

Freedom Fighter



"The Servant" by David Costello (www.davidcostello.com)

Training Manual

Serve others always, never self
Lead by example, practice stealth
Seek freedom always for everyone
Any glory goes to the Son

www.freedomfighters.cc

Freedom Fighters Defined

What is the goal for Freedom Fighters? To serve others and be set free as we serve.

Isa 58:6-12 "Is this not the fast which I choose, to loosen the bonds of wickedness, to undo the bands of the yoke, and to let the oppressed go free, and break every yoke? 7 "Is it not to divide your bread with the hungry, and bring the homeless poor into the house; when you see the naked, to cover him; and not to hide yourself from your own flesh? 8 "Then your light will break out like the dawn, and your recovery will speedily spring forth; and your righteousness will go before you; the glory of the LORD will be your rear guard. 9 "Then you will call, and the LORD will answer; you will cry, and He will say, 'Here I am.' If you remove the yoke from your midst, the pointing of the finger, and speaking wickedness, 10 And if you give yourself to the hungry, and satisfy the desire of the afflicted, then your light will rise in darkness, and your gloom {will become} like midday. 11 "And the LORD will continually guide you, and satisfy your desire in scorched places, and give strength to your bones; and you will be like a watered garden, and like a spring of water whose waters do not fail. 12 "And those from among you will rebuild the ancient ruins; you will raise up the age-old foundations; and you will be called the repairer of the breach, the restorer of the streets in which to dwell. (NAS)

What is the attitude of a Freedom Fighter?

To be not concerned with self, to love others and consider others more important than ourselves and to see ourselves as the servants of others, to be obedient to the Holy Spirit expecting God to work within us and others.

Phil 2:3-13 **Do nothing from selfishness or empty conceit,** but with humility of mind let each of you **regard one another as more important than himself;** 4 do not {merely} **look out for** your own personal interests, but also for **the interests of others.** 5 Have this attitude in yourselves which was also in Christ Jesus, 6 who, although He existed in the form of God, did not regard equality with God a thing to be grasped, 7 but emptied Himself, **taking the form of a bond-servant,** {and} being made in the likeness of men. 8 And being found in appearance as a man, **He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death,** even death on a cross. 9 Therefore also God highly exalted Him, and bestowed on Him the name which is above every name, 10 that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those who are in heaven, and on earth, and under the earth, 11 and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father. 12 So then, my beloved, just as you have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, **work out your salvation with fear and trembling; 13 for it is God who is at work in you,** both to will and to work for {His} good pleasure. (NAS)

What does a Freedom Fighter actively pursue? Freedom, so we can lead and guide others.

Luke 6:39-45 And He also spoke a parable to them: "**A blind man cannot guide a blind man**, can he? Will they not both fall into a pit? 40 "A pupil is not above his teacher; but **everyone, after he has been fully trained, will be like his teacher.** 41" And why do you look at the speck that is in your brother's eye, but do not notice the log that is in your own eye? 42 "Or how can you say to your brother, 'Brother, let me take out the speck that is in your eye,' when you yourself do not see the log that is in your own eye? You hypocrite, **first take the log out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to take out the speck that is in your brother's eye.** 43 "For there is no good tree which produces bad fruit; nor, on the other hand, a bad tree which produces good fruit. 44 "For each tree is known by its own fruit. For men do not gather figs from thorns, nor do they pick grapes from a briar bush. 45 "The good man out of the good treasure of his heart brings forth what is good; and the evil {man} out of the evil {treasure} brings forth what is evil; for his mouth speaks from that which fills his heart. (NAS)

How does a Freedom Fighter operate? Anonymously, without making a name for himself.

Rev 18:2-5 And he cried out with a mighty voice, saying, "Fallen, fallen is Babylon the great! And she has become a dwelling place of demons and a prison of every unclean spirit, and a prison of every unclean and hateful bird. "For all the nations have drunk of the wine of the passion of her immorality, and the kings of the earth have committed {acts of} immorality with her, and the merchants of the earth have become rich by the wealth of her sensuality." And I heard another voice from heaven, saying, "**Come out of her, my people**, that you may not participate in her sins and that you may not receive of her plagues; for her sins have piled up as high as heaven, and God has remembered her iniquities. (NAS)

Gen 11:3-4 And they said to one another, "Come, let us make bricks and burn {them} thoroughly." And they used brick for stone, and they used tar for mortar. And they said, "Come, let us build for ourselves a city, and a tower whose top {will reach} into heaven, and **let us make for ourselves a name**; lest we be scattered abroad over the face of the whole earth." (NAS)

Mark 7:36 And **He [Jesus] gave them orders not to tell anyone**; but the more He ordered them, the more widely they continued to proclaim it. (NAS)

Mark 8:30 And **He warned them to tell no one** about Him. (NAS)

Luke 5:14 And **He ordered him to tell no one**, "But go and show yourself to the priest, and make an offering for your cleansing, just as Moses commanded, for a testimony to them."

Luke 8:56 And her parents were amazed; but **He instructed them to tell no one** what had happened. (NAS)

Luke 9:21 But **He warned them, and instructed {them} not to tell this to anyone**, (NAS)

Rebuilding the Kingdom

- 1. Freedom**
- 2. Leadership**
- 3. Security**
- 4. Productivity**

I. Freedom comes through

- 1. Repentance**
 - a. Recognize the problem**
 - b. Hate the problem**
 - c. Confess the problem**
 - d. Turn to God- He will take care of it**
- 2. Forgiveness**
 - a. Know what it truly is**
 - b. Practice it**

II. Leadership

- 1. God appoints**
- 2. Leaders lead by example- not by words**
- 3. Holy Spirit is teacher**

III. Security

- 1. People must know the truth of who God is**
- 2. People must know truth of who we are in Christ**

IV. Productivity – Bearing Fruit (John 15)

- 1. Making disciples (by example, not words)**
- 2. Dying to self (Apart from Him we can do nothing)**

Problems in Kingdom

Yeast of Pharisees

Yeast of Herod

Spirit of Babylon – “Let us make a name for ourselves”

Attitudes to take on

Attitude of Christ (Phil 2)

Attitude of child (Mark 9:37, 10:15)

Attitude of a servant- not a lord (Luke 22:23-30)

Forsake titles (Mat 23:5-11)

Deny self (no recognition) and take up cross (Matt 10:38, 16:24, Mark 8:34, Luke 9:23)

Don't become a king (John 6:15)

What is Success?

1. Definition – finding God’s will and doing it.
2. Measuring Success - Did I do God’s will? Not- were there results?
3. Goals - Be transformed into the image of Christ

Definition

- **Success can be defined simply as knowing God’s will and doing it.**
- **Success should be determined by obedience-** If one is obedient, he should be deemed successful. If disobedient, he is unsuccessful.
- **Success should never be determined by short term results.**
- **Short term results never reveal the total picture of success or failure.**

There are many biblical examples of this.

Jesus came, reached out to people, healed people, fed people, raised people from the dead to name a few things. Was He successful? If you look at short term results, his key disciple, denied him. His treasurer betrayed Him. His other disciples ran away from Him and crowds of people cried. “Crucify Him”. He was executed by the well known and respected religious leaders of the day who charged Him with being an imposter. He died as a criminal and was buried in a borrowed tomb. He never had a place to call home and never traveled over a few hundred miles from home, if that many, His entire life. In summary, he was considered a criminal, executed by respected authorities, denied by his closest friends, and scorned by people he had come to save. Looks like a failure, doesn’t it.

But what is the truth?

Because He was obedient-

Therefore also God highly exalted Him, and bestowed on Him the name which is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those who are in heaven, and on earth, and under the earth, and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father -. Phil 2:9-11(NAS)

Because he was obedient, He defeated Satan BY DYING! Not by winning a physical fight.

Since then the children share in flesh and blood, He Himself likewise also partook of the same, that through death He might render powerless him who had the power of death, that is, the devil; and might deliver those who through fear of death were subject to slavery all their lives. Heb 2:14-15

Because He was obedient, all authority has now been given to Him.

And Jesus came up and spoke to them, saying, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. Matt 28:18(NAS)

Consider another example, Joseph, son of Issac also called Israel. He was obedient to his father to go check on his brothers. He was thrown into a pit and sold into slavery (Gen 37). He was obedient to Potiphar. He would not commit adultery with Potiphar's wife. She had him thrown into prison (Gen 38). He was obedient to interpret the dream of Pharaoh's cupbearer and baker. He received nothing for this. Was Joseph a successful man? Not according to short-term results. What happened later, though? He was made second in command in the rule of Egypt. He was obedient to God and the authority over him every time.

When Joseph interpreted Pharaoh's dream, he was rewarded by being placed as ruler, second only to Pharaoh, over Egypt.

So Pharaoh said to Joseph, "Since God has informed you of all this, there is no one so discerning and wise as you are. "You shall be over my house, and according to your command all my people shall do homage; only in the throne I will be greater than you." And Pharaoh said to Joseph, "See I have set you over all the land of Egypt." Then Pharaoh took off his signet ring from his hand, and put it on Joseph's hand, and clothed him in garments of fine linen, and put the gold necklace around his neck. And he had him ride in his second chariot; and they proclaimed before him, "Bow the knee!" And he set him over all the land of Egypt. Moreover, Pharaoh said to Joseph, "{Though} I am Pharaoh, yet without your permission no one shall raise his hand or foot in all the land of Egypt." Gen 41:39-44 (NAS)

Measuring Success

Success can only be determined by one thing. Was God's will done? Or better, did I do God's will.

If God's will was done, the person was successful.

If God's will was not done, the person was not successful.

Jesus said in Matt 7:21-23

"Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven; but he who does the will of My Father who is in heaven. "Many will say to Me on that day, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in Your name, and in Your name cast out demons, and in Your name perform many miracles?' "And then I will declare to them, 'I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness.'(NAS)

Lawlessness is anything unauthorized or without authority. Acting independent of God, without His authority, and without his direction and orders could be lawlessness. Even doing "Christian" work, teaching, preaching, evangelizing, prophesying without direction from God could be considered "practicing lawlessness".

Jesus also said in Matthew 12:50

"For whoever does the will of My Father who is in heaven, he is My brother and sister and mother."
(NAS)

The term "God's will was done" does not mean that the results God desired was obtained but that the individual person to whom success or failure is being determined or attributed to, actually did what God wanted him or her to do. This is confirmed in 1 Corinthians 3:6-9. Some people plant. Some people water. Some people reap. It is God who causes the seed to sprout, the plant to grow, and the crop to be produced. Does a person who plants a seed of the good news of the gospel consider himself a failure? Who saves, the Holy Spirit or the evangelist? Obviously the Holy Spirit so the one who plants or waters is successful if he does what God tells him to do- that is to plant or water. The person who reaps the harvest obviously is successful but if he or she by fancy words or persuasion convinces someone to accept Christ, then I submit that he has failed. God is not willing that any should perish, but also wills that all freely come to Him for salvation. A person who prays to be saved under duress or even guilt may not truly believe in his or her heart and may not be saved.

Success then is simply determined by the question, "Did I do God's will?". If the answer is "yes", then I was successful. If the answer is "no", then I was not successful.

Ultimately, success will be verified by results. After all, Jesus said, we judge a tree by its fruit (Luke 6:44). Joseph was seen by Potiphar and the jailer as successful because the Lord was with him in everything that he did. Never grow weary, however, because just as in the case of Jesus, the fruit was not produced until after Jesus had died. If you are obedient, the Lord will be with you and God will produce results through you. It is Him who brings you success.

An arrogant man stirs up strife, but he who trusts in the LORD will prosper. Prov 28:25(NAS)

Goals

- **Every organization and person must have goals.** For lack of vision, the people are perish or are unrestrained (Proverbs 29:18)
- **These goals should be both corporate and individual goals.**

Individual Goals

Individual goals for every one should be based on one thing- serving others. In order to serve others however, we must be transformed in the mind in order to focus on others and not ourselves. Each one of us should be transformed by the renewing of the mind. As a pastor and friend once said, "We are all a work in progress". We are admonished to be transformed by the renewing of the mind.

*Rom 12:22 And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect.
(NAS)*

Corporate Goals

Corporate goals should always focus on individuals not accomplishments. The greatest commandment is to love God and love one's neighbor. It is only right that we focus on people rather than accomplishments. We can only serve one master. If the corporate goal is focused on success, we will ignore people and concentrate on success. If the corporate goal is to love others and serve others, then success will follow for that is God's will. When we are in God's will, we will be successful.

For example, a business that focuses on profit will eventually ignore serving customers for the sake of profit and find that there are no longer any customers. No customers results in no profit.

Likewise, a church or group that focuses on growth or numbers or building or number of programs will eventually ignore the church member and find that the church members leave for other churches.

Finding Freedom



"Lifted Up" by David Costello (www.davidcostello.com)

In Christ

Keys to Freedom*

1. **Know who God is - walk in a right relationship with Him. (Ephesians 4:11-14)**
until we all attain to the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a mature man, to the measure of the stature which belongs to the fullness of Christ. As a result, we are no longer to be children, tossed here and there by waves, and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, by craftiness in deceitful scheming;
2. **Know who you are - your true identity as a believer in Christ. (2 Cor. 5:17)**
Therefore if any man is in Christ, {he is} a new creature; the old things passed away; behold, new things have come.
3. **Recognize the reality of Satan, his kingdom, and his design to destroy the people of God. (Ephesians 6:12)**
For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the powers, against the world forces of this darkness, against the spiritual {forces} of wickedness in the heavenly {places.}
4. **Recognize that spiritual maturity is a lifetime process but freedom can be obtained by -**
 - a. **Understanding truth (John 8:32)**
and you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free."
 - b. **Confessing sins (1 John 1:9)**
If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.
 - c. **Forgiving others (Matthew 6:14-15)**
"For if you forgive men for their transgressions, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. "But if you do not forgive men, then your Father will not forgive your transgressions.
 - d. **Renouncing curses (Galatians 3:13)**
Christ redeemed us from the curse of the Law, having become a curse for us-- for it is written, "Cursed is everyone who hangs on a tree"-- (NAS)
5. **Be diligent to assume personal responsibility for spiritual maturity and freedom (2 Peter 3:14)**
Therefore, beloved, since you look for these things, be diligent to be found by Him in peace, spotless and blameless,

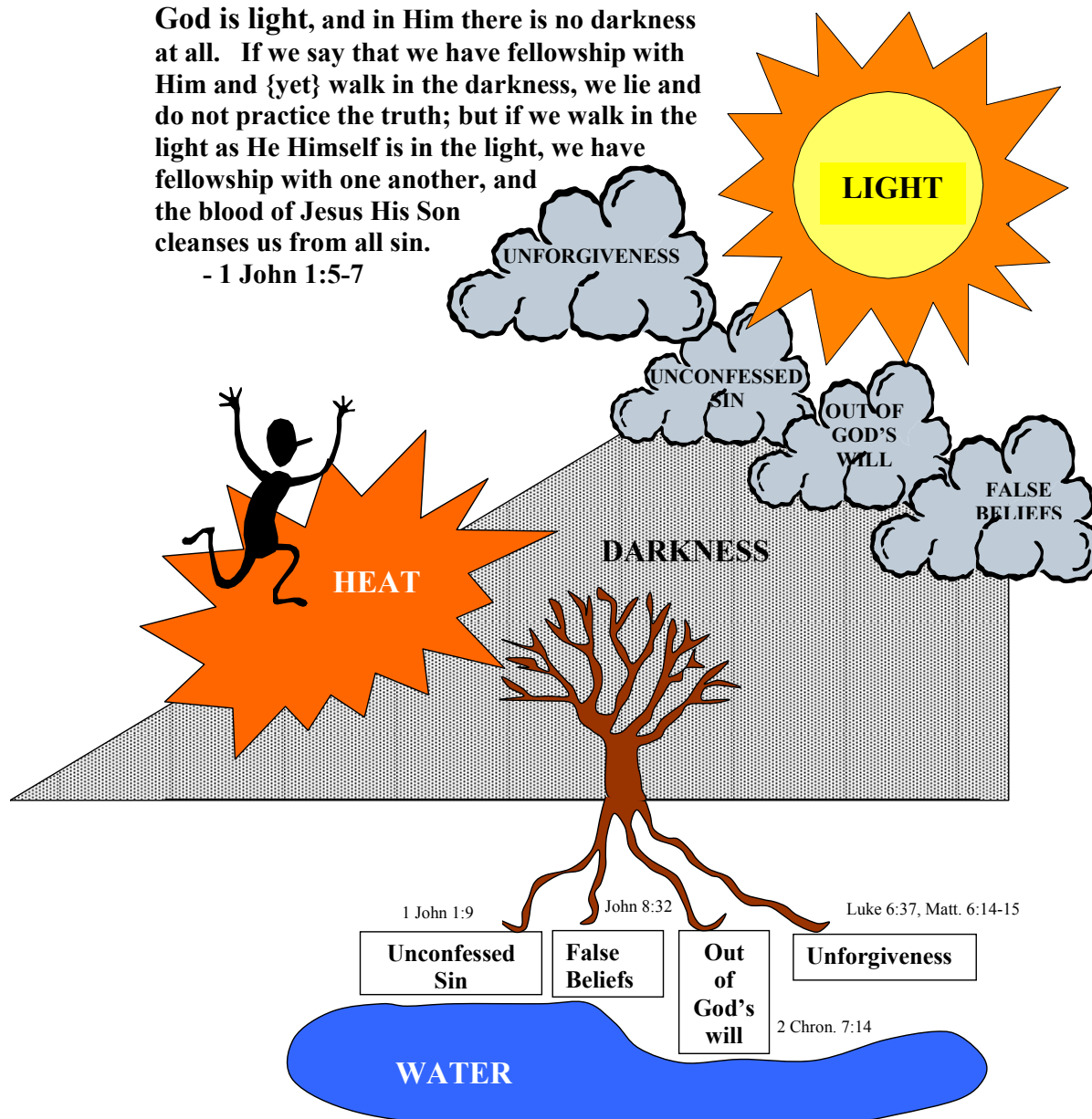
* Adapted from *Breaking Through to Spiritual Maturity* by Neil T. Anderson, Regal Books, pp. 15,16

Heat, Light, and Water Illustration

Plants require four things in order to grow. Soil, water, light, and heat. Children of God living on earth (soil) require the same things. When sinful things get in the way, fruit is not produced.

God is light, and in Him there is no darkness at all. If we say that we have fellowship with Him and {yet} walk in the darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth; but if we walk in the light as He Himself is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus His Son cleanses us from all sin.

- 1 John 1:5-7

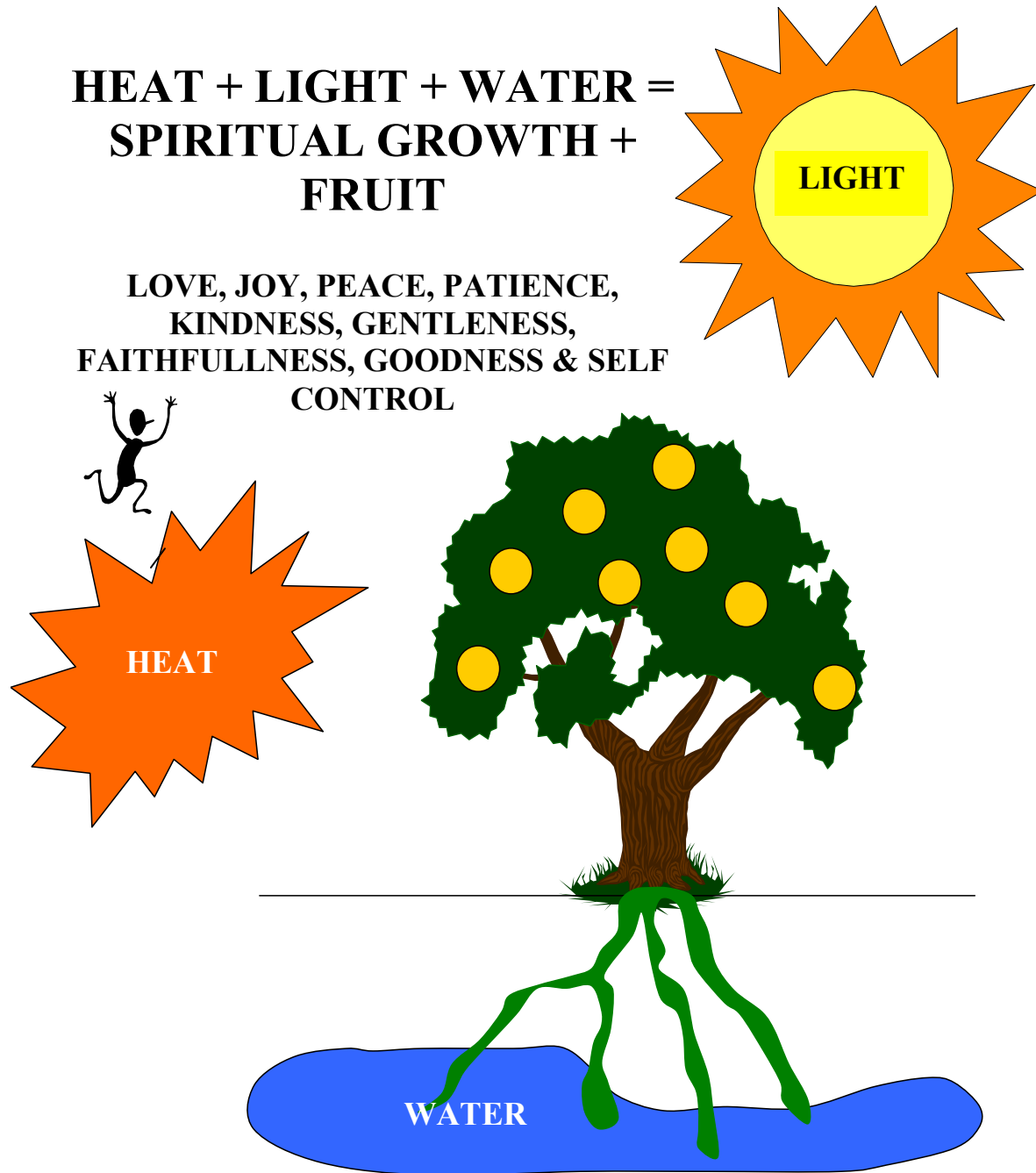


God is Light - (1 John 1:5)

God's word is water - (Ephesians 5:26)

Who supplies the heat? Your boss, husband, wife, son, parent, employee, the world, the flesh, the devil?

When we confess our sins, forgive others, believe the truth, and follow the Holy Spirit, the obstacles keeping us from water and light are removed. See what happens below.



Plants that have access to Water (the word of God) and Light (God) thrive in the presence of heat (tribulation, the enemy, hardships, etc.)

LESSON 1 -WHY DID JESUS COME?

JESUS CAME TO SET THE CAPTIVES FREE

HOW DO WE KNOW THIS?

Jesus said so in His first recorded sermon in the Gospel of Luke!

Luke 4:14-21 Jesus returned to Galilee in the power of the Spirit, and news about him spread through the whole countryside. 15He taught in their synagogues, and everyone praised him. He went to Nazareth where he had been brought up, and on the Sabbath day he went into the synagogue, as was his custom. And he stood up to read. 17The scroll of the prophet Isaiah was handed to him. Unrolling it, he found the place where it is written:

18“*The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he has anointed me to preach the good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to release the oppressed, 19 to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favor.*” 20Then He rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant and sat down. The eyes of everyone in the synagogue were fastened on him, 21and he began by saying to them, “*Today this scripture is fulfilled in your hearing.*”

WHY DID HE SAY HE CAME?

1. To preach good news to the poor
2. To proclaim freedom for the prisoners
3. To proclaim recovery of sight for the blind
4. To release the oppressed
5. To proclaim the year of the Lord’s favor

This had been prophesied by the prophet Isaiah-

This is what God the LORD says—he who created the heavens and stretched them out, who spread out the earth and all that comes out of it, who gives breath to its people, and life to those who walk on it: “I, the LORD have called you in righteousness; I will take hold of your hand. I will keep you
and make you to be a covenant for the people and a light for the Gentiles, to open eyes that are blind,
to
free captives from the prison and to release from the dungeon those who sit in darkness. Isa 42:5-7

WHEN WAS THIS TO TAKE PLACE?

In Luke 4:21, Jesus said, “Today this scripture is fulfilled in your hearing.”

1. The proclamation was made that day in the synagogue.
2. The effective date of the covenant promised in Isaiah 42:6 was the day Jesus was crucified.

WHY DO WE KNOW THAT THE EFFECTIVE DATE WAS THE DAY JESUS WAS CRUCIFIED?

1. We know Satan was driven out when Jesus was lifted up (Crucified) (John 12:31)
2. We know that Jesus came to destroy the works of Satan (1 John 3:8)
3. We know that by his death, he destroyed Satan, the devil (Hebrews 2:14)
(The word “destroyed” is translated from Greek word *katargeo*- “kat-arg-eh’-o”-made of no effect)

4. All authority in heaven and earth has been given to Jesus (Matthew 28:18)

Note: Satan had claimed the authority of all the kingdoms of the world in Luke 4:6. Whether he had this authority or not is debatable because he is a liar and there is no truth in him (John 8:44) but Jesus had referred to him as the “prince of this world” or “ruler of his world”.

5. Jesus is now the ruler of kings of the earth (Rev 1:5) and the ruler of God’s creation (Rev 3:14)

Note: The actual date of Satan’s overthrow was the crucifixion. The date when believers were actually empowered with Christ Jesus’ authority was the day of Pentecost.

HOW DO WE KNOW THAT THE FREEDOM PROPHECIED BY ISAIAH AND ACCOMPLISHED BY JESUS TRUE?

Because God promised this in the form of a new covenant.

We know that God had promised a new covenant in Isaiah 42:6.

This covenant was also prophesied by Jeremiah 31:31-34.

Jesus declared that his blood was the blood of the new covenant in Matthew 26:28.

This covenant is confirmed in Hebrews 9:15.

HOW DID GOD ESTABLISH FREEDOM FOR HIS PEOPLE?

By defeating Satan!

1. Jesus destroyed Satan’s work (1 John 3:8)
2. Jesus destroyed Satan’s power (Hebrews 2:14)
3. Jesus destroyed Satan’s authority (John 12:31, Matthew 28:18, Rev. 1:5 and 3:14)

JESUS IS THE BONDAGE BREAKER!

WHY DID JESUS COME?

To set the captives free- The work has been done- The dungeon door is open- Your pardon has been signed and sealed- It is official- It was done at the Cross-Walk out the door- You are free

WHO ARE THE CAPTIVES?

Any of us who are in bondage (Believers as well as non-believers)

1. The blind- those who have not seen the truth
2. The oppressed- believers enslaved to sin
3. The prisoners in dark dungeons- the lost and dying non-believers

HOW ARE WE SET FREE?

By believing the truth, especially about-

1. Who God is (Recommend study- Experiencing God by Blackaby)

2. Who are we as believers- new creatures in Christ, forgiven, righteous, holy, blameless, chosen, adopted children of God, redeemed, made alive, raised with Christ, having a new self, a new way, a new life and many, many other things found in God's word.

Jesus said, "If you hold to my teaching, you are really my disciples. Then you will know the truth, and the truth shall set you free." (John 8:31-32).

By studying His teachings, God's word, by knowing Him, we are set free.

IN CHRIST, WE ARE ACCEPTED, NOT GUILTY, AND FEARLESS

**REMEMBER! IN THE BIBLE, WHEN YOU FIND-
A PROMISE- CLAIM IT!
A COMMAND- OBEY IT!
A FACT- BELIEVE IT!**

LESSON 2- HOW DOES JESUS SET ME FREE?

THROUGH TRUTH

WHO IS THE TRUTH? - Jesus is the Truth

Jesus answered, "I am the way the truth and the life. No one comes to the father except through me. (Jn 14:6)

FROM WHERE DID JESUS COME? - From the Father

The word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the One and Only, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth. (John 1:14)

THROUGH WHOM DOES TRUTH COME? - Through Jesus Christ

For the law was given through Moses: grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. (John :17)

WHAT IS OPPOSITION TO THE TRUTH? - The lie (and the liar)

Friend deceives friend, and no one speaks the truth. They have taught their tongues to lie; they weary themselves with sinning. (Jeremiah 9:5)

They exchanged the truth of God for a lie, and worshipped and served created things rather than the Creator—who is forever praised. Amen (Romans 1:25)

If we claim to have fellowship with Him, yet walk in the darkness, we lie and do not live by the truth (1Jn 1:6)

I do not write to you because you do not know the truth, but because you do know it and because no lies comes from the truth. (1 John 2:22)

WHO IS THE LIAR AND FATHER OF ALL LIES? - Satan

Satan is described by Jesus as "a murderer from the beginning, not holding to the truth, for there is no truth in him. When he lies, he speaks his native language, for he is a liar and the father of all lies." John 8:44

WHAT DOES SATAN COME FOR?

1. To lead the world astray (Rev 12:9) 2. To tempt (Matthew 4:3), (These 3:5) 3. To deceive (Genesis 3:13, Rev 20:10)

After he tempts, deceives, and leads astray, and we sin, then he:

4.To accuses (Rev. 12:10, Zech 3:1) 5. To steal (our peace), 6. To kill (our joy) and Destroy (our worship) John 10:10

HOW DOES SATAN LEAD THE WORLD ASTRAY IF HE, UNLIKE GOD, IS NOT OMNIPRESENT?

He uses demons (1 Timothy 4:10)

These demons are thought by some to be fallen angels (Revelations 12:4)

The Enemy-

The World

The Flesh

The devil

The Temptation-Conform to world philosophies, Get needs met apart from Christ, Believe the lie

Our Responsibility- Renew my mind, Put to death the deeds of flesh, Resist the devil

To overcome, submit to- Lordship of Christ (Rom.12:1), Holy Spirit (Gal 5:17), God (James 4:7)

WHY DID JESUS COME?

To give eternal life (John 3:16) and to destroy Satan's work (1John 3:8)

So that we may have a full life (John 10:10)

So that we may have the peace of God which transcends all understanding (Phil 4:7)

HOW DO WE KNOW THE TRUTH? - Through the Holy Spirit, the Spirit of Truth

The Holy Spirit is a Person who indwells each and every believer

He originally came at Pentecost (Acts 2:1-4)

He **Teaches** and **Reminds** (John 14:26), **Testifies** (John 15:26), **Convicts** (John 16:8), and **Guides** and **Discloses** what is to come (John 16:13)

The Holy spirit **Reveals** truth to us and the truth sets us free!

This knowledge of truth comes only after one is saved (1 Timothy 2:3-4)

Truth is available to all but Satan does not want us to know it or understand it.

LESSON 3-THE AUTHORITY OF THE BELIEVER

BELIEVERS HAVE THE AUTHORITY OF CHRIST

GOD'S ORIGINAL CREATION WAS GOOD - GOD SAID SO (GEN. 1:31)

Man was significant. He was created in the image of God to rule over the earth (Gen 1:27-28)

Man was secure. He was given every plant yielding seed and every tree which has fruit for food (Gen. 1:29)

Man was accepted. God blessed them, told them to be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth (Gen. 1:28)

SIN ENTERED THE WORLD THROUGH SATAN

The One Act (Romans 5:12):

the first man, Adam, disobeyed God and ate the forbidden fruit from the tree of knowledge of good and evil.

The Results:

Man became guilty (insignificant). He knew he was naked and sewed fig leaves to make an apron (Gen. 3:7)

Man became fearful (insecure). The man hid himself from the LORD among the trees of the Garden. He had gone from ruling God's creation to sewing fig leaves together as a covering for his body (Gen. 3:8)

Man was rejected. The LORD God drove man out the garden to earn his living by the sweat of his brow from a ground cursed with thorns and thistles (Gen. 3:18,19,24).

The heart of man was evil all the time. (Gen. 6:5)

The condition of the world was greatly wicked. (Gen. 6:5)

The LORD was grieved in His heart and sorry He had made man on the earth. (Gen. 6:6)

BECAUSE OF ONE MAN'S SIN, ALL MEN INHERIT THE NATURE OF ADAM

All men are born spiritually dead

All men are insignificant. Man tries to overcome guilt and insignificance the ways of the world such as worldly achievements, positions, power, prestige, in order to look important to others, to gain the applause of others, to overcome the guilty feelings of not being significant (Ephesians 2:2).

Worldly achievements will never fill up the "sea" of significance place by God within us. (Eccl. 1:3,7,8; 2:1-11).

All men are insecure. (Ephesians 2:3). Man tries to cover insecurity by indulging in lusts of the flesh. They are under the wrath of God (Eph. 2:3, Rom. 1:18, John 3:36) and he allows them to be consumed by lust of the flesh. From deeds of sinful nature given in Galatians 5:19,20 -

- Impurity, sensuality, drunkenness, and carousing may be indulged in to cover reality of insecure feelings.

- Idolatry and sorcery may be attempts to gain power and knowledge (to lessen fear) from a source other than God.
- Enmities, strife, outbursts of anger, disputes, dissension, and factions can be symptoms of an individual's struggle to gain power.
- Jealousy is an obvious symptom of insecurity.

THE LOVE OF GOD IS GREATER THAN MAN'S SINS. HE SENT HIS SON TO DO FOR MAN WHAT MAN COULD NOT DO.

Because of His great love He is rich in mercy (Eph. 2:4)-

Because He so loved the world He sent His only Son (John 3:16)-

Whoever believes in Him is saved (John 3:16), made alive with Christ and raised up with Him and seated in heavenly places with Christ (Eph 2:5-6).

HOW DID JESUS EFFECT THIS SALVATION?

First, He died on the cross .

By dying He paid the debt of sin accrued to man (John 1:29, 1 John 2:2). This cured forever the disease that kills man, specifically sin.

Second, He arose from the dead.

By arising from the dead, He defeated Satan, the rebel prince who stole the right to rule from Adam

He destroyed the power of Satan at the cross (Hebrews 2:14-15)

He came to destroy Satan's work (1John 3: 8)

He disarmed him and made a public spectacle of him and his cohorts (Col. 2:15)

He now has the keys to death and Hades (Rev. 1:18)

When Jesus arose from the dead, we arose with Him (Romans 6:4).

JESUS HAS NOW TAKEN OVER RULE OF THE EARTH, THE RULE THAT SATAN STOLE FROM ADAM

All authority in heaven and earth have now been given to Jesus (Matthew 28:18).

Christ is risen to the right hand of the Father far above all rule and authority that is or will ever be

(Eph. 1:20-21)

The reign of Jesus, unlike the rule of Satan, will last forever (Eph. 1:21; Daniel 7:13-14; Rev. 5:12-13)

BECAUSE OF THE VICTORY OF JESUS CHRIST OVER SATAN, THE RULE OF EARTH HAS BEEN RESTORED TO MAN IN THE FORM OF JESUS CHRIST, THE SON OF MAN.

The purpose for which God created man, to rule the earth, has been brought to be by God in sending His Son in the form of man to defeat Satan and rule the earth.

BECAUSE WHEN GOD SAVED US BY MAKING US ALIVE IN CHRIST JESUS, HE ALSO RAISED US UP WITH CHRIST AND SEATED US WITH HIM (EPHESIANS 2:6)

We have been given incomparably great power through Jesus. We have been given the authority of Christ. There is no greater authority (Eph. 1:21).

WE HAVE BEEN GIVEN SECURITY, SIGNIFICANCE, AND ACCEPTANCE AGAIN THROUGH CHRIST.

Security- We are seated with Him in the heavenlies (Eph 4:6)

Significance- We are God's workmanship created in Christ to do work He has prepared us to do (Eph. 2:10)

Accepted- We have been made fellow citizens of God's household (Eph. 2:19)

BECAUSE OF THE OBEDIENCE AND ACTION OF ONE MAN (JESUS), MANY MEN HAVE BEEN MADE RIGHTEOUS (Romans 5:18-19). The act of one man, Adam, that made men sinners has been negated by what Jesus Christ did. While the rule of the world has not been given to man, it has been given to Christ and we are in Christ. Adam, our first father failed. Our Father in heaven and Christ did not fail us.

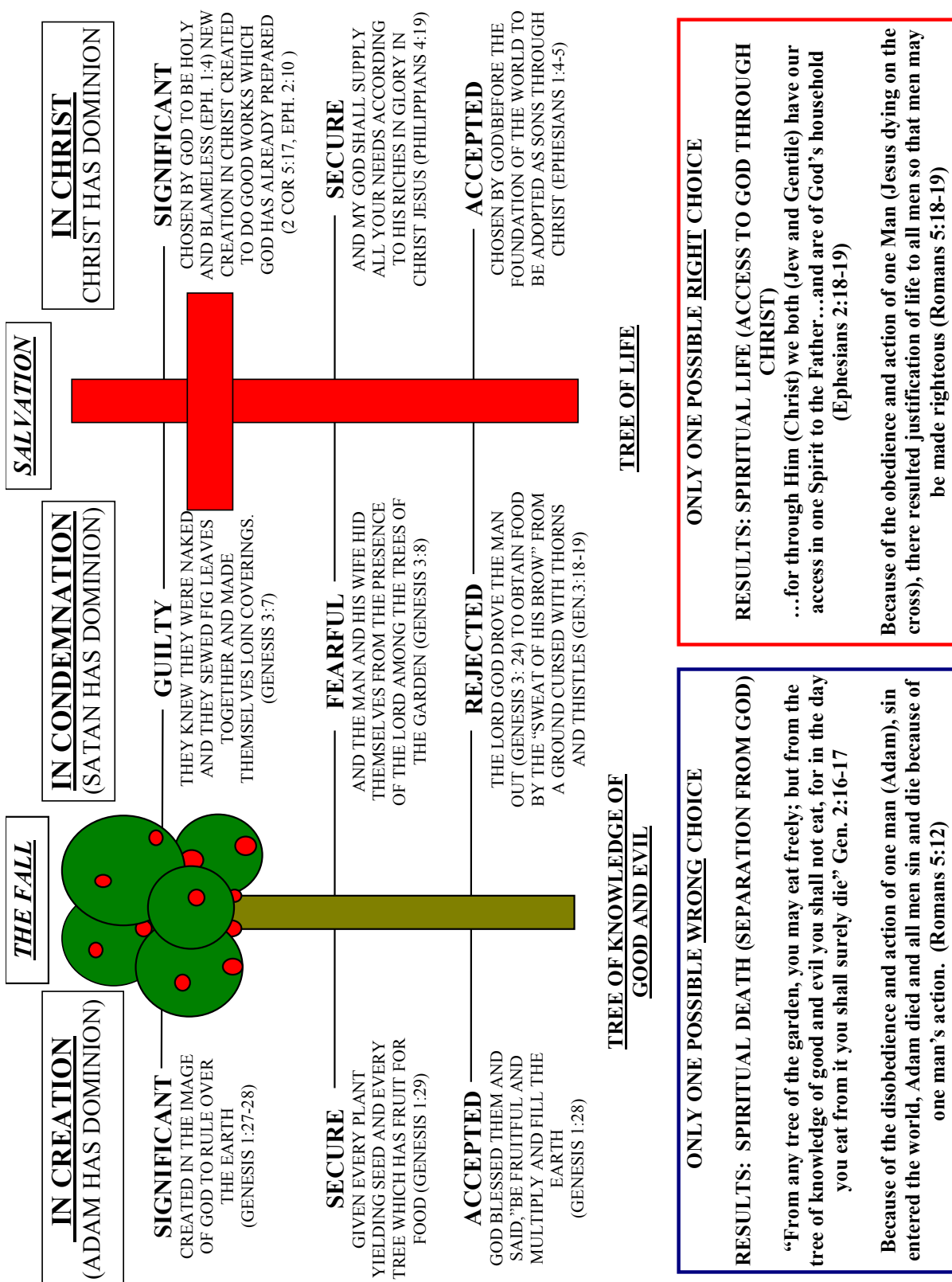
BECAUSE CHRIST AUTHORITY EXTENDS OVER SATAN, IN CHRIST, WE HAVE AUTHORITY OVER SATAN. This authority is not our authority. It is the authority of Christ. But since we are in Christ, it is part of the surpassing greatness of His power toward us who believe. We have been given His authority because we are in Him. (Ephesians 1:19)

WHEN WE SUBMIT TO GOD AND RESIST THE DEVIL, HE MUST FLEE FROM US.

We must not be proud because God resists the proud. We must be humble and in submission to God. (James 4:6-7)

NEVER FEAR SATAN. Fear of Satan does not come from God. It comes from Satan. God does not give us a spirit of fear (2 Timothy 1:7). God gives us a spirit of power, of love, and self-discipline.

FEAR ONLY GOD. (Acts 4:31, Proverbs 28:1, Joshua 1:18.)



BEFORE SALVATION

REJECTED

And you were dead¹ in your trespasses and sins², (Ephesians 2:1)
remember at one time you were separate from Christ....(Ephesians 2:12)
...you who formerly were far off....(Ephesians 2:13)
...you were strangers and aliens....(implied) (Ephesians 2:19)

1. Spiritual "death" means separation from fellowship with God. Adam and Eve experienced this when they were cast out of the garden of Eden.
2. This separation is caused by trespasses and sin.

INSIGNIFICANT (GUILTY)

in which you formerly walked according to the course of this world¹ according to the prince of the power of the air², of the spirit³ that is now working in the sons of disobedience. (Ephesians 2:2)

1. We try to gain significance by the ways of the world-by achievements, position, power, prestige- in order to look important to others, to gain the applause of others to overcome the guilty feelings of not being significant.
2. This attempt to gain significance by our own works is motivated by Satan, the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that is working in the disobedient.
3. The spirit (Satan) is now working in the disobedient.

INSECURE (FEARFUL)

Among them we too all formerly lived in the lust of our flesh, indulging the desires of the flesh and of the mind,¹ and were by nature children of wrath,² even as the rest. (Ephesians 2:3)

1. Some desires of the flesh are given in Galatians 5:19-20
 - Impurity, sensuality, drunkenness, and carousing may be indulged in to deaden the pain of insecurity or to cover over the reality of insecure feelings.
 - Idolatry and sorcery may be attempts to gain power or knowledge from a source other than God. Power, either real or perceived, can make one feel in control therefore less fearful or insecure.
 - Enmities, strife, outburst of anger, disputes, dissensions, and factions can be symptoms of an individual's struggle to gain power to overcome insecurity.
 - Jealousy is an obvious symptom of insecurity.

The unsaved are under the wrath of God (implied in John 3:36). How much greater insecurity can one experience than that of being under the wrath of God, the Creator

AFTER SALVATION

ACCEPTED

But now in Christ Jesus you who formerly were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ. (Ephesians 2:13)

for through Him we both have access in one Spirit to the Father¹. So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints, and are of God's household², having been built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus Himself being the corner stone, in whom the whole building, being fitted together is growing into a holy temple in the Lord; in whom you also are being built together into a dwelling of God in the Spirit. (Ephesians 2:18-22)

1. We have access to the Father through the Holy Spirit. This is not separation.
2. We are members of the household of God! Is this not acceptance?

SIGNIFICANT

For by grace you have been saved¹ through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God²; not as a result of works, that no one should boast. For we are His workmanship³, created in Christ Jesus⁴ for good works, which God prepared beforehand⁵ that we should walk in them. (Ephesians 2:8-10)

1. Being saved by God is special and significant.
2. Being given a gift by God is significant.
3. Being God's workmanship is significant.
4. Being created in Christ Jesus is significant.
5. Being selected as an employee of God to do His work is significant.

SECURE

But God, being rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, even when we were dead [rejected and separated from God] in our transgressions, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved), and raised us up with Him, and seated us with Him¹ in the heavenly places, in Christ Jesus, in order that in the ages to come He might show the surpassing riches² of His grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. (Ephesians 2:4-7)

1. What safer place could there be than raised up and seated with Christ?
2. God is going to show surpassing things in the future and we are involved. Will God not protect us for that? He is true to accomplish what He sets out to do.

TWO SIDES OF THE CROSS (Which side are you on?)

LESSON 4 -THE POSITION OF THE BELIEVER

“IN CHRIST”.

WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO BE “IN CHRIST”?

“In Christ” our old self is crucified so that we can be free from sin. Rom. 6:3-7

“In Christ” we have been made a new creature. 2 Cor. 5:17

“In Christ” we died to sin but have been made alive to God. Rom 6:11

“In Christ” we have been made alive and seated with God in the heavenly places. Eph. 2:4-6

“In Christ” we have redemption through His blood & the forgiveness of our sins. Eph. 1:7, Col. 1:14

“In Christ” we are holy and blameless. Eph. 1:4

“In Christ” we are righteous. Rom. 3:22

“In Christ” we are adopted children of God. Eph. 1:5

“In Christ” we have an inheritance. Eph. 1:11

“In Christ” we can never be condemned. Rom. 8:1

“In Christ” we are set free from sin and death. Rom. 8:2

HOW DID WE OBTAIN OUR POSITION?

We obtained our position in Christ by-

1. **hearing the truth of the gospel**
2. **believing the truth of the gospel**

Ephesians 1:13 ...After listening to the message of truth, the gospel of your salvation- having also believed, you were sealed in Him with the Holy Spirit of truth.

Romans 3:22 - “through faith”

We are saved **not by what we do** but **by what we believe**.

WE ARE SAVED BY A SAVIOR, NOT OUR BEHAVIOR.

Eph. 2:4-5 But God, being rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, even when we were dead in our transgressions, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved),

Eph. 2:8-9 For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that NOT OF YOURSELVES, it is the GIFT OF GOD; NOT AS A RESULT OF WORKS, that no one should boast.

HOW DO WE EXPERIENCE THE BLESSINGS OF OUR POSITION IN CHRIST?

We experience the blessings of our position in Christ by considering it so because it is so.

Rom. 6:11 Even so **consider** yourselves to be dead to sin, but alive to God in Christ Jesus.

We can know it is true because Jesus said so when He asked the Father,

John 17:20-23 “ I do not ask on behalf of these alone [the twelve disciples], but for those also who believe in Me through their word; that they may all be one; even as Thou, Father, art in Me And I in Thee, that they also may be in Us..., And the glory which Thou hast given Me I have given to them; that they may be one, just as We are one; I in them and Thou in Me, that they may be perfected in unity, that the world may know that Thou didst send Me, and didst love them even as Thou didst love Me.

How do we know we are in Christ? Because the Bible says it is so. In the Bible, when you find a fact, believe it! (The Truth will set you free). Can you feel yourself in Christ? Probably not. You can experience victory, peace, joy and fullness of life but as believers, we cannot rely on feelings to guide us.

Galatians 3:11 says ..he righteous man shall live by faith. Nowhere are we to live by feelings. If we rely on our feelings, our enemy will have an easy time leading us.

Imagine your life as a train. The engine is Faith. The coal car is Facts. The caboose is Feelings. Let the engine, Faith, fueled by Facts (The truth of God's word) pull the caboose. Do not let the caboose pull the train. Do not let your life run backwards!

WHY IS IT NECESSARY FOR US TO BE IN CHRIST?

First of all, God commands us to be **HOLY** and **PERFECT**.

HOLY

Lev.11:44 “For I am the LORD your God. Consecrate yourselves and be holy; for I am holy.

1 Peter 1:15-16 but like the Holy One Who called you, be holy yourselves in all your behavior because it is written, YOU SHALL BE HOLY, FOR I AM HOLY.

We see the fulfillment of what was written “YOU SHALL BE HOLY” in Ephesians 1:4 -He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world that we should be holy and blameless before Him.

PERFECT

Jesus said in Matt. 5:48, Therefore you are to be perfect, as your heavenly Father is perfect.

Jesus also said “Abide” or “Remain” in me. He is the vine and we are the branches. He is perfect. We become perfect as branches because our life is from Him.

We are holy and blameless because we are in Christ and He is holy and blameless. We are perfect because He is perfect and we are in Him. We are not holy and blameless because of our own actions. We are Holy and blameless because of the action of Jesus.

CAN WE LOSE OUR POSITION IN CHRIST?

John 10:27-28 My sheep hear my voice and I know them and they follow Me; and I give eternal life to them and they shall never perish; and no one shall snatch them out of my hand.

John 14:16-17 And I will ask the Father and He will give you another Helper, that He may be with you forever.

When we received eternal life, it was eternal. The Holy Spirit is promised to be with us forever.

LESSON 5 - THE IDENTITY OF THE BELIEVER

BELIEVERS ARE MADE A NEW CREATION IN CHRIST

God created man in His own image and likeness with a spirit, soul, and body.

Genesis 1:26, 1 Thessalonians 5:23

When Adam sinned, he died spiritually that day. He did not die physically for he lived over eight hundred years after that day before dying physically.

Genesis 2:17, Genesis 5:3-4

God is Spirit and must be worshipped in Spirit and truth. A spiritually dead person cannot commune with God in his spirit.

John 4:24 God is a Spirit and they that worship Him must worship in spirit and truth.

Until we are born again spiritually (made alive by the Holy Spirit in our spirit), we cannot accept or understand the things of God.

1 Corinthians 2: 14 But a natural man (unsaved) does not accept the things of the Spirit of God; for they are foolishness to him, and he cannot understand them, because they are spiritually appraised.

Every person that has come into the world after Adam (except for Jesus Christ) had Adam as his father. Each is physically alive but spiritually dead. We inherit only physical life from Adam.

In order to have our communion with God restored, we must be made alive spiritually.

John 3:3-6 Jesus declared, Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.... Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born of water [physically] and the Spirit [spiritually], he cannot enter into the kingdom of God. That which is born of the flesh is flesh and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit.

We receive physical life from Adam (at birth) and we receive spiritual life from Christ (at salvation).

1 Corinthians 15:45 So it is also written, "The first man, Adam, became a living soul". The last Adam (Christ), became a life-giving spirit.

When we receive life from Christ, our spirit and the Holy Spirit of Christ becomes one spirit.

1 Corinthians 6:17 But the one who joins himself to the Lord is one spirit with Him.

When we receive the Holy Spirit we are able to communicate with God.

1 Corinthians 2:12 Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, that we might know the things freely given to us by God.

When we accepted Christ, we not only came to be in Him, but also were made a new creation spiritually.

2 Corinthians 5:17 Therefore if any man is in Christ, he is a new creature; the old things have passed away; behold new things have come.

John 6:63 "It is the Spirit who gives life; the flesh profits nothing..." (The Greek word for profits is *opheleo* which means "to be useful". In other words, the flesh is useful for nothing.)

We are not made new, however, in our body. Only our spirit is made new. This renewal is the first fruits of what we will receive when Christ returns in bodily form or when we leave this world. At that time our outward body, which is currently not useful because of sin, will be transformed to be like Jesus.

Romans 8:23 ..., having the first fruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, waiting eagerly for our adoption as sons, the redemption of our body.

1 John 3:2 Beloved, now we are children of God, and it has not appeared as yet what we shall be. We know that when He appears, we shall be like Him, because we shall see Him just as He is.

The real person that we are is not the body that we see physically. The real person is that new spiritual creation within us.

2 Corinthians 5:16 Therefore from now on we recognize no man according to the flesh;

That new spiritual creation within each us is the real person that is our being. This person will live forever. Our "tent" of a body is wasting away and will some day die (If Christ does not return first). The real person within us cannot sin.

2 Corinthians 4:16 Therefore we do not loose heart, but though our outer man is decaying, yet our inner man is being renewed day by day.

2 Corinthians 4:18 while we look not at the things which are seen but at the things which are not seen; for the things which are seen are temporal, but the things which are not seen are eternal.

1 John 5:18 We know that no one who is born of God sins; but He who was born of God keeps him and the evil one does not touch him.

If we sin, it is not the new person that sins. It is sin residing in our unredeemed bodies.

Romans 7:17-18 So now, no longer am I the one doing it, but sin which indwells me. For I know that nothing good dwells in me, that is, in my flesh; for the wishing is present in me, but the doing of good is not.

Until our bodies are redeemed, we are obligated to be led by the Spirit within us and not be led by our sinful flesh.

Romans 8:11-15 But if the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, He who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit who indwells you. So then, brethern, we are under obligation, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh- for if you are living according to the flesh, you must die [physically-not spiritually]; but if by the Spirit you are putting to death the deeds of the body, you will live. For all who are being led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God. For you have not received a spirit of slavery leading to fear again, but you have received a spirit of adoption as sons by which we cry out, “Abba! [Daddy!] Father!”

LESSON 6 - FORGIVING FROM THE HEART

SET OTHERS FREE SO YOU MAY BE FREE

What is forgiveness? What does it mean “to forgive”? How does one forgive? What does one do to forgive? Do we as Christians understand what forgiveness is? How can we forgive if we don’t know what forgiveness is? Forgiveness is key to being free of bondage. Paul warns in 2nd Corinthians 2:10 that a failure to forgive gives Satan an advantage.

In Matthew 6:15, Jesus tells us that if we do not forgive others when they sin against us, we will not be forgiven by our heavenly Father. Not being forgiven will not result in us losing our salvation because our salvation is based on our being born again by the Spirit of God (John 3:5). But not being forgiven will give the enemy control of our life and prevent healing of our soul and body (James 5:16, 2 Cor. 2:10, Mark 2:9-10).

Jesus said in Matthew 18:34-35 that our failure to “forgive from the heart” would result in our being turned over to the torturer, until we forgive. The torturer could be Satan. (1 Timothy 1:20, 1 Cor 5:1-5). What does “forgive from the heart” mean?

WHAT IS FORGIVENESS?

IN THE OLD TESTAMENT, THERE ARE THREE WORDS TRANSLATED “FORGIVE”

1. NASHA- TO REMOVE, DEPART, CARRY AWAY
2. CALACH - TO POUR OUT
3. KAPAR- TO COVER OVER, ATONE , PROPITIATE, PACIFY.

IN THE NEW TESTAMENT, THERE ARE THREE WORDS TRANSLATED “FORGIVE”

1. APHIEMI -TO SEND FORTH, SEND AWAY (apo, "from," hiemi, "to send"), TO CANCEL
2. APOLUO -TO LET LOOSE FROM (apo, "from," luo, "to loose"), TO RELEASE
3. CHARIZOMAI -TO BESTOW A FAVOR UNCONDITIONALLY

FORGIVENESS IS REQUIRED BY GOD. IT IS AN ACT OF THE WILL AND REQUIRED BY GOD. GOD WILL NEVER REQUIRE US TO DO SOMETHING WE CANNOT DO. WE CAN FORGIVE.

WHAT IS FORGIVENESS FOR?

- ◆ FORGIVENESS is needed for any SIN or HURTFUL ACTION that has resulted in physical or emotional injury to us.
- ◆ A SIN or any HURTFUL ACTION against a person results in a DEBT owed to the VICTIM by the person doing the hurting.

- ◆ In the absence of FORGIVENESS, a DEBT owed as a result of hurtful action can only be satisfied when the VICTIM gets VENGEANCE.
- ◆ VENGEANCE has been made illegal (Romans 12:19) for all Christians and cannot be received as payment for a DEBT owed to a VICTIM.

WHAT IS THE BASIS FOR FORGIVENESS

- ◆ The basis for FORGIVENESS is the cross.
- ◆ Jesus, when He died on the cross, paid for ALL SINS or DEBTS of the whole world (1 John 2:2).
- ◆ Since Jesus has paid already for the DEBTS of others against us we cannot collect again. To try to collect for a debt that has already been “paid in full” is wrong.
- ◆ Since Jesus has paid for all DEBTS owed by people that hurt us, we can FORGIVE, or cancel the DEBT and consider it paid.
- ◆ FORGIVENESS is the sending away, letting loose, releasing, or canceling a DEBT.
- ◆ When we FORGIVE someone that has hurt us, we agree to never to get VENGEANCE in any way.

WHAT IS FORGIVING FROM THE HEART

- ◆ The Greek word translated heart is *kardia* and means “the heart, thoughts or feelings”.
- ◆ The Greek word forgive is *aphiemi* and means “to send away”.
- ◆ “Forgiving from the heart” means to send away from the feelings. To not do so will result in torture.

WHAT FORGIVENESS IS NOT

- ◆ FORGIVENESS is not forgetting. Forgetting may be the results of forgiving but it will never be the means of FORGIVING.
- ◆ FORGIVENESS is not saying what was done to you was right.
- ◆ FORGIVENESS is not agreeing with what was done to you.
- ◆ FORGIVENESS is not saying you will collect the DEBT at a later time.
- ◆ FORGIVENESS is not making arrangements for someone else to get revenge.

- ◆ FORGIVENESS is not saying, God please forgive him. It is fine to pray that but you must also forgive. God requires that.

THE OBJECT OF FORGIVENESS IS AN ACT - NOT A PERSON

- ◆ Since the DEBT was caused by an ACT, FORGIVENESS of the DEBT applies to that act.
- ◆ When we forgive a DEBT, we forgive the ACT.
- ◆ Even though a PERSON does the ACT, the action itself is the only basis for the DEBT.

LOVE THE PERSON - HATE THE SIN

- ◆ It is important to separate in our minds the ACT from the ACTOR or person that did the act.
- ◆ God separates us from what we do. He loves us but hates our sin. He does not see us as sin. He sees us as what we are in Christ, new creatures, holy and blameless.
- ◆ God loved us when we were still sinners and sent Jesus to die for us. If the Spirit of Christ lives in us, we will love not only our brothers and sisters, but also those who hurt us.
- ◆ We are required to love our neighbor but hate sin. The only way to do that is to see those who sin against us as separate from the acts they commit against us.
- ◆ All mankind is made in the image of God (Gen 9:6). We are HUMAN BEINGS, not HUMAN DOINGS. A person is what God has made him, not what he or she does.

The Lord's Prayer

Matthew 6:6-15

"But you, when you pray, go into your inner room, and when you have shut your door, pray to your Father who is in secret, and your Father who sees in secret will repay you. "And when you are praying, do not use meaningless repetition, as the Gentiles do, for they suppose that they will be heard for their many words. "Therefore do not be like them; for your Father knows what you need, before you ask Him. "Pray, then, in this way:

'Our Father who art in heaven, Hallowed be Thy name. 'Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done, On earth as it is in heaven. 'Give us this day our daily bread. 'And forgive us our debts, **as*** we also have forgiven our debtors. 'And do not lead us into temptation, but deliver us from evil. [For Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.]'

"For **if you forgive men** for their transgressions, **your heavenly Father will also forgive you.**

"But **if you do not forgive men**, then **your Father will not forgive your transgressions.**
(NAS)

*Greek word is *hos* which means "in that manner"

How to Forgive

List the persons who have offended or hurt you in the past.

Openly confess how you feel about them and how they made you feel.

Realize the significance of the Cross. Jesus paid for all sin, yours and theirs.

Decide to bear the consequences of the sins against you.

Separate the person from the action they did. See them as God created them.

Pray for them.

Realize positive results in yourself, not in others.

Accept and understand them, as much as you can.

You are free (John 20:23).

Enjoy your freedom. Everyday is a new day. Walk in forgiveness.

Rejoice! Jesus came to set the captives free.

Encounter with God



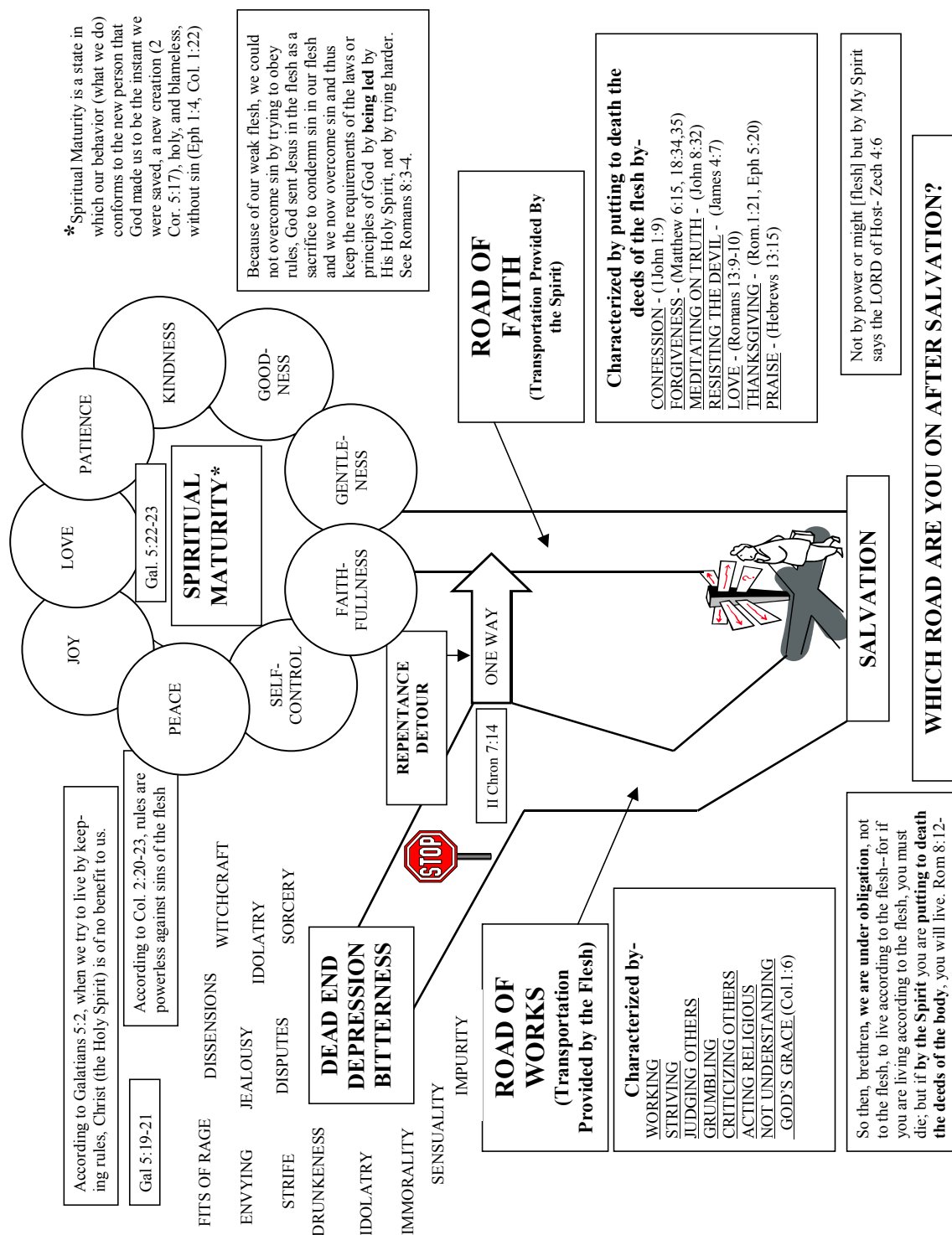
"Breath of Life" by David Costello (www.davidcostello.com)

The following material has been prepared to assist you in allowing God to “clean the inside of the cup”, that is to remove those things that are hindering the freedom that Jesus purchased for you. Only God can remove the things within that lead to sin. Only God can put to death the deeds of the flesh by the Spirit of God. This material will lead you, if you desire it and are sincere, to an encounter with the Holy Spirit that will change your life. There are seven “pathways” along which you will encounter God through the Holy Spirit. Your encounter may seem more intense on some steps and less intense on others. These pathways are intended to assist you in tearing down walls or strongholds that have kept you from experiencing God and knowing Him intimately. The greater the stronghold that is torn down, the greater then intensity of your encounter will be.

This material utilizes some material adapted from “The Steps to Freedom in Christ” produced and copyrighted by Freedom in Christ Ministries, 9051 Executive Park Drive, Suite 503, Knoxville, Tennessee 37923 Phone 865 342 4000. Thanks also to the ministry of John and Paula Sandford of Elijah House, 17397 Laura Lane, Post Falls, Idaho 83854-4616 Phone 208 773 1645 and also to Jack and Trisha Frost of Shiloh Place Ministries, PO Box 5, Conway, SC 29528, Phone 843-365-8990.

These following material has been expanded from the original “The Steps to Freedom in Christ” in order to encourage more thorough dealings with specific sins and bondage. Additional scriptures and material from other sources has also been incorporated into the following material to make it more comprehensive.

TALE OF TWO ROADS – Faith vs. Works



Pray the following prayer and recite aloud the declaration before you begin your journey.

Prayer

Dear Heavenly Father. We acknowledge Your presence in this room and in our lives. You are the only all knowing, all powerful, and always present God. We are dependent upon You for apart from Christ we can do nothing. We stand in the truth that all authority in heaven and on earth has been given to the resurrected Christ, and because we are in Christ, we share that authority in order to make disciples and set captives free. We ask You to fill us with Your Holy Spirit and lead us into all truth. We pray for Your complete protection and ask for Your guidance. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Declaration

In the name and authority of the Lord Jesus Christ, we command Satan and all evil spirits to release us in order that we can be free to know and choose to do the will of God. As children of God seated with Christ in the heavenlies, we agree that every enemy of the Lord Jesus Christ be bound and gagged to silence. We say to Satan and all his evil workers that you cannot inflict any pain or in any way prevent God's will from being accomplished in our lives.

1. Praise

Scriptural Basis: Romans 1:21

For even though they knew God, they did not honor Him as God, or give thanks; but they became futile in their speculations, and their foolish heart was darkened.

Praise is a way of giving honor and glory to God. Failure to honor God results in a darkened heart and futile thinking. “Depression” may be a word that describes this condition. God inhabits the praises of His people (Psalm 22:3). Praising God results in one coming close to God.

Pray the following prayer:

Father, Remind me now some of your attributes that I may praise you and glorify your name. I ask this in Jesus name. Amen.

List now the characteristics of God that far exceed the characteristics of any other

Now praise God by speaking aloud the following praise and substituting a characteristic of God each time.

LORD, I praise you because your are _____ . Bless Your holy name.

Singing praise songs to the LORD also is an excellent way to praise Him. Reading Psalms aloud is also another way to praise Him and let Him lift you up.

2. Thanksgiving

Scriptural Basis: Romans 1:21, 12:2, 8:28

The second way to allow God to put to death the deeds of our flesh is to give Him thanks. Giving thanks renews our mind and keeps us from thinking in a futile way. The renewal of our mind results in a transformation of ourselves.

And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect. Rom 12:2

We are told to give thanks for all things. We can legitimately do this because all things, including trials and hardships, work together for good for all those who love God.

always giving thanks for all things in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to God, even the Father; Eph 5:20

And we know that God causes all things to work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to {His} purpose. Rom 8:28

Pray the following prayer:

Father,
Remind me now of the things I should be thankful for that I may thank you. I ask this in Jesus name. Amen.

List now the things God shows you that you should be thankful for _____

Now praise God by speaking aloud the following prayer of thanksgiving substituting in the blank something you are thankful for each time.

LORD,
I thank you for _____ because you are a wonderful, loving God. All things work together for good for me because I love you. Bless Your holy name.

3. Confession

Scriptural Basis: Hebrews 9:13-14, 1 John 1:9.

Our drawing near to God is never dependent upon God. He always desires to have us near. He is always near us. It is sin in our life that our conscience is aware of that keeps us from experiencing His presence. Actually He is always near. Our conscience must be clean to draw near to Him and serve Him. The blood of Christ can cleanse our conscience that we draw near and serve Him.

For if the blood of goats and bulls and the ashes of a heifer sprinkling those who have been defiled, sanctify for the cleansing of the flesh, how much more will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered Himself without blemish to God, cleanse your conscience from dead works to serve the living God? Hebrews 9:13-14

We find that confession of our sins is the means by which God cleanses us.

If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. 1 John 1:9

Pray the following prayer:

Father, Show me any way that I have sinned that I may confess these sins and be cleansed so I can draw near to you. In Jesus name I pray. Amen.

From the following lists, check any sin that God shows you and confess them with the prayer following each.

A. Non-Christian Spiritual Experiences

Activities

Astral-projection
 Astrology/horoscopes
 Automatic writing
 Black and white magic
 Bloody Mary
 Blood pacts or cut self in a destructive way
 Candy Man
 Clairvoyance
 Crystals
 Dungeons and Dragons
 Fetishism (objects of worship)
 Fortune telling
 Ghosts
 Good luck charms
 Heavy metal music
 Hypnotism
 Incubi and succubi (sexual spirits)
 Imaginary friends
 Magic eight ball
 Materialization
 Mental suggestions or attempted to swap minds
 New Age medicine
 Ouija board
 Palm reading
 Rod & pendulum (dowsing)
 Satanic rituals
 Satanic movies
 Satanic books
 Seance
 Self-hypnosis
 Speaking in trance
 Spirit guides
 Table/body lifting/Light as a Feather
 Tarot cards
 Telepathy
 Using spells or curses
 Vows, covenants, pacts (except with God)
 Voices in head, condemning, nagging thoughts
 Other_____

Organizations & Religions

Bahaism
 Black Muslim
 Children of God (Love)
 Christian Science
 Church of the Living Word
 Enchkankar
 Father Divine
 Hare Krishna
 Hinduism
 Jehovah Witness
 Islam
 Masons
 New Age
 Religion of Martial Arts
 Rosicrucian
 Roy Masters
 Science of Creative Intelligence
 Science of the Mind
 Silva Mind Control
 Spirit Worship
 Swedenborgianism
 The Forum
 Theosophical Society
 The Way International
 Transcendental Meditation
 Unity
 Unification Church (Moonies)
 Unitarianism
 Yoga
 Zen Buddhism
 Other_____

For all sins checked, pray this prayer:

Father, I confess I participated in _____ and I renounce _____ and I ask you to break any stronghold resulting from this activity. In Jesus name I pray. Amen

B. Habitual Sins

Abortion
 Alcoholism
 Adultery
 Bigotry
 Cheating
 Child Abuse
 Complaining
 Controlling
 Criticizing
 Divisiveness
 Drug Addiction
 Emotional Abuse
 Envy
 Envy
 Fighting
 Fear
 Gambling
 Gossiping
 Gluttony
 Greediness
 Hatred
 Homosexuality
 Idolatry
 Jealousy
 Judging others
 Laziness

Lying
 Lust
 Murder
 Mental Abuse
 Outbursts of anger
 Perfectionism
 Physical Abuse
 Prejudice
 Pride
 Procrastinating
 Quarreling
 Rebellion
 Rioting
 Superstitious
 Sexual Abuse
 Sexual Immorality
 Sorcery
 Stealing
 Strife (Contention)
 Swearing
 Verbal Abuse
 Witchcraft
 Worry
 Other: _____

Pray the following prayer for each sin checked:

Father, I confess I am guilty of the sin of _____. Please forgive me of this sin and also free me from being accountable for this sin in the lives of my ancestors on the basis that Jesus has paid for every sin committed by my ancestors and me (1 John 1:9). I ask this in Jesus name. Amen

Sexual Sins

Pray the following prayer:

Father, I ask you to reveal to me now all the ways that my body has been used sexually in a sinful way. Reveal to me every person with whom I have used my body as an instrument of unrighteousness. In Jesus name I pray. Amen

For each way God shows you and for each person, pray the following prayer:

Father, I confess that I participated in _____ with _____ and I ask you to forgive me and cleanse me and break the bond with _____. I ask this in Jesus name. Amen

Special Prayers for Specific Problems

Pray any of the following prayers that are appropriate for you:

Homosexuality

Lord, I renounce the lie that You have created me or anyone else to be homosexual, and I affirm that You clearly forbid homosexual behavior. I accept myself as a child of God and declare that You created me a man (woman). I renounce any bondages of Satan that have perverted my relationships with others. I announce that I am free to relate to the opposite sex in the way that You intended. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Abortion

Lord, I confess that I did not assume stewardship of the life You entrusted to me. I choose to accept your forgiveness, and I now commit that child to You for Your care in eternity. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Suicidal Tendencies

Lord, I renounce suicidal thoughts and any attempts I have made to take my own life or in any way injure myself. I renounce the lie that life is hopeless and that I can find peace and freedom by taking my own life. Satan is a thief, and he comes to steal, kill, and destroy. I choose to be a good steward of the physical life that You have entrusted to me. In Jesus' name, I pray. Amen.

Eating Disorders or Self-Mutilation

Lord, I renounce the lie that my value as a person is dependent upon my physical beauty, my weight or size. I renounce cutting myself, vomiting, using laxatives or starving myself as a means of cleansing myself of evil or altering my appearance. I announce that only the blood of the Lord Jesus Christ cleanses me from sin. I accept the reality that there may be sin present in me due to the lies I have believed and the wrongful use of my body, but I renounce the lie that I am evil or that any part of my body is evil. My body is the temple of the Holy Spirit and I belong to You, Lord. I receive Your love and acceptance of me. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Substance Abuse

Lord, I confess that I have misused substances (alcohol, tobacco, food, prescription or street drugs) for the purpose of pleasure, to escape reality or to cope with difficult situations, resulting in the abuse of my body, the harmful programming of my mind and

the quenching of the Holy Spirit. I ask Your forgiveness. I renounce any satanic connection or influence in my life through my misuse of chemicals or food. I cast my anxiety onto Christ Who loves me, and I commit myself to no longer yield to substance abuse, but to the Holy Spirit. I ask You, Heavenly Father, to fill me with Your Holy Spirit. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Drivenness and Perfectionism

Lord, I renounce the lie that my self-worth is dependent upon my ability to perform. I announce the truth that my identity and sense of worth are found in who I am as Your child. I renounce seeking the approval and acceptance of other people, and I choose to believe that I am already approved and accepted in Christ because of His death and resurrection for me. I choose to believe the truth that I have been saved, not by deeds done in righteousness, but according to Your mercy. I choose to believe that I am no longer under the curse of the law because Christ became a curse for me. I receive the free gift of life in Christ and choose to abide in Him. I renounce striving for perfection by living under the law. By Your grace, Heavenly Father, I choose from this day forward to walk by faith according to what You have said is true by the power of Your Holy Spirit. In Jesus name. Amen.

Plaguing Fears

Dear Heavenly Father, I acknowledge You as the only legitimate fear object in my life. You are the only omnipresent (always present) and omniscient (all-knowing) God and the only means by which all other fears can be expelled. You are my sanctuary. You have not given me a spirit of timidity, but of power and love and discipline. I confess that I have allowed the fear of man and the fear of death to exercise control over my life, instead of trusting in You. I now renounce all other fear objects and worship You only. I pray that You would fill me with Your Holy Spirit that I may live my life and speak Your Word with boldness. In Jesus' name, I pray. Amen.

Prejudice and Bigotry

Dear heavenly Father, I know that You love everyone equally and that You do not show favoritism, but You accept people from every nation who fear You and do what is right (Acts 10:34). You do not judge people based on race, gender, culture, economic or social status (Gal. 3:28). I confess that I have too often prejudged others or regarded myself superior because of these things. I have not always been a minister of reconciliation, but have been a proud agent of division through my attitudes, words and deeds. I repent of all hateful bigotry and proud prejudice and I ask You, Lord, to reveal to my mind all the specific ways in which this form of pride has corrupted my heart and mind. I confess and renounce the prideful sin of prejudice against (name the group). I thank You for Your forgiveness, Lord, and ask You to change my heart and make me a loving agent of reconciliation with (name the group). In Jesus' name. Amen.

4. Forgiveness

The scriptural basis for forgiving others is found in Matthew 6:14-15 and 18:33-35. What is forgiveness? What does it mean “to forgive”? How does one forgive? What does one do to forgive? Do we as Christians understand what forgiveness is? How can we forgive if we don’t know what forgiveness is? Forgiveness is key to being free of bondage. Paul warns in 2nd Corinthians 2:10 that a failure to forgive gives Satan an advantage.

Unforgiveness is a heavy load

When Jesus gave the disciples the Lord’s prayer he gave it with the following instructions: If you forgive others their wrongs against you, you will be forgiven the wrongs that you have done. If you do not forgive others their wrongs, you will not be forgiven.

Matt 6:14-15 "For if you forgive men for their transgressions, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. **"But if you do not forgive men, then your Father will not forgive your transgressions. (NAS)**

The word “forgive” means “to lift off” or “separate” and failure to forgive results in our sins not being forgiven (i.e. lifted off). Not being forgiven will not result in us losing our salvation because our salvation is based on our being born again by the Spirit of God (John 3:5). But not being forgiven will give the enemy control of our life and prevent healing of our soul and body (James 5:16, 2 Cor. 2:10, Mark 2:9-10).

Unforgiveness results in bitterness (torture)

In addition to carrying around a heavy load of unforgiveness, we can also be tortured if we do not forgive others “from the heart”. Jesus taught this in the parable of Matthew 18. Like a debt, we will be tortured because of our sins if we do not forgive (or cancel) the debt of others against us. The torturer could very well be the devil.

Matt 18:33-35 'Should you not also have had mercy on your fellow slave, even as I had mercy on you?' "And his lord, moved with anger, **handed him over to the torturers** until he should repay all that was owed him. **"So shall My heavenly Father also do to you, if each of you does not forgive his brother from your heart."** (NAS)

Those who do not forgive become bitter. Many are afflicted with sickness, both emotionally and physically. They are often angry. When the sun goes down on one’s anger, the devil can gain a foothold.

"In your anger do not sin": **Do not let the sun go down while you are still angry**, and do not give the devil a **foothold**. Eph 4:26-27 (NIV)

The way to overcome anger is to forgive. The way to eliminate the place of the torturer is to forgive.

WHAT IS FORGIVENESS?

In the Old Testament, there are three words translated “forgive”

1. Nasha- to remove, depart, carry away
2. Calach - to pour out
3. Kapar- to cover over, atone , propitiate, pacify.

In the New Testament, there are three words translated “forgive”

1. Aphiemi -to send forth, send away (apo, "from," hiemi, "to send"), to cancel
2. Apoluo -to let loose from (apo, "from," luo, "to loose"),to release
3. Charizomai -to bestow a favor unconditionally

Forgiveness is required by God. It is an act of the will and required by god. God will never require us to do something we cannot do. We can forgive.

WHAT IS FORGIVENESS FOR?

- ◆ FORGIVENESS is needed for any SIN or HURTFUL ACTION that has resulted in physical or emotional injury to us.
- ◆ A SIN or any HURTFUL ACTION against a person results in a DEBT owed to the VICTIM by the person doing the hurting.
- ◆ In the absence of FORGIVENESS, a DEBT owed as a result of hurtful action can only be satisfied when the VICTIM gets VENGEANCE.
- ◆ VENGEANCE has been made illegal (Romans 12:19) for all Christians and cannot be received as payment for a DEBT owed to a VICTIM.

WHAT IS THE BASIS FOR FORGIVENESS

- ◆ The basis for FORGIVENESS is the cross.
- ◆ Jesus, when He died on the cross, paid for ALL SINS or DEBTS of the whole world (1 John 2:2).
- ◆ Since Jesus has paid already for the DEBTS of others against us we cannot collect again. To try to collect for a debt that has already been “paid in full” is wrong.
- ◆ Since Jesus has paid for all DEBTS owed by people that hurt us, we can FORGIVE, or cancel the DEBT and consider it paid.
- ◆ FORGIVENESS is the sending away, letting loose, releasing, or canceling a DEBT.

- ◆ When we FORGIVE someone that has hurt us, we agree to never to get VENGEANCE in any way.

WHAT IS FORGIVING FROM THE HEART

- ◆ The Greek word translated heart is *kardia* and means” the heart, thoughts or feelings”.
- ◆ The Greek word forgive is *aphiemi* and means “to send away”.
- ◆ “Forgiving from the heart” means to send away from the feelings. To not do so will result in torture.

WHAT FORGIVENESS IS NOT

- ◆ FORGIVENESS is not forgetting. Forgetting may be the results of forgiving but it will never be the means of FORGIVING.
- ◆ FORGIVENESS is not saying what was done to you was right.
- ◆ FORGIVENESS is not agreeing with what was done to you.
- ◆ FORGIVENESS is not saying you will collect the DEBT at a later time.
- ◆ FORGIVENESS is not making arrangements for someone else to get revenge.
- ◆ FORGIVENESS is not saying, God please forgive him. It is fine to pray that but you must also forgive. God requires that.

THE OBJECT OF FORGIVENESS IS AN ACT - NOT A PERSON

- ◆ Since the DEBT was caused by an ACT, FORGIVENESS of the DEBT applies to that act.
- ◆ When we forgive a DEBT, we forgive the ACT.
- ◆ Even though a PERSON does the ACT, the action itself is the only basis for the DEBT.

LOVE THE PERSON - HATE THE SIN

- ◆ It is important to separate in our minds the ACT from the ACTOR or person that did the act.
- ◆ God separates us from what we do. He loves us but hates our sin. He does not see us as sin. He sees us as what we are in Christ, new creatures, holy and blameless.

- ◆ God loved us when we were still sinners and sent Jesus to die for us. If the Spirit of Christ lives in us, we will love not only our brothers and sisters, but also those who hurt us.
- ◆ We are required to love our neighbor but hate sin. The only way to do that is to see those who sin against us as separate from the acts they commit against us.
- ◆ All mankind is made in the image of God (Gen 9:6). We are HUMAN BEINGS, not HUMAN DOINGS. A person is what God has made him, not what he or she does

Pray the following prayer:

Father, I ask that you now reveal to me through Your Holy Spirit within me the names of all the people and organizations that I have not forgiven that I may now do so. Amen

On the following page list the names the Holy Spirit gives you. Do not try to think of people. Just let God reveal them to you. A list made by the Holy Spirit will be thorough and correct. A list made by our own minds may be lacking those we really need to forgive. The enemy, remember, does not want to lose his place and he may try to confuse you if you depend on your own mind.

After the Holy Spirit has revealed to you the persons you need to forgive, pray the following prayer:

Father, show me now the things that I need to forgive that that these persons have done to me. Also remind me of how I felt when these people sinned against me. Amen

As the Holy Spirit reveals what was done to you and how it made you feel, forgive each person on your list for what he or she did and confess to God how this sin against you made you feel. This allows forgiveness from the heart of your emotions. It allows God to take away the hurt and pain that you felt when this was done to you. Complete the chart on the following page with what God shows you. Stay with each person until you are sure there is nothing left.

Forgive each person on your list by praying the following prayer:

Father, I forgive, release, and set free (who God brought to mind) for (what they did) . I confess that this sin against me made me feel (how it made you feel) . Thank you for forgiving me of my sins. Amen.

Debtor (Who God brings to mind)	Type Debt (What they did)	Cost (How it made you feel)	Paid by	Date	Balance
			Jesus*	32	- 0 -
			Jesus*	32	- 0 -
			Jesus*	32	- 0 -
			Jesus*	32	- 0 -
			Jesus*	32	- 0 -
			Jesus*	32	- 0 -
			Jesus*	32	- 0 -
			Jesus*	32	- 0 -
			Jesus*	32	- 0 -
			Jesus*	32	- 0 -
			Jesus*	32	- 0 -
			Jesus*	32	- 0 -
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			Jesus*	32	- 0 -
			Jesus*	32	- 0 -
			Jesus*	32	- 0 -
			Jesus*	32	- 0 -
			Jesus*	32	- 0 -
			Jesus*	32	- 0 -
			Jesus*	32	- 0 -
			Jesus*	32	- 0 -
			Jesus*	32	- 0 -

*He is the atoning sacrifice for our sins (debts), not only our sins but the sins of the whole world (1 John 2:2).

5. Meditation on Truth

A. Judging Others

In John 8:32, Jesus said that the truth would set us free. Many times we are deceived by the evil one and do not see the truth although it is right in front of our face. We should always meditate on the truth- the truth of who we are in Christ but more important Who Christ is in us.

Another way in which truth will set us free is when we recognized how deceptive our thoughts are. The enemy is able to deceive us and take advantage of us because of sin. One great sin we are often guilty of is judging others. It is almost a certainty that when we do not forgive others, we judge them of what they did. Pray the following prayer:

Father, you have said that when we judge others we will be judged the same way (Luke 6:37-38). We will receive what we give others. If we give forgiveness, we will receive forgiveness. If we give condemnation, we will receive condemnation. Show me from the list any people that I have judged. In Jesus name I pray. Amen

For any (perhaps all) the people on your list that you have judged, pray the following prayer:

Father, forgive me for judging or condemning _____ (name of person) _____ for _____ (what that person was judge or condemned for) _____. Please remove the penalty of me being judged or condemned to do the same thing to others. Amen

B. The Truth of Who I Am and Who God Is

Jesus said we should do unto others what we want them to do to us (Luke 6:31). This is because whatever is done to us, we are likely to do to others. We often do certain things to others or treat others in a certain way because we believe lies about who we are. Pray the following prayer:

Father, show me how I have sinned against others the same way others sinned against me. Show me how I have treated others similarly to the way I was treated. Amen

It may be helpful to look at your list of things others did to you. As God shows you each thing you have done to others, ask Him to forgive you as follows:

Father, please forgive me for (what you did) to (to person you did it to). Please show me what lies that I have believed that made me do this. Amen

Now look at your list to determine any pattern or lie in the way you believe. You may see a common response in the way others made you feel. You may feel rejected, fearful, guilty, condemned, unworthy, not good enough, useless, unloved, lonely to name a few. If you find that you have felt any of these for many of the offenses against you, then you may have a stronghold in your mind. A child of God, who has a vibrant relationship with God should not consistently feel anything but loved, accepted and secure in Christ. Renounce any strongholds by examining the following table entitled “**The Truth of Who I Am**” for any lies you have believed. The following tables are truths of who you are as a believer.

Following these tables is a table entitled “**The Truth of Who God Is**”. Review this table also and renounce any lies you may have believed.

The Truth of Who I Am

I renounce the lie that I am...	I announce the truth that ...
Unloved	I am loved by my heavenly Father as much as Jesus (John 17:23)
Rejected	I am a child of my heavenly Father (Ephesians 1:5, 2:19)
Insignificant	I am created in Christ to do good works which God has prepared in advance for me to do (Eph 2:10)
Not needed	I am jealously desired by my heavenly Father (James 4:5)
Not wanted	God's loving thoughts toward me are more numerous that the sand of the sea(Psalm 139:17,18)
Not important	God cares for me so much that he even keeps an account of the hairs of my head (Matt 10:29-31)
A failure	I am able to do all things through God Who strengthens me (Philippians 4:13)
Inadequate	I am a new creation in Christ (2 Corinthians 5:17)
Condemned	I am not condemned because there is no condemnation for those in Christ (Romans 8:1)
Never able to please anyone	I am adopted by God as his child because He is so pleased with me (Ephesians 1:5)

I renounce the lie that I am	I announce the truth that
Not good enough	I am God's workmanship created in Christ (Ephesians 2:10)
Insecure	I am always with my God who never leaves me nor forsakes me (John 14:16-17)
Afraid	I am not controlled by a spirit of fear because God has given me a spirit of love and power (2 Tim 1:7)
Lonely	I am not alone because Jesus promised not to leave me as an orphan (John 14:18)
Never good enough	I am holy and blameless before God because of God's Spirit placed in me (Eph 1:5, 1 Cor 6:17)
A struggling failure	I am bearing fruit as I abide in Christ and the Father is pruning me (John 15:2-5)
A loser	I always have victory in Christ (1 Corinthians 15:57)
Never able to succeed in being what I should	I am already complete in Christ, saved by a savior, not my behavior (Ephesians 2:8-9)
Not deserving to exist	God chose me before the foundation of the world (Ephesians 1:4)

The Truth of Who God Is

I renounce the lie that my Heavenly Father is...	I accept the truth that my Heavenly Father is...
Distant or disinterested	Intimate and involved
Insensitive or uncaring	Kind and compassionate
Stern or demanding	Accepting and filled with joy and love
Passive or cold	Warm and affectionate
Absent or too busy for me	Always with me and eager to spend time with me
Never satisfied with what I do, impatient or angry	Patient, slow to anger, and pleased with me in Christ
Mean, cruel, or abusive	Loving, gentle, and protective of me
Trying to take all the fun out of life	Trustworthy. He wants to give me a full life. His will is good, perfect and acceptable for me
Controlling and manipulative	Full of grace and mercy, and He gives me freedom to fail
Condemning or unforgiving	Tenderhearted and forgiving. His heart and arms are always open to me
Nit-picking, nagging or perfectionistic	Smiling as He thinks of me and proud of me as His growing child

C. Inner Vows

An inner vow is a determination made consciously or subconsciously by the mind. It is a stronghold and it is often, if not always, based on a lie or a belief contrary to the will of God. Because an inner vow is based on a lie, it must be renounced in order for one to know the truth and thus be set free. Examples of inner vows are –

- “I must never fail”.
- “I must always be perfect”.
- “I can never be perfect”.
- “I will never trust anyone in authority again”.
- “No one will ever tell me what to do”.
- “I will never love anyone but you”.
- “No one will ever love me”.
- “I am not good enough to be loved”.
- “I do not deserve to be loved”.
- “I must earn love, respect, affirmation, and significance”

The scriptural basis which makes vows a sin follows:

"Again, you have heard that the ancients were told, 'You shall not make false vows, but shall fulfill your vows to the Lord.' But I say to you, make no oath at all, either by heaven, for it is the throne of God, or by the earth, for it is the footstool of His feet, or by Jerusalem, for it is the city of the great King. Nor shall you make an oath by your head, for you cannot make one hair white or black. Matt 5:33-36

Pray the following prayer:

Dear Heavenly Father, Please show me by the Holy Spirit any inner vows I have made either consciously or subconsciously. Amen

- *Analysis of Forgiveness List*

Scriptural Basis: Luke 6:31

"And just as you want people to treat you, treat them in the same way.

[Likewise, whatever has been done to you, you are likely to do the same to others]

- ☐ Look at the list of people that you forgave and see if there is a recurring negative feeling such as rejection, fear, unworthiness, to name a few.
- ☐ Look also at the way people treated you.
- ☐ What recurring negative feeling or treatment do you find? _____
- ☐ When was the first time you felt this way? _____
- ☐ Did you or could you have made a vow which is causing you to behave in such a way as to experience these feelings. _____. If yes, what is it? _____

- *Analysis of Personal Character*

Scriptural Basis:

Job 3:25 *"For what I fear comes upon me, and what I dread befalls me*

Proverbs 23:7 *For as he thinks within himself, so he is.*

- ☐ Name two to four characteristics of your personality?
- ☐ What inner vow could they be based on?

- *Analysis of Personal Struggles*

Scriptural Basis: Luke 6:41

"And why do you look at the speck that is in your brother's eye, but do not notice the log that is in your own eye?"

- ☐ What two or three people are you struggling with at the present time?
- ☐ Describe these people. _____
- ☐ Does this description describe you? _____
- ☐ If so, is there an inner vow that causes you to be this way?

- *Analysis of Past Relationships*

Scriptural Basis: James 3:4-5

Behold, the ships also, though they are so great and are driven by strong winds, are still directed by a very small rudder, wherever the inclination of the pilot desires. So also the tongue is a small part of the body, and {yet} it boasts of great things. Behold, how great a forest is set aflame by such a small fire! [What we proclaim with the tongue, we often do with the body]

- ☐ What are problems are you experiencing in a current relationship? _____
- ☐ What vows or promises, if any, did you make to another person (or could have made but do not remember) that is keeping you from having a complete Christ-like relationship with others.

For all vows the Holy Spirit shows you, renounce them by praying the following prayer:

Father, In the name of Jesus, I break the vow I made when I said with my mouth or in my heart _____. Forgive me and cleanse me of the consequences of this vow. I chose now to accept only the mind of Christ that You have given me. Forgive and release my mind also from any vows which I do not remember so that I can love you and others with all my heart and serve you and others and not myself. If anyone has made inappropriate vows to me, I also release them from these vows. Amen

6. Resisting the Devil

Scriptural Basis: Rev. 12:9, James 5:7

And the great dragon was thrown down, the serpent of old who is called the devil and Satan, who deceives the whole world; he was thrown down to the earth, and his angels were thrown down with him. Rev 12:9

Submit therefore to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you. James 4:7

A. Deception

We are reminded in the Book of Revelation that the devil deceives the whole world. That would also include believers. But we are told in the Book of James to submit to God, resist the devil and he will flee. Deception is impossible to see or discover for oneself. Only the Holy Spirit can reveal deception. For Him to do so, we must first submit to God and let Him reveal the deception to us.

We can be deceived by false prophets and false teachers and we can deceive ourselves. Submit to God by praying the following prayer:

Father, I confess that I have probably listened to false teaching and false prophecy and I have been deceived. I have also deceived myself. Please forgive me. I renounce all false teaching and false prophecy. Forgive me for any time that I have shared any false teaching or false prophecy I have believed with others. I ask you to reveal truth to others that I have deceived. I confess that I have also deceived myself. Show me any way in which I am deceived.

Possible ways of self-deception

- ☐ Hearing God's word and not doing it. (James 1:22, 4:17)
- ☐ Saying I have no sin (1 John 1:8)
- ☐ Thinking I am something when I am not (Gal 6:3)
- ☐ Thinking I am wise in my own eyes (1 Cor. 3 18-19)
- ☐ Thinking I will not reap what I sow (Gal 6:7)
- ☐ Thinking the unrighteous will inherit the Kingdom (1 Cor. 6:9)
- ☐ Thinking I can associate with bad company and not be corrupted (1 Cor. 15:33)

Possible ways of self-deception through self-defense

- ☐ Denial (conscious or subconscious refusal to face the truth)
- ☐ Fantasy (trying to escape from the real world, example: computer games)
- ☐ Emotional insulation (withdrawal to avoid rejection)
- ☐ Regression (reverting back to a less threatening time- living in the past)
- ☐ Displacement (taking out frustrations on others or things)
- ☐ Projection (blaming others)
- ☐ Rationalization (making excuses for poor behavior)

For each item checked, pray the following prayer:

Father, I confess that I have been deceived by _____. Please forgive me for this deception and reveal truth to me that will set me free. In Jesus name I pray. Amen.

Another way we can be deceived by Satan is by believing we can live independently from the way God made us by trying to get our needs met without Him. Only God can meet our need to be significant, accepted and secure. The devil, the prince of the air, tries to get us to follow him and the ways of the world by getting these needs met by our own accomplishments and resources which is sin. (See Ephesians 2:2-3).

Submit to God by praying the following prayer:

Father, show me any way I have tried to get my need for significance, acceptance, and security met apart from Christ. Amen.

Following is a list of activities and things in which a person may try to find significance, security, or acceptance independent of God:

- ☐ Work
- ☐ Ministry
- ☐ Church activities
- ☐ Success
- ☐ Appearance
- ☐ Good looks
- ☐ Good health
- ☐ Clothes
- ☐ Friends
- ☐ Accomplishments
- ☐ Boyfriend/girlfriend
- ☐ Parents
- ☐ Employer
- ☐ Children
- ☐ Money
- ☐ Fame
- ☐ Food or any substance
- ☐ Power or control
- ☐ Being popular
- ☐ Pleasing others
- ☐ Criticizing others
- ☐ Knowledge
- ☐ Being right
- ☐ Titles
- ☐ Degrees
- ☐ Position
- ☐ Other _____

List the things God shows you, as well as any other, below:

Significance: _____

Acceptance: _____

Security: _____

Confess by praying the following prayer:

**Father, I confess that I have been deceived by trying to find my (significance, acceptance, security) by _____. Please forgive and cleanse me. In Jesus name I pray.
Amen**

B. Pride

The first sin in the Garden of Eden was the sin of pride. Perhaps today it is the greatest reason people sin. Pride is a killer. Pride says:

"I can do it. I can get myself out of this mess without God or anyone else's help."

"I can do all things by myself."

"I can be like God."

"I can be better than anyone else."

"I'm not so bad. Look at those people there. I am better than they are."

"I deserve this."

Oh no, we can't! We absolutely need God, and we desperately need each other. Paul wrote: "We worship in the Spirit of God and glory in Christ Jesus and put no confidence in the flesh" (Phil. 3:3). Humility is confidence properly placed. We are to be "strong in the Lord and in the strength of His might" (Eph. 6:10). James 4:6-10 and 1 Peter 5:1-10 reveal that spiritual conflict follows pride.

The first sin in the garden was a sin of pride. Satan told Eve, "You can be like God." Satan tried to tempt Jesus in the wilderness in the same way. "You're hungry, turn these stones into bread. Prove you are the Son of God. Bow down to me and will make you ruler of the world. Throw yourself off the temple and see if angels will protect you if you are the Son of God." Eve gave in and sinned. Jesus did not. Eve wanted to be first. Jesus came to be a servant. God calls us to serve, not to be first. God calls us to wash feet, not to rule over all. Christ is our example.

Phil 2:3-11 says,

Do nothing from selfishness or empty conceit, but with humility of mind let each of you regard one another as more important than himself; do not {merely} look out for your own personal interests, but also for the interests of others. Have this attitude in yourselves which was also in Christ Jesus, who, although He existed in the form of God, did not regard equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied Himself, taking the form of a bond-servant, {and} being made in the likeness of men. And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. Therefore also God highly exalted Him, and bestowed on Him the name which is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those who are in heaven, and on earth, and under the earth, and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father. (NAS)

The disciples were discussing who among them was the greatest.

But Jesus called them to Himself, and said, "You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and {their} great men exercise authority over them. "It is not so among you, but whoever wishes to become great among you shall be your servant, and whoever wishes to be first among you shall be your slave; just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many." Matt 20:25-28

Pride is something the enemy uses to get us to have our need to be significant, accepted or secure met outside of Christ. The truth is that in Christ, we are already significant, accepted and secure. To try to do something that has already been done results in sin. Since we are already significant, accepted and secure, we can serve others as Christ did. F.B. Meyer wrote-

“Earthly thrones are generally built with steps up to them; the remarkable thing about the thrones of the eternal kingdom is that the steps are all down to them. We must descend if we would reign, stoop if we would rise, gird ourselves to wash the feet of the disciples as a common slave, in order to share the royalty of our Divine Master.”

Pray the following prayer:

Father, I confess that I have not put others first in my life. I have been prideful, not willing to always be a servant to you and others. I have been prideful, sometimes trying to “be like God” in my proud behavior. Please forgive me and show me all the ways I have been prideful.

Consider and check other areas where you have been prideful such as-

_____ Having a stronger desiring to do my will than God's will;
 _____ Being more dependent upon my strength and resources than God's;
 _____ Too often believe that my ideas and opinions are better than others;
 _____ Being more concerned about controlling others than controlling self
 _____ Sometimes considering myself more important than others;
 _____ Having a tendency to think I have no needs;
 _____ Finding it difficult to admit that I was wrong;
 _____ Having a tendency to be more of a people pleaser than a God pleaser;
 _____ Being overly concerned about getting the credit I deserve;
 _____ Being driven to obtain recognition from degrees, titles, positions, etc.
 _____ Often thinking I am more humble than others;
 _____ Other ways
 _____.

List any way in which you have tried to be self-sufficient- that is independent of God and others:

Pray aloud the following prayer for the things listed above:

Lord, I agree I have been prideful in the area of _____. Please forgive me for this pridefulness. I choose to humble myself and place all my confidence in You. In Jesus name I pray. Amen

C. Rebellion

1 Sam. 15:23 - *“For rebellion is like the sin of divination and insubordination is as iniquity and idolatry.”*

We live in rebellious times. Many believe it is their right to sit in judgment of those in authority over them. Rebelling against God and His authority gives the enemy an opportunity to attack. As our commanding general, the Lord says, “Get into ranks and follow Me. I will not lead you into temptation, but will deliver you for evil” (Matt. 6:13). We must resist him.

We have two biblical responsibilities to authority figures, to pray for them and to submit to them. The only time God permits us to disobey earthly leaders is when they require us to do something morally wrong before God or attempt to rule outside the realm of their authority. Being under authority is an act of faith. You are trusting God to work through His established lines of authority. In some cases, when earthly authorities have abused their position and are requiring disobedience to God or a compromise in your commitment to Him, you need to obey God, not man.

Pray the following prayer:

Lord, I confess that I have sinned against You and others in action and in attitude with a rebellious heart. I now choose to adopt a submissive spirit. I ask you now to show me, by your Holy Spirit within me, the ways I have been rebellious toward you and others, and in so doing, have sinned against you. In Jesus’ name I pray. Amen

We are all admonished to submit to one another as equals in Christ (Eph. 5:21). However, there are specific lines of authority in Scripture for the purpose of accomplishing common goals:

Rebellion Against Civil Government

Rom 13:1-8 “Everyone must submit himself to the governing authorities, for there is no authority except that which God has established. The authorities that exist have been established by God. Consequently, he who rebels against the authority is rebelling against what God has instituted, and those who do so will bring judgment on themselves. For rulers hold no terror for those who do right, but for those who do wrong. Do you want to be free from fear of the one in authority? Then do what is right and he will commend you. For he is God’s servant to do you good. But if you do wrong, be afraid, for he does not bear the sword for nothing. He is God’s servant: an agent of wrath to bring punishment on the wrongdoer. Therefore, it is necessary to submit to the authorities, not only because of possible punishment but also because of conscience. This is also why you pay taxes, for the authorities are God’s servants, who give their full time to governing. Give everyone what you owe him: If you owe taxes, pay taxes; if revenue, then revenue; if respect, then respect; if honor, then honor. Let no debt remain outstanding, except the continuing debt to love one another, for he who loves his fellowman has fulfilled the law.” (NIV)

List the ways you have been disobedient to governing authorities:

List times you have been dishonest in paying taxes:

List debts you owe others or times you have failed to pay others what you owe:

List those whom you owe respect but have not given respect:

1 Tim 2:1-4, "I urge, then, first of all that requests, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for everyone- for kings and all those in authority, that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all Godliness and holiness. This is good, and pleases God our Savior, who wants all men to be saved and to come to a knowledge of the truth." (NIV)

How have you been rebellious toward God by not giving thanks, interceding, and praying for those in authority?

1 Pet 2:13-17, "Submit yourselves for the Lord's sake to every authority instituted among men: whether to the king, as the supreme authority, or to governors, who are sent by him to punish those who do wrong and to commend those who do right. For It is God's will that by doing good you should silence the ignorant talk of foolish men. Live as free men, but do not use your freedom as a cover-up for evil; live as servants of God. Show proper respect to everyone: Love the brotherhood of believers, fear God, honor the king."

List ways you have been rebellious by not loving the brotherhood of believers, fearing God, showing proper respect to everyone, or honoring your leaders:

Rebellion Against Employer

1 Peter 2:18-23, "Slaves, submit yourselves to your masters with all respect, not only to those who are good and considerate, but also to those who are harsh. For it is commendable if a man bears up under the pain of unjust suffering because he is conscious of God. But how is it to your credit if you receive a beating for doing wrong and endure it? But if you suffer for doing good and you endure it, this is commendable before God. To this you were called, because Christ suffered for you, leaving you an example, that you should follow in his steps. "He committed no sin, and no deceit was found in his mouth." When they hurled their insults at him, he did not retaliate; when he suffered, he made no threats. Instead, he entrusted himself to him who judges justly." (NIV)

List ways you have been dishonest, rebellious, or not shown respect toward your employer:

Rebellion Against Husband or God:

1 Pet 3:1-4, "Wives, in the same way be submissive to your husbands so that, if any of them do not believe the word, they may be won over without words by the behavior of their wives, when they see the purity and reverence of your lives. Your beauty should not come from outward adornment, such as braided hair and the wearing of gold jewelry and fine clothes. Instead, it should be that of your inner self the unfading beauty of a gentle and quiet spirit, which is of great worth in God's sight."

If you are or have been someone's wife, list ways you have not been submissive to your husband according to 1 Peter 3:14:

List areas in which you are not submitting:

Rebellion Against Wife or God:

Eph 5:25-30, "Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her to make her holy, cleansing her by the washing with water through the word, and to present her to himself as a radiant church, without stain or wrinkle or any other blemish, but holy and blameless. In this same way, husbands ought to love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself. After all, no one ever hated his own body but he feeds and cares for it, just as Christ does the church-for we are members of his body."

If you are or have been a husband, list the ways that you have been rebellious toward God by not loving your wife as Christ loved the church, supplying her with food and care, encouraging her in holiness, cleansing her with the word, and giving ALL of yourself to her:

List aspects of your life that you have not given to your wife:

Rebellion Against Parents

Eph 6:1-3, "Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. 'Honor your father and mother' which is the first commandment with a promise- 'that it may go well with you and that you may enjoy long life on the earth.'" (NIV)

List the ways in which you have dishonored your parents:

Rebellion Against Church Leaders

Heb 13:17, "Obey your leaders and submit to their authority. They keep watch over you as men who must give an account. Obey them so that their work will be a joy, not a burden, for that would be of no advantage to you."

How have you rebelled against church leaders?

Rebellion Against God

Beside each verse, list each way you have rebelled against God by breaking His commandments listed in Deut. 5:7-21.

7 *"You shall have no other gods before me. You shall not make for yourself an idol in the form of anything in heaven above or on the earth beneath or in the waters below. You shall not bow down to them or worship them; for I, the LORD your God, am a jealous God, punishing the children for the sin of the fathers to the third and fourth generation of those who hate me, but showing love to a thousand of those who love me and keep my commandments":*

11 *"You shall not misuse the name of the LORD your God, for the LORD will not hold anyone guiltless who misuses his name":*

12 *"Observe the Sabbath day by keeping it holy, as the LORD your God has commanded you. Six days you shall labor and do all your work, but the seventh day is a Sabbath to the LORD your God. On it you shall not do any work, neither you, nor your son or daughter; nor your manservant or maidservant, nor your ox, your donkey or any of your animals, nor the alien within your gates, so that your manservant and maidservant may rest, as you do. Remember that you were slaves in Egypt and that the LORD your God brought you out of there with a mighty hand and an outstretched arm. Therefore the LORD your God has commanded you to observe the Sabbath day":*

17 *"You shall not murder":*

18 *"You shall not commit adultery":*

19 *"You shall not steal":*

20 *"You shall not give false testimony against your neighbor":*

21 *"You shall not covet your neighbor's wife. You shall not set your desire on your neighbor's house or land, his manservant or maidservant, his ox or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbor":*

From your list confess each sin that you have committed out of rebellion and ask God to forgive you and cleanse you from all unrighteousness by praying the following prayer:

Dear Heavenly Father, I confess that I sinned by _____ and was rebellious toward you and others when I sinned. Please forgive me for this rebellion. I choose to be submissive and obedient to your Word. In Jesus' name I pray. Amen.

After you have completed confessing and asking for forgiveness, pray the following:

Dear Heavenly Father, on the basis of my confession, I now ask you to cleanse me of all unrighteousness by the shed blood of Jesus Christ and cancel all ground gained by evil spirits because of my rebellion. Thank you that you are faithful and just. Guide me with your Holy Spirit as I live a submissive and obedient life. In Jesus Name I pray. Amen.

D. Ancestral Sin

Scriptural Basis: Exodus 20:46, Numbers 14:18

Idol worship by ancestors can lead to iniquities of the fathers being passed on to the children to the third and fourth generation.

"You shall not make for yourself an idol or any likeness of what is in heaven above or on the earth beneath or in the water under the earth. You shall not worship them or serve them; for I, the LORD your God, am a jealous God, visiting the iniquities of the fathers on the children to the third and fourth generations of those who hate Me but showing loving kindness to thousands, to those who love Me and keep My commandments" (Exodus. 20:46).

It is also possible that sins of the ancestors other than idolatry are passed down to children. Moses said,

"The LORD is slow to anger, abounding in love and forgiving sin and rebellion. Yet he does not leave the guilty unpunished; he punishes the children for the sin of the fathers to the third and fourth generation" (Numbers 14:15).

Some examples of sins that are found in Galatians 5:19-21 as well as others which seem to be transferred from the parents to the children were previously listed as habitual sins. You may want to review this list after praying the following prayer:

Father, show me any sins in my life that are being passed on to me by my ancestors. I ask this in Jesus name. Amen.

Pray the following prayer when God has revealed to you sins that may are being passed on to you:

Father, I ask you to place the Cross of Jesus between me and all of my ancestors to the third and fourth generation. In the name of Jesus, I command every evil spirit or enemy to leave my presence and say to them that you cannot come past the cross ever again to me. Father, I also ask you to not punish me for the sins of my fathers to the third and fourth generation because Jesus has now paid not only for my sin but for my father's sins as well. Amen

If you have children, pray the following prayer:

Father, I ask you to place the Cross of Jesus between me and all my children. In the name of Jesus, I command every evil spirit or enemy that has been passed on from me to my children to leave and say to them that you cannot ever come past the cross again to my children. Father, I also ask you to not punish my children for my sin or the sins of my fathers to the third generation because Jesus has now paid for it all. Amen

E. Curses

Pray the following prayer for any curses that any satanic groups or anyone else may have tried to put on you:

Father, I ask you to cancel every curse that has been placed on me on the basis that Christ became a curse for me (Gal. 3:13 I ask according to your word, that for everyone who has rolled a stone at me that it would roll back on them and that for everyone that has dug a pit for me that they would fall in it (Proverbs 26:27). Amen

If you have been involved in any satanic rituals, or believe any ancestors may have been involved in satanic rituals or believe that anyone of a satanic group may have tried to target you, say aloud the applicable special renunciations below:

Kingdom of Darkness

I renounce ever signing my name or anyone else signing my name over to the devil.

I renounce any ceremony where I may have been wed to the devil.

I renounce any and all covenants that I made with the devil.

I renounce all satanic assignments for my life, including duties, marriage and children.

I renounce all spirit guides assigned to me.

I renounce ever giving my blood in the service of the devil.

I renounce ever eating of flesh or drinking of blood for satanic worship.

I renounce any and all guardians and satanist parents assigned to me

I renounce any baptism in blood or urine whereby I am identified with the devil.

I renounce any and all sacrifices that have been made on my behalf by which the devil may claim ownership of me.

Kingdom of Light

I announce my name is now written in the Lamb's Book of Life.

I announce that I one of the Bride of Christ

I announce that I am a partaker of the New Covenant with Christ.

I announce and commit myself to know and do only the will of God and accept only His guidance.

I announce and accept only the leading of the Holy Spirit.

I trust only in the shed blood of my Lord Jesus Christ.

By faith I eat only the flesh and drink only the blood of Jesus in Holy Communion.

I announce that God is my Father and the Holy Spirit is my Guardian by which I am sealed.

I announce that I have been baptized into Christ Jesus and my identity is now in Christ.

I announce that only the sacrifice of Christ has any hold on me. I have been purchased by the blood of the Lamb.

7. Love

Scriptural Basis:

- All of the commandments are based on love.

And He [Jesus] said to him, "' You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.' "This is the great and foremost commandment. "The second is like it, 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' these two commandments depend the whole Law and the Prophets." Matt 22:37-40

- When we love, we fulfill the law.

Owe nothing to anyone except to love one another; for he who loves his neighbor has fulfilled {the} law. Rom 13:8

- Love is the goal of Christian teaching.

But the goal of our instruction is love from a pure heart and a good conscience and a sincere faith. 1 Tim 1:5

- Love is greater than faith

But now abide faith, hope, love, these three; but the greatest of these is love. 1 Cor 13:13

- Love is the way that the world will know we belong to Jesus.

"By this all men will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another." John 13:35

- True love comes from God and if we know God, we will love in the same way.

Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God; and everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. The one who does not love does not know God, for God is love. By this the love of God was manifested in us, that God has sent His only begotten Son into the world so that we might live through Him. In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son {to be} the propitiation for our sins. Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. 1 John 4:7-11

- Love is the reason that God sent Jesus.

"For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish, but have eternal life. John 3:16

- A lack of love is the source of all quarrels and conflict.

Love is having a genuine and active concern for another's welfare. The opposite of love is selfishness because selfishness is having a genuine and active concern for one's own welfare. Selfishness (lack of love) is the cause of all conflicts.

What is the source of quarrels and conflicts among you? Is not the source your pleasures that wage war in your members? You lust and do not have; {so} you commit murder. And you are envious and cannot obtain; {so} you fight and quarrel. You do not have because you do not ask. You ask and do not receive, because you ask with wrong motives, so that you may spend {it} on your pleasures. James 4:1-3

- Characteristics of Love

Love is patient, love is kind, and is not jealous; love does not brag and is not arrogant, does not act unbecomingly, it does not seek its own, is not provoked, does not take into account a wrong suffered, does not rejoice in unrighteousness but rejoices with the truth; bears all things, believes all things, endures all things. 1 Corinthians 13: 4-7

Pray the following prayer:

Dear Heavenly Father,

I confess that I have not always been actively concerned with the welfare of others and in so doing, I have not loved them. Please show me any way now that I have not loved others. In Jesus name I pray. Amen

List any persons to whom you failed to love. _____

Dear Father,

I confess that I did not show love to _____ and sinned. Please forgive me and cleanse me and enable me to love these people. Amen.

Check any of the following ways in which you have failed to love others:

- ☐ Not being patient
- ☐ Not being kind
- ☐ Being jealous
- ☐ Bragging
- ☐ Being arrogant
- ☐ Keeping account of wrongs suffered
- ☐ Not bearing all things
- ☐ Not believing all things
- ☐ Not enduring all things

Confess any sin by praying the following prayer:

Father,

Please forgive me failing to love and for sinning by _____. Enable me to love sacrificially and unconditionally as you love me. Allow me to receive more of your unconditional love as I love others more. Amen

List any conflict you are presently experiencing or recently experienced.

How were you considering your own welfare in this matter instead of being concerned with the welfare of the one in which you were in conflict with?

Repent and pray the following prayer:

Dear Father,

I confess that I did not show love to ____(person or group)_____ and sinned. I confess that I was more concerned with my own welfare, specifically thinking that I ____(list concern you had for yourself)____. Please forgive me and cleanse me and enable me to love _(person or group)_____ Amen.

Doctrinal Affirmation

I recognize that there is only one true and living God (Ex. 20:2-3) who exists as the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit and that He is worthy of all honor, praise, and glory as the Creator, Sustainer, and Beginning and End of all things (Rev. 4:11; 5:9-10; Is. 43:1,7,21).

I recognize Jesus Christ as the Messiah, the Word who became flesh and dwelt among us (John 1:1,14). I believe that He came to destroy the works of Satan (1 John 3:8), that He disarmed the rulers and authorities and made a public display of them, having triumphed over them (Col. 2:15).

I believe that God has proven His love for me because when I was still a sinner, Christ died for me (Rom. 5:8). I believe that He delivered me from the domain of darkness and transferred me to His kingdom, and in Him I have redemption, the forgiveness of sins (Col. 1:13-14).

I believe that I am now a child of God (1 John 3:1-3) and that I am seated with Christ in the heavenlies (Eph. 2:6). I believe that I was saved by the grace of God through faith, that it was a gift and not the result of any works on my part (Eph. 2:8).

I choose to be strong in the Lord and in the strength of His might (Eph. 6:10). I put no confidence in the flesh (Phil. 3:3) for the weapons of warfare are not of the flesh (2 Cor. 10:4). I put on the whole armor of God (Eph. 6:10-20), and I resolve to stand firm in my faith and resist the evil one.

I believe that apart from Christ I can do nothing (John 15:5), so I declare myself dependent on Him. I choose to abide in Christ in order to bear much fruit and glorify the Lord (John 15:8). I announce to Satan that Jesus is my Lord (1 Cor. 12:3), and I reject any counterfeit gifts or works of Satan in my life.

I believe that the truth will set me free (John 8:32) and that walking in the light is the only path of fellowship (1 John 1:7). Therefore, I stand against Satan's deception by taking every thought captive in obedience to Christ (2 Cor. 10:5). I declare that the Bible is the only authoritative standard (2 Tim. 3:15-16). I choose to speak the truth in love (Eph. 4:15).

I choose to present my body as an instrument of righteousness, a living and holy sacrifice, and I renew my mind by the living Word of God in order that I may prove that the will of God is good, acceptable, and perfect (Rom. 6:13; 12:1-2). I put off the old self with its evil practices and put on the new self (Col. 3:9-10), and I declare myself to be a new creature in Christ (2 Cor. 5:17).

I ask my Heavenly Father to fill me with His Holy Spirit (Eph. 5:18), lead me into all truth (John 16:13), and empower my life that I may live above sin and not carry out the desires of the flesh (Gal. 5:16). I crucify the flesh (Gal. 5:24) and choose to walk by the Spirit.

I renounce all selfish goals and choose the ultimate goal of love (1 Tim. 1:5). I choose to obey the two greatest commandments, to love the Lord my God with all my heart, soul, and mind, and to love my neighbor as myself (Matt 22:37-39).

I believe that Jesus has all authority in heaven and on earth (Matt 28:18) and that He is the head over all rule and authority (Col. 2:10). I believe that Satan and his demons are subject to me in Christ since I am a member of Christ's body (Eph. 1:19-23). Therefore, I obey the command to submit to God and to resist the devil (Jas. 4:7), and I command Satan in the name of Christ to leave my presence.

Maintaining Your Freedom

Congratulations to you and praise to God our Father and His Son Jesus Christ Who has set you free from the body of sin and death and who has put to death the deeds of the flesh. Just as you were saved by a Savior and not your behavior, (not anything that you did so you cannot boast- Ephesians 2:8-9), you have also been set free by a Savior. Since your freedom and salvation was something you allowed Jesus to do, you must also allow Him to maintain your freedom. Stay close to Him. Turn from sin. Seek accountability and fellowship with other like-minded believers.

- **Praise God constantly- It keeps you from becoming hard hearted and futile in your thinking.**
- **Give God thanks constantly for all things (even adversity).**
- **Confess your sins to one another- you will be cleansed and healed.**
- **Forgive others constantly- this prevents the enemy from gaining a foothold.**
- **Believe the truth- study God's word. The truth will set you free.**
- **Resist the devil- he must flee from you.**
- **Love always- this is the greatest commandment and he who does has fulfilled the Law.**

The same things you did to allow God to set you free are the same things that will allow Him to maintain your freedom. One encounter with God is never enough. Like a relationship with a friend, seek His presence constantly. Communication is necessary and vital for any relationship. Abide with Him daily. Don't ask Him to "go with you". Ask Him "Can I go with you, Daddy?" He will let you and show you everything He is doing.

Jesus told Peter and the disciples that they were clean but could have no part with Him unless they allowed Him to wash their feet (John 13:8-10). We are all one with the Holy Spirit and are clean, but we all need our feet washed time and time again as we walk in the world. One bath will not last a lifetime. One meal will not keep us from getting hungry. Jesus is real food (John 6:55). Jesus washes feet. Eat and bathe often. Abide in His Presence (John 15).

The Freedom Fighter's Creed

As a Freedom Fighter, I commit to work out my salvation with fear and trembling for it is the Holy Spirit Who lives within me and He not only works but changes my will to conform to what He desires (Phil 2:12-13). I choose to submit to God, resist the devil (James 4:7) and join Him in what He is doing and forsake my selfish desires and take up the desires of God (John 5:19-20). He is the vine. I am a branch. I commit to allow His life to flow through mine. Apart from Him I can do nothing (John 15:5).

I acknowledge that I am saved by a Savior, not my behavior. It is Jesus Christ who saves me and nothing else. I am saved by faith in what Jesus has done and not by what I do. He has created me anew to do good works which He has prepared for me in advance to do (Ephesians 2:8-10) but these works do not save me. I do the work because I am saved. I don't save myself by doing the works. I am like a tree. Because God has saved me and made me new, I bear good fruit. The fruit is proof of my faith. The fruit does not establish my faith. (James 2:17)

I acknowledge that while I am still capable of sin, sin is no longer a problem for me because Jesus has paid for every sin I have done or will ever do (1 John 2:2). Through my baptism into Him, I have been separated from sin (Romans 6:4, 6, 11). Though sin can still be found in my mortal body (Romans 7:17-21), it is not me doing it because I have become a new creation in Christ (2 Cor. 5:17).

I acknowledge that while sin is not a problem for me, it is a symptom of a problem. The problem is strongholds in my heart (Matthew 15:19). I do what I do because I believe what I believe, not what I say I believe. It is truth that will set me free (John 8:32). The enemy blinds my mind (2 Corinthians 4:4) but the weapons I fight with are not carnal but Truth capable of destroying every stronghold, vain thought, lofty imagination, or lie that sets itself up against God (2 Cor. 10:4). Satan is a liar (John 8:44), Jesus is the Truth (John 14:6). The truth will set me free (John 8:32).

I acknowledge that it is a sin for me to try harder to live righteously because my fleshly effort will only produce more flesh (John 3:6). Religious flesh is repulsive to God because no flesh can please God (Romans 8:8). When I try to live righteously by my own strength, the Holy Spirit within me is of no benefit to me (Galatians 5:2).

I acknowledge that the key to freedom, fellowship with the Holy Spirit, and a sin free life is to let God clean the inside (Matt 23:25-28), specifically my heart (Matthew 15:19). I acknowledge that God does not want more commitment on my part. He wants more submission (James 4:5-10). He jealously desires the spirit he has placed within me. He is opposed to the proud and detests pharisaic behavior. He desires to spend time with me and tell me how much He loves me and how valuable I am. This is freedom and it causes me to quit striving for things of the world, specifically security, acceptance and significance.

I acknowledge that I have an obligation to put to death those things in my heart that results in sin and that this death of sin in my heart is brought about by the Spirit of Jesus Christ (Romans 8:12-13, Romans 7:24-25).

I acknowledge that when I abide in the words of Jesus, I will know the truth and the truth will set me free. I acknowledge that I have an obligation to do what the word of Jesus tells me to-

1. Confess my sins so that I can be cleansed (1 John 1:9)
2. Forgive the sins of others against me (Matthew 6:15, 18:34, 35)

3. Meditate on the truth of Who God is and what He has done for me and who I am in Christ according to the New Covenant (John 8:32)
4. Resist the devil (James 4:7)
5. Love others unconditionally (Romans 13:9-10)
6. Give thanks for all things (Romans 1:21, Eph. 5:20)
7. Praise and honor God (Heb 13:15, Romans 1:21)

I acknowledge that to whom much is given, much is required (Luke 12:48). As God reveals Truth to me and as I am freed, I am to share my freedom with others. I am not to put a basket over my freedom but I am to let the light of freedom shine so others that walk in darkness may see (Matthew 4:16, 5:15)

I acknowledge that myself and others are set free by Jesus Christ (Luke 4:16-19), not by me. He does the work- I am his friend, not His slave. I did not choose Him. He has chosen me and appointed me to be His friend. (John 15:15-16).

I acknowledge that while I am the friend of Christ and not the slave, I take on the attitude of a slave (Phil 2:5-11). I choose to love and serve others. My goal is to serve others and be set free as I serve others, providing not only encouragement and freedom but food, clothes and shelter for the needy (Isaiah 58:6-14). My pursuit will be freedom, for others as well as myself and my mode of operation will be to do all things without being known or making a name for myself (Matthew 6:1). I resist the yeast of the Pharisees. My reward is not on earth but in heaven where moths and rust does not destroy nor thieves steal (Matthew 6:19-20).

I acknowledge that all I am and every hope to be, I owe to Christ my Savior and it is out of love that I serve Him and others, not because I have to serve or need to prove something. My service is a joy, not a burden. Whenever I feel burdened by serving others, it is because I am doing what I want to do, on my own and I am not joining Him in what He is doing, because His burden is light and His yoke is easy (Matthew 11:30). I know that I entering the kingdom of God will be through many tribulations (Acts 14: 22) and I know that in this world I will have tribulation but in Jesus I will always find peace (John 16:33).

I acknowledge that the goal of what my Lord has told me to do is love from a pure heart, a good conscience, and a sincere faith (1 Timothy 1:5). All the commandments are based on love and the greatest commandment is to love God and my fellow man (Matthew 22:37-40). When I love others, I have fulfilled all of the commandments of God (Romans 13:8). Of the three, faith, hope and love, love is the greatest (1 Cor.. 13:13). It is because of my love that the world will know that I am Christ's disciple (John 13:35). Love is having a genuine concern and active concern for another's welfare. The opposite of love is selfishness and selfishness is the source of all quarrels and conflicts (James 4:1-3) Therefore I hereby dedicate the rest of my life to serve others and genuinely care for the welfare of others as Jesus Christ lives His life in me.