

- All ten bridesmaids were waiting for the bridegroom, but the bridegroom was delayed
- All ten bridesmaids nodded off and fell asleep – the bridegroom came unexpectedly at midnight
(Mat 24:36 KJV) But of that day and hour knoweth no man.....
- All ten bridesmaids had lamps and were awakened at the same time

❑ Five were wise [far-sighted, practical, and sensible]

- Had oil and lit their lamps. Took flasks of oil for their lamps to meet the Bridegroom
- Went to the marriage feast, and the door was locked

❑ Five of them were foolish [thoughtless, silly, and careless]

- **Give us some of your oil, because our lamps are going out**
- **Did they have oil originally or did they run out of oil???**
- Had no extra oil for their lamps. Not prepared to meet the Bridegroom – had to buy oil
- Came later, but the Lord said, **“I do not know you [we have no relationship]”**

❑ Some believe the Oil is symbolic of the Holy Spirit.

Some believe the Oil is symbolic of the Word of God.

- Some believe that the five wise are true believers.
- Some believe that the five foolish are professing Christians (religious Christians).

(2 Timothy 3:5 AMP) holding to a form of [outward] godliness (religion), although they have denied its power [for their conduct nullifies their claim of faith]. Avoid such people and keep far away from them.

- Some believe that the five wise and five foolish are referring to the Gentiles and Jews (rejection of the Messiah and engrafting of the Gentiles)

STRIVE EARNESTLY TO GUARD AND KEEP THE HARMONY AND ONENESS!

(Ephesians 4 AMPC) (3) Be eager and strive earnestly to guard and keep the harmony and oneness of [and produced by] the Spirit in the binding power of peace.

(4) [There is] one body and one Spirit—just as there is also one hope [that belongs] to the calling you received— (5) [There is] one Lord, one faith, one baptism, (6) One God and Father of [us] all, Who is above all [Sovereign over all], pervading all and [living] in [us] all.

(Acts 2:46-47 AMPC) (46) And day after day they regularly assembled in the temple with united purpose, and in their homes they broke bread [including the Lord’s Supper]. They partook of their food with gladness and simplicity and generous hearts, (47) Constantly praising God and being in favor and goodwill with all the people; and the Lord kept adding [to their number] daily those who were being saved [from spiritual death].

(John 17:20-21 AMPC) (20) Neither for these alone do I pray [it is not for their sake only that I make this request], but also for all those who will ever come to believe in (trust in, cling to, rely on) Me through their word and teaching, (21) That they all may be one, [just] as You, Father, are in Me and I in You, that they also may be one in Us, so that the world may believe and be convinced that You have sent Me.



HELPER (COMFORTER, ADVOCATE, INTERCESSOR, COUNSELOR, STRENGTHENER, STANDBY)

(John 14:16-17 AMP) (16) And I will ask the Father, and He will give you another Helper (Comforter, Advocate, Intercessor—Counselor, Strengtheners, Standby), to be with you forever— (17) **the Spirit of Truth, whom the world cannot receive** [and take to its heart] because it does not see Him or know Him, **but you know Him because He (the Holy Spirit) remains with you continually and will be in you.** (26) But the **Helper (Comforter, Advocate, Intercessor—Counselor, Strengtheners, Standby)**, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name [in My place, **to represent Me and act on My behalf**], **He will teach you all things. And He will help you remember everything that I have told you.** (27) Peace I leave with you; My [perfect] peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you. Do not let your heart be troubled, nor let it be afraid. **[Let My perfect peace calm you in every circumstance and give you courage and strength for every challenge.]**

Discuss the questions/statements:

14. **John 14:16** states; “...He will give you another Helper (Comforter, Advocate, Intercessor—Counselor, Strengtheners, Standby)
- a. HELPER – The one who does for us what we cannot do for ourselves, the one who meets our needs. In this context the word seems to express the idea of an “indispensable companion.” (Psalm 46:1 AMP) **God is our refuge and strength [mighty and impenetrable],**
A very present and well-proved help in trouble.
 - b. COMFORTER – (2 Corinthians 1:4 AMP) **who comforts and encourages us in every trouble so that we will be able to comfort and encourage those who are in any kind of trouble, with the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God.**
 - c. ADVOCATE – Person who helps express another’s’ views and wishes and helps them stand up for their rights (represents and defends the interests of another person).
(1 John 2:1 KJV) My little children, these things write I unto you, that ye sin not. And if any man sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous:
 - d. INTERCESSOR – (Romans 8:26-27 NLT) (26) And the Holy Spirit helps us in our weakness. **For example, we don’t know what God wants us to pray for. But the Holy Spirit prays for us with groanings that cannot be expressed in words.** (27) And the Father who knows all hearts knows what the Spirit is saying, for **the Spirit pleads for us believers in harmony with God’s own will.**
 - e. COUNSELOR - a confidential adviser who would give us good advice and guidance.
(John 16 AMP) (7) ... but if I go, I will send Him (the Holy Spirit) to you [to be in close fellowship with you**].**
(John 16:12-13 AMP) (12) “I have many more things to say to you, but you cannot bear [to hear] them now.** (13) But when He, the **Spirit of Truth, comes, He will guide you into all the truth [full and complete truth].** For He will not speak on His own initiative, but He will speak whatever He hears [from the Father—the message regarding the Son], and **He will disclose to you what is to come [in the future].****



- f. **STRENGTHENER** - (2 Corinthians 12:8-9 AMP) (8) Three times I called upon the Lord and besought [Him] about this and begged that it might depart from me; (9) But He said to me, **My grace (My favor and loving-kindness and mercy) is enough for you [sufficient against any danger and enables you to bear the trouble manfully]; for My strength and power are made perfect (fulfilled and completed) and show themselves most effective in [your] weakness.** Therefore, I will all the more gladly glory in my weaknesses and infirmities, that the strength and power of Christ (the Messiah) may rest (yes, may pitch a tent over and dwell) upon me!
- g. **STANDBY** - (Hebrews 13:5-6 AMP) (5) ... He has said, **"I will never [under any circumstances] desert you [nor give you up nor leave you without support, nor will I in any degree leave you helpless], nor will I forsake or let you down or relax My hold on you [assuredly not]!"** (6) So we take comfort and are encouraged and confidently say, "The Lord is my Helper [in time of need], I will not be afraid. What will man do to me?"
15. John 14:17 states; **"the Spirit of Truth, whom the world cannot receive..."**
16. John 14:17 states; **"...the Holy Spirit) remains with you continually and will be in you"**
17. John 14:26 states; **"...He will teach you all things. And He will help you remember..."**
18. John 14:27 states; **"...My [perfect] peace I give to you... [Let My perfect peace calm you in every circumstance and give you courage and strength for every challenge.]**

THE PROMISE (FILLED AND REFILLED)

(Acts 2:2-4 AMP) (1) When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place, (2) and suddenly a sound came from heaven like a rushing violent wind, and it filled the whole house where they were sitting. (3) **There appeared to them tongues resembling fire, which were being distributed [among them], and they rested on each one of them [as each person received the Holy Spirit].** (4) **And they were all filled [that is, diffused throughout their being] with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues (different languages),** as the Spirit was giving them the ability to speak out [clearly and appropriately].

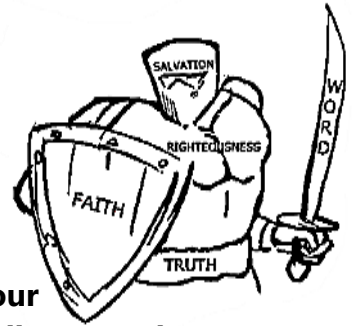
(Acts 4:31 AMP) And when they had prayed, the place where they were meeting together was shaken [a sign of God's presence]; and **they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak the word of God with boldness and courage.**

19. How many were present in the upper room on the day of Pentecost?
20. What is the significance of 120 people in the Upper Room (see **2 Chronicles 5:12-14, 2 Chronicles 7:1-5**)?
21. Is there a difference between the Spirit being upon you vs. being filled with the Spirit?
22. Can a person be refilled with the Spirit of God?



THE ARMOR OF GOD

(Ephesians 6:10-18 KJV) (10) Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might. (11) Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. (12) For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places. (13) Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand. (14) Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth, and having on the breastplate of righteousness; (15) And your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace; (16) Above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked. (17) And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God: (18) Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints;



(Ephesians 6 AMP) (10) In conclusion, be strong in the Lord **draw your strength from Him and be empowered through your union with Him** and in the power of His [boundless] might.

- ❑ (Philippians 4:13 AMP) **I can do all things [which He has called me to do] through Him who strengthens and empowers me [to fulfill His purpose—I am self-sufficient in Christ's sufficiency];** I am ready for anything and equal to anything through Him who infuses me with inner strength and confident peace.]
- ❑ (2 Corinthians 12:9-10 AMP) (9) but He has said to me, **"My grace is sufficient for you [My lovingkindness and My mercy are more than enough—always available—regardless of the situation]; for [My] power is being perfected [and is completed and shows itself most effectively] in [your] weakness."** Therefore, I will all the more gladly boast in my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ [may completely enfold me and] may dwell in me. (10) So I am well pleased with weaknesses, with insults, with distresses, with persecutions, and with difficulties, for the sake of Christ; **for when I am weak [in human strength], then I am strong [truly able, truly powerful, truly drawing from God's strength].**



1. How do we draw our strength from God?
2. Is our strength alone enough to carry the weight(s) of this world and to combat the enemy?
3. What does it mean to be empowered through our union with Him?
4. Will God strengthen/empower us to do all things or certain things (to sin or operate outside of His will)?
5. Paul asked God to remove a thorn from his flesh. Why didn't God answer Paul's prayer (petition)?
6. Why did God tell Paul that His Grace was sufficient?
7. Explain the following statement, **"My power is being perfected [and is completed and shows itself most effectively] in [your] weakness."**



(Ephesians 6 AMP) (11) Put on the full armor of God [for His precepts are like the splendid armor of a heavily-armed soldier], so that you may be able to [successfully] stand up against all the schemes and the strategies and the deceits of the devil.



<https://www.historyhit.com/facts-about-life-in-the-roman-army/>

Roman Soldiers: 10 Facts About Life in the Roman Army

The Roman army was divided into legionaries and auxiliaries.

- ☐ **Legionaries** (first class), were citizens of Rome and were highly respected.
- ☐ **Auxiliaries** (second class), were recruited from the fringes of the Roman Empire and beyond.

Thought to have contained roughly half a million soldiers at its peak.

- ☐ Made up of smaller units of roughly 4,000-6,000 soldiers, called **Legions**.
- ☐ Legions made up of smaller units known as **centuries** (~80) men each.
- ☐ A centurion ruled centuries.



Legionaries wore iron-plated armor.

- ☐ **Roman legionaries** typically wore a lorica, which consisted of iron plates that covered the chest and shoulders. Helmets protected the head, neck, and cheeks. Weapons varied depending on the legionary's role, but foot soldiers would typically carry a wooden, rectangular shield and a pilum (javelin), a dagger and a sword.
- ☐ **Auxiliary soldiers**, on the other hand, had oval-shaped shields and wore tunics with chainmail rather than iron-plated armor.

Training was rigorous and lasted 4 months.

- ☐ Before being dispatched on campaigns, new recruits would embark on around 4 months of rigorous training.
- ☐ The training program began with marching and progressed to sparring, weaponry training and strategic exercises such as formation drills.
- ☐ By the time training was completed, soldiers would be able to march 20 miles a day in full armor.

Cyclopedia Bible Dictionary (Legion)

- ☐ The Legion was divided into ten *cohorts* or battalions.
- ☐ Each cohort into three *maniples* or bands
- ☐ Each maniple into two *centuries* or companies of 100 each.
- ☐ 6000 had become at least the formal number of a legion.

8. Discuss the following statement. Paul stated that we should put on the whole (full) armor of God like to a heavily armed soldier.

- Some believe Paul was comparing the Spiritual soldier to a heavily armed Roman legionary.
- A legionary was a full citizen of the country they defended and were highly respected.
- A legionary and any other soldier must go through proper training before being dispatched on campaigns.



9. Discuss the following statement. **"that you may be able to [successfully] stand up against all the schemes and the strategies and the deceits of the devil."**
10. How do we remain (stay) alert and remain sober minded?
- ❑ (1 Peter 5:8 NLT) **Stay alert! Watch out for your great enemy, the devil. He prowls around like a roaring lion, looking for someone to devour.**
11. What does it mean to watch and pray that we may not enter into temptation?
- ❑ **Matthew 26:41 AMPC) All of you must keep awake (give strict attention, be cautious and active) and watch and pray, that you may not come into temptation.** The spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak.
12. How is it possible for someone to turn away from the faith and follow deceptive spirits and demons?
- ❑ (1 Timothy 4:1-2 NLT) (1) Now the Holy Spirit tells us clearly that **in the last times some will turn away from the true faith; they will follow deceptive spirits and teachings that come from demons.** (2) These people are hypocrites and liars, and their consciences are dead.
 - ❑ (2 Timothy 4:3 NLT) For a time is coming when people will no longer listen to sound and wholesome teaching. **They will follow their own desires and will look for teachers who will tell them whatever their itching ears want to hear.**
13. Why is it important not to surround ourselves with individuals that will always agree with us and tell us what we want to hear?

(Ephesians 6 AMP) (12) For our struggle is not against flesh and blood [contending only with physical opponents], but against the rulers, against the powers, against the world forces of this [present] darkness, against the spiritual forces of wickedness in the heavenly (supernatural) places.



14. Discuss the following statement(s) and Scriptures.
- a. These evil forces are organized and structured in a hierarchy/rankings (rulers, powers, world forces, spiritual forces of wickedness in heavenly places) (principalities, powers, rulers of darkness of this world, spiritual wickedness in high places - KJV)
 - b. These evil forces appear to work in unity.
(Matthew 12:45 NLT) Then the spirit finds seven other spirits more evil than itself, and they all enter the person and live there. And so that person is worse off than before. That will be the experience of this evil generation."
(Luke 8:30-33 AMP) (30) Then Jesus asked him, "What is your name?" And he answered, "Legion"; because many demons had entered him. (31) They continually begged Him not to command them to go into the abyss. (32) Now a large herd of pigs was feeding there on the mountain. The demons begged Jesus to allow them to enter the pigs, and He gave them permission. (33) Then the demons came out of the man and entered the pigs; and the herd rushed down the steep bank into the lake and was drowned. (see also Matthew 8; Mark 5)
(Luke 11:18 NLT) You say I am empowered by Satan. But if Satan is divided and fighting against himself, how can his kingdom survive?



- c. These evil forces appear to share the same purpose.
(John 10:10 AMP) The thief comes only in order to steal and kill and destroy.
15. Discuss the following statement(s).
- The enemy desires to **steal** the **SEED** (the Word sown in our hearts), the **TRUTH** (by sending false teachers/prophets) our **HOPE**, our **FAITH**, our **JOY**, our **PEACE**, our **RELATIONSHIPS**, our **PURPOSE**, our **HEALTH**, our **ABILITY TO SEE CLEARLY**, our **ABILITY TO HEAR CLEARLY**.
 - DEATH (to kill)** and **DESTRUCTION (to destroy)** is their ultimate long-term goal (unfulfilled human destinies/purpose and damnation to human souls).
16. Do we have to fight in this spiritual battle? Is fighting optional for a born-again believer?
17. Discuss the following statement. They (legion) continually begged Him (Jesus) not to command them to go into the abyss.
18. What is the final destination (outcome) of Satan, and (demons, devils, and unclean spirits)? When does this occur?
19. The principalities, powers, rulers of darkness, heavenly wickedness are located in the heavens and on earth. Discuss the following Scripture describing our location (spiritually and naturally).
- ☐ **(Ephesians 2:6 AMP) And He raised us up together with Him [when we believed], and seated us with Him in the heavenly places, [because we are] in Christ Jesus,**
20. Discuss the following Scripture and statement(s). **Put on the complete armor of God, so that you will be able to [successfully] resist and stand your ground in the evil day [of danger], and having done everything [that the crisis demands], to stand firm [in your place, fully prepared, immovable, victorious].**
- ☐ Heavy persecution rose against those who were proclaiming the Gospel.

☐ Imprisonment, and many were put to death for their faith in Christ.

☐ That is why, no doubt, they needed boldness, because their witness could cost them their lives.

☐ You can be intimidated by that kind of pressure into silence. **Chuck Smith Commentary**

(Ephesians 6 AMP) (14) So stand firm and hold your ground, HAVING TIGHTENED THE WIDE BAND OF TRUTH (personal integrity, moral courage) AROUND YOUR WAIST and HAVING PUT ON THE BREASTPLATE OF RIGHTEOUSNESS (an upright heart),

HAVING YOUR LOINS GIRT ABOUT WITH TRUTH (BELT OF TRUTH)

- It was a leather and metal band (belt) with a protective piece that hung down in front.
- It girded (bound) on all other pieces of the armor and therefore it is mentioned first.
- It holds the sword of the Spirit (combining Truth and the Word).
- It is a piece of our defensive armor that guard us in battle against the lies and deceptions of the enemy.
- Without an understanding of Truth, we will not be able to stand up against all the schemes and the strategies and the deceits of the devil.



21. Discuss the following statement(s) and Scriptures.
- Truth must abide in us (must produce sincerity, integrity, moral courage in accordance to the Word in our inward parts).
 - Truth bounds (joins) all other pieces of the armor.
 - The lack of Truth will limit the effectiveness of the armor in warfare.
- ☐ **(John 17:17 AMPC) Sanctify them [purify, consecrate, separate them for Yourself, make them holy] by the Truth; Your Word is Truth.**
- ☐ **(John 8:31-33 AMPC) (31) So Jesus said to those Jews who had believed in Him, If you abide in My word [hold fast to My teachings and live in accordance with them], you are truly My disciples. (32) And you will know the Truth, and the Truth will set you free.**
- ☐ **(Psalm 119:11 KJV) Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee.**
22. Discuss the following statement(s). Without an understanding of Truth, we will not be able to stand up against all the schemes *and* the strategies *and* the deceptions of the devil.
23. Discuss the following Scripture and statement(s). **(Genesis 3:4-5 AMP) (4) But the serpent said to the woman, “You certainly will not die! (5) For God knows that on the day you eat from it your eyes will be opened [that is, you will have greater awareness], and you will be like God, knowing [the difference between] good and evil.”**
- The enemy will always call God a liar (even though Satan is the father of lies)
 - The enemy will always challenge/debate the authority of the Word of God
 - The enemy will always challenge God’s view towards sin (focusing only on God’s love and Grace)
 - The enemy will always challenge the character and nature of God (Why obey God when He is withholding something good – Eve?)

HAVING THE BREASTPLATE OF RIGHTEOUSNESS

- The breastplate consisted of two parts (some believe one); it covered the whole region of the breast and the other the back.
- The breastplate refers to the righteousness Jesus purchased for us on the cross.
 - ☐ **2 Corinthians 5:21 AMP) He made Christ who knew no sin to [judicially] be sin on our behalf, so that in Him we would become the righteousness of God [that is, we would be made acceptable to Him and placed in a right relationship with Him by His gracious lovingkindness].**
- The breastplate is manifested in character and conduct (dealing and acting righteously according to God’s will / Word).
 - ☐ Right actions towards those around us (right relationship with man)
 - ☐ Right actions towards God (right relationship/ right standing with God)
- The breastplate is designed to protect our hearts and souls from evil and deception.
 - ☐ **(Proverbs 4:23 NIV) Above all else, guard your heart, for everything you do flows from it.**
 - ☐ **(Proverbs 4:23 NLT) Guard your heart above all else, for it determines the course of your life.**



HAVING THE BREASTPLATE OF RIGHTEOUSNESS CONTINUED..

- ❑ (Luke 21:34 AMPC) But take heed to yourselves and **be on your guard, lest your hearts be overburdened and depressed (weighed down) with the giddiness and headache and nausea of self-indulgence, drunkenness, and worldly worries and cares pertaining to [the business of] this life, and [lest] that day come upon you suddenly like a trap or a noose;**
5. The breastplate is designed to protect our hearts and souls from self-deception (believing we can be righteous without God).
- ❑ (Isaiah 64:6 AMPC) **For we have all become like one who is unclean [ceremonially, like a leper], and all our righteousness (our best deeds of rightness and justice) is like filthy rags or a polluted garment;** we all fade like a leaf, and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away [far from God's favor, hurrying us toward destruction].
 - ❑ (Jeremiah 17 AMPC) (9) **The heart is deceitful above all things, and it is exceedingly perverse and corrupt and severely, mortally sick! Who can know it [perceive, understand, be acquainted with his own heart and mind]?** (10) I the Lord search the mind, I try the heart, even to give to every man according to his ways, according to the fruit of his doings.
 - ❑ (Ephesians 4 NLT) (30) And do not bring sorrow to God's Holy Spirit by the way you live. Remember, he has identified you as his own, guaranteeing that you will be saved on the day of redemption. (31) **Get rid of all bitterness, rage, anger, harsh words, and slander, as well as all types of evil behavior.** (32) Instead, be kind to each other, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, just as God through Christ has forgiven you.
24. Why do some believe they can be righteous without the Blood and the Cross of Christ being applied to their lives?
25. Why should we constantly guard our hearts when we deal with people and in our relationships?
26. How can our hearts lead us into self-deception?
27. How is it possible for born again believers to continually operate in bitterness, rage, anger, harsh words, slander, and evil behaviors?
28. How is it possible for born again believers to overburdened, depressed (weighed down) with the worldly worries and cares pertaining to [the business of] this life?
29. How can the condition of our hearts affect us in spiritual battle and in everyday life?
30. How is the breastplate of righteousness manifested in the lives of believers?



(Ephesians 6 AMP) (15) and having strapped on **YOUR FEET THE GOSPEL OF PEACE IN PREPARATION** [to face the enemy with firm-footed stability and the readiness produced by the good news].

HAVING FEET SHOD (STRAPPED) WITH THE PREPARATION OF THE GOSPEL OF PEACE

- ☐ The shoes were studded with hobnails or spikes.
They are designed for balance in combat (to keep them from falling).
- ☐ The shoes were studded for offensive movement.
They were designed for advancing (taking) territory for the empire (kingdom).
- ☐ The shoes protected the feet of the soldier from rough terrain (landscapes).



31. Discuss the following statement(s). Paul instructs believers to strap on shoes for stability in battle.
- a. To resist the shock of enemies as they rushed upon them
 - b. To resist unexpected sudden assaults (these unexpected assaults could be the most disastrous)
 - c. To resist temptations that will spring up
32. Discuss the following statement(s) and Scripture(s). Along with wearing the proper footwear, another key to good footing (secure footing) is standing on a firm foundation for stability in battle.
- ☐ **(2 Timothy 2:19 AMP) (19) Nevertheless, the firm foundation of God [which He has laid] stands [sure and unshaken despite attacks]....**
 - ☐ **(Psalm 62:2 KJV) He only is my rock and my salvation; he is my defence; I shall not be greatly moved.**
 - ☐ **(Jude 24 AMPC) (20) But you, beloved, build yourselves up [founded] on your most holy faith [make progress, rise like an edifice higher and higher], praying in the Holy Spirit; (21) Guard and keep yourselves in the love of God; expect and patiently wait for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ (the Messiah)—[which will bring you] unto life eternal. (24) Now to Him Who is able to keep you without stumbling or slipping or falling, and to present [you] unblemished (blameless and faultless) before the presence of His glory in triumphant joy and exultation [with unspeakable, ecstatic delight]—**
33. Discuss the following statement(s) and Scripture(s).
- (John 16:33 AMP) I have told you these things, so that in Me you may have [perfect] peace. In the world you have tribulation and distress and suffering, but be courageous [be confident, be undaunted, be filled with joy]; I have overcome the world.” [My conquest is accomplished, My victory abiding.]**
- (Philippians 4:6-7 NLT) (6) Don’t worry about anything; instead, pray about everything. Tell God what you need, and thank him for all he has done. (7) Then you will experience God’s peace, which exceeds anything we can understand. His peace will guard your hearts and minds as you live in Christ Jesus.**
- a. The Gospel of Jesus Christ brings Peace into the hearts and minds of believers (soldiers).
 - b. Every spiritual soldier (believer) will experience times of war and peace.
 - c. Every spiritual soldier (believer) must fight (war) to keep this, Peace.
34. How can God’s Peace surpass (exceed) our understanding?



35. Discuss the following statement(s) and Scripture(s). When we have received God's Peace, we are then commanded to share that Peace with others.

- ☐ (Isaiah 52:7 NLT) **How beautiful on the mountains are the feet of the messenger who brings good news, the good news of peace and salvation, the news that the God of Israel reigns!**
- ☐ (Romans 10:15 NLT) **And how will anyone go and tell them without being sent? That is why the Scriptures say, "How beautiful are the feet of messengers who bring good news!"**

(Ephesians 6 AMP) (16) Above all, **lift up the [protective] shield of faith** with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one.

LIFT UP THE [PROTECTIVE] SHIELD OF FAITH

- ☐ The shield was the first barrier against the enemy's arrows from long range.
- ☐ The shield was often made of wood and covered in hide. It was then made wet to extinguish flaming arrows (darts) from the enemy.
- ☐ The shield could be used to push opponents.
- ☐ Shields were also used by groups of soldiers to form an enclosure called a tortoise to protect them from arrows.



LIFT UP THE SHIELD!

(1 Samuel 17:4-7 NLT) (4) Then Goliath, a Philistine champion from Gath, came out of the Philistine ranks to face the forces of Israel. **He was over nine feet tall!** (5) He wore a bronze helmet, and his bronze coat of mail weighed 125 pounds. (6) He also wore bronze leg armor, and he carried a bronze javelin on his shoulder. (7) ...**His armor bearer walked ahead of him carrying a shield.** ...**(41) Goliath walked out toward David with his shield bearer ahead of him,** (45) **David replied to the Philistine, "You come to me with sword, spear, and javelin, but I come to you in the name of the Lord of Heaven's Armies—the God of the armies of Israel, whom you have defied.** (46) **Today the Lord will conquer you, and I will kill you and cut off your head....** (47) And everyone assembled here will know that the Lord rescues his people, but not with sword and spear. **This is the Lord's battle, and he will give you to us!"** (48) As Goliath moved closer to attack, David quickly ran out to meet him. (49) Reaching into his shepherd's bag and taking out a stone, **he hurled it with his sling and hit the Philistine in the forehead. The stone sank in, and Goliath stumbled and fell face down on the ground.** (50) So David triumphed over the Philistine with only a sling and a stone, for he had no sword. (51) Then David ran over and pulled Goliath's sword from its sheath. David used it to kill him and cut off his head.

36. Discuss the following statement(s) and Scripture(s).

- a. The shield of faith is the first barrier of defense. Without faith we are defenseless (all weapons are employed by faith).
 - ☐ (Hebrews 11:6 AMP) **But without faith it is impossible to [walk with God and] please Him, for whoever comes [near] to God must [necessarily] believe that God exists and that He rewards those who [earnestly and diligently] seek Him.**



- b. Firey darts / arrows can come in the form of spoken words of doubt, accusations, unbelief, judgment and fear from others or even from us.
- ❑ (James 3:6 NLT) And among all the parts of the body, **the tongue is a flame of fire. It is a whole world of wickedness, corrupting your entire body. It can set your whole life on fire, for it is set on fire by hell itself.**
 - ❑ (Proverbs 18:21 NLT) **The tongue can bring death or life; those who love to talk will reap the consequences.**
 - ❑ (Numbers 13:31-32 NLT) (31) But the other men who had explored the land with him disagreed. **"We can't go up against them! They are stronger than we are!"** (32) So they spread this bad report about the land among the Israelites....
- c. There are times in our lives when our faith may be challenged. **(The father instantly cried out, "I do believe, but help me overcome my unbelief! - Mark 9:24 NLT)**
How do we overcome those challenging times?

37. Discuss the following statement(s) and Scripture(s).

(Hebrews 11:11AMP) Now faith is the assurance (title deed, confirmation) of things hoped for (divinely guaranteed), and the evidence of things not seen [the conviction of their reality—faith comprehends as fact what cannot be experienced by the physical senses**]**

- a. How did David show (display) his faith in the battle with Goliath?
- b. How did David obtain this type of faith (faith to face a 9-foot giant)?
- c. Before David faced the giant, there were several people who tried to discourage him from fighting.
How do we maintain our faith amid nay sayers and doubters? How did David?

38. How was Goliath struck with a stone if he possessed a shield?
Having the shield is not enough, faith must utilized.

(Ephesians 6 AMP) (17) And take THE HELMET OF SALVATION...

TAKE THE HELMET OF SALVATION

- ❑ The helmet protects the head in battle from the blows of the enemy.
- ❑ The helmet was design so that none of the soldiers' senses were hindered in battle.

(1 Thessalonians 5:8 NLT) But let us who live in the light be clearheaded, protected by the armor of faith and love, and wearing as our helmet the confidence of our salvation.



39. Discuss the following statement(s) and Scripture(s). Paul instructs us to take the helmet of salvation which prepares our minds (mentally training us to endure the hardships and conditions of battle).

- ❑ (2 Timothy 2:3-4 KJV) (3) Thou therefore **endure hardness, as a good soldier** of Jesus Christ. (4) **No man that warreth entangleth himself with the affairs of this life;** that he may please him who hath chosen him to be a soldier.



40. Discuss the following statement(s) and Scripture(s). Paul instructs us to take the helmet of salvation.
- It will regulate ungodly (rebellious) thoughts (putting human reasoning, emotions, beliefs, man-made ideas, and theories into captivity to obey Christ) – cast down stronghold of the mind.
 - It will help us discern (Truth from error) and (facts from Truth) – enemy traps laid before us.
 - It will help us not to lean to our own understanding but rely on God's wisdom/direction.
- ❑ (2 Corinthians 10:4-5 AMPC) (4) For the weapons of our warfare are not physical [weapons of flesh and blood], but they are mighty before God for the overthrow and destruction of strongholds, (5) [Inasmuch as we] refute arguments and theories and reasonings and every proud and lofty thing that sets itself up against the [true] knowledge of God; and we lead every thought and purpose away captive into the obedience of Christ (the Messiah, the Anointed One),
 - ❑ Proverbs 14:12 AMP) There is a way which seems right to a man and appears straight before him, But its end is the way of death.
 - ❑ (Proverbs 3:5-6 AMP) (5) Trust in and rely confidently on the Lord with all your heart And do not rely on your own insight or understanding. (6) In all your ways know and acknowledge and recognize Him, And He will make your paths straight and smooth [removing obstacles that block your way].
41. Discuss the following statement(s) and Scripture(s). Paul instructs us to take the helmet of salvation.
- That it will give us a fresh mental and spiritual attitude (a new set of views, new set of convictions, a new nature, new beliefs, and a new outlook/attitude).
 - That it will mature us spiritually and focus on completing His plan and His purpose for our lives.
- ❑ (Ephesians 4:23-24 AMP) (23) and be continually renewed in the spirit of your mind [having a fresh, untarnished mental and spiritual attitude], (24) and put on the new self [the regenerated and renewed nature], created in God's image, [godlike] in the righteousness and holiness of the truth [living in a way that expresses to God your gratitude for your salvation].
 - ❑ (Ephesians 4:23-24 AMPC) (23) And be constantly renewed in the spirit of your mind [having a fresh mental and spiritual attitude], (24) And put on the new nature (the regenerate self) created in God's image, [Godlike] in true righteousness and holiness.
 - ❑ (Romans 12 AMP) (2) And do not be conformed to this world [any longer with its superficial values and customs], but be transformed and progressively changed [as you mature spiritually] by the renewing of your mind [focusing on godly values and ethical attitudes], so that you may prove [for yourselves] what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect [in His plan and purpose for you].



42. Discuss the following statement(s) and Scripture(s). Paul instructs us to take the helmet of salvation.
- It will keep us focused (setting our minds on heavenly things – His kingdom and His righteousness). The enemy will constantly distract us with temptation and temporal things.
 - It will sanctify us (purify us), unify us, and affect our behavior towards one another (influences the heart and promotes righteous living towards God and man).
- ❑ **(Matthew 6:33 AMP) But first and most importantly seek (aim at, strive after) His kingdom and His righteousness** [His way of doing and being right—the attitude and character of God],
 - ❑ **(Colossians 3:12-15 AMP) (2) Set your mind and keep focused habitually on the things above [the heavenly things],** not on things that are on the earth [which have only temporal value].(12) So, as God's own chosen people, who are holy [set apart, sanctified for His purpose] and well-beloved [by God Himself], put on a **heart of compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience** [which has the power to endure whatever injustice or unpleasantness comes, with good temper]; (13) bearing graciously with one another, and **willingly forgiving each other** if one has a cause for complaint against another; just as the Lord has forgiven you, so should you forgive.
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(Ephesians 6 AMP) (17) And take... the sword of the Spirit, which is the Word of God.

TAKE THE SWORD OF THE SPIRIT

- ❑ The sword was double-edged to make it easier to penetrate the enemy.
- ❑ Before soldiers were dispatched on campaigns, new recruits endured rigid training in sparring and weaponry (sword training).



43. Discuss the following statement(s) and Scripture(s).
- Paul instructs believers to be properly trained using the Sword (in the Word of God).
 - Paul instructs believers that the Word of God (Scripture) is fundamental for training in holy living and equipping the believer in every good work.
 - The WORD convicts us of sin (for correction of error and restoration to obedience).
 - The WORD trains us in righteousness (teaches/conforms us to holy living to God's will in thought, purpose, and action)
- ❑ **(2 Timothy 2:15 AMPC) Study and be eager and do your utmost to present yourself to God approved (tested by trial), a workman who has no cause to be ashamed, correctly analyzing and accurately dividing [rightly handling and skillfully teaching] the Word of Truth.**
 - ❑ **(2 Timothy 3:16-17 AMPC) (16) Every Scripture is God-breathed (given by His inspiration) and profitable for instruction, for reproof and conviction of sin, for correction of error and discipline in obedience, [and] for training in righteousness** (in holy living, in conformity to God's will in thought, purpose, and action), (17) So that the man of God may be complete and proficient, well fitted and **thoroughly equipped for every good work.**



44. Discuss the following statement(s) and Scripture(s). The writer of **Hebrews** also refers to the double-edged sword. In **Hebrews 4:12**, the “sword” in Greek was used for the knife used by the priests to slit the throats of the sacrificial lambs and for the knife (scalpel) used by a surgeon.
- The WORD exposes sin (a discerner of thoughts and intentions).
 - The WORD judges every thought and intention of the heart.
- ❑ **(Hebrews 4:12 AMP) For the word of God is living and active and full of power [making it operative, energizing, and effective]. It is sharper than any two-edged sword, penetrating as far as the division of the soul and spirit [the completeness of a person], and of both joints and marrow [the deepest parts of our nature], exposing and judging the very thoughts and intentions of the heart.**
45. Discuss the following statement(s) and Scripture(s). The sword is the most destructive part of the soldier’s armor. One properly placed piercing of the sword would inflict considerable damage to the enemy.
- The sword (the Word) is the greatest weapon given to the believer (His Word is above His Name).
 - The Bible encourages believers to use this sword (declare Word of God) in this battle.
 - If we abide in Christ (if we are united to Him) and His Words abide in us (His Word lives in our hearts) that we can ask Him what we will (petition Him) and it shall be done (according to His will).
- ❑ **(Philippians 2:10-11 AMP) (10) so that at the name of Jesus every knee shall bow [in submission], of those who are in heaven and on earth and under the earth, (11) and that every tongue will confess and openly acknowledge that Jesus Christ is Lord (sovereign God), to the glory of God the Father**
- ❑ **(Psalm 138:2 AMPC) I will worship toward Your holy temple and praise Your name for Your loving-kindness and for Your truth and faithfulness; for You have exalted above all else Your name and Your word and You have magnified Your word above all Your name!**
- ❑ **(Matthew 18:18-20 AMP) (18) I assure you and most solemnly say to you, whatever you bind [forbid, declare to be improper and unlawful] on earth shall have [already] been bound in heaven, and whatever you loose [permit, declare lawful] on earth shall have [already] been loosed in heaven. (19) “Again I say to you, that if two believers on earth agree [that is, are of one mind, in harmony] about anything that they ask [within the will of God], it will be done for them by My Father in heaven. (20) For where two or three are gathered in My name [meeting together as My followers], I am there among them.”**
- ❑ **(John 15:7 KJV) If ye abide in me, and my words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you.**
- ❑ **(Isaiah 55:11 AMP) So will My word be which goes out of My mouth; It will not return to Me void (useless, without result), Without accomplishing what I desire, And without succeeding in the matter for which I sent it**

