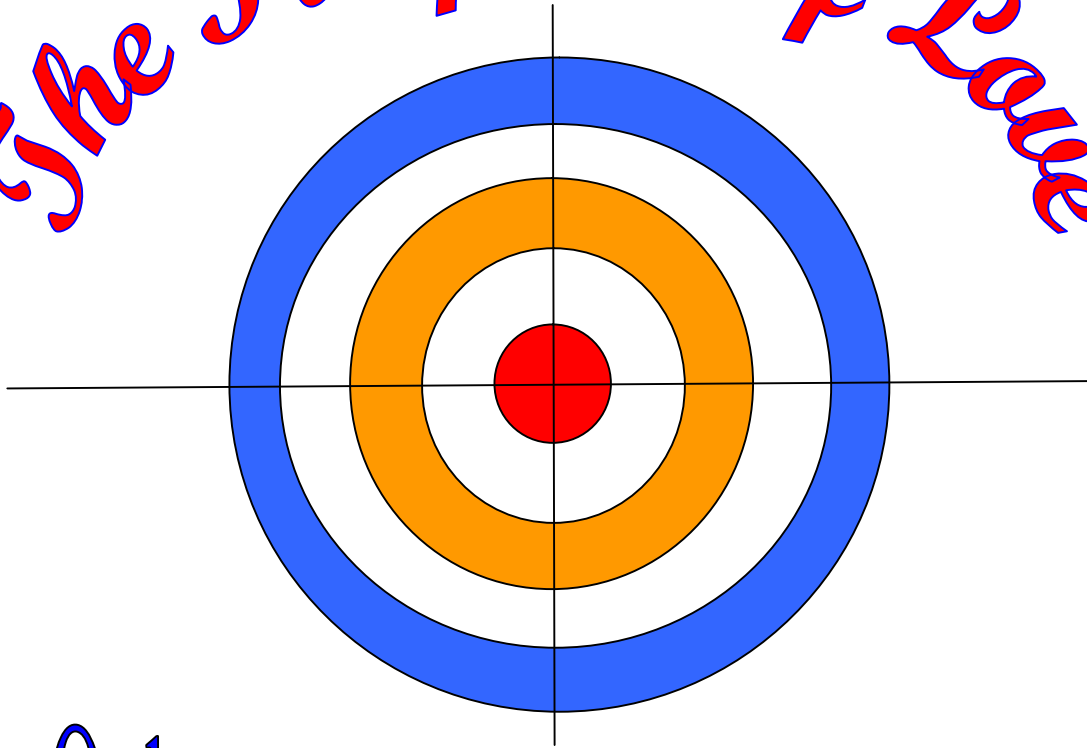


The Purpose of Love



...Only a few things are necessary...

...Really only one...

Luke 10:42

A Study Guide & Workbook for Christians
A Study Guide & Workbook for Christians

Wayne J. Ruschel

The Purpose of Love

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Special Edition

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Acknowledgments

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Welcome Page

Important Information:

Before proceeding, it must be known that the format of this study depends on the indwelling of the Holy Spirit in the life of a Christian who has made Jesus Lord and Savior of life. Without the indwelling of the Holy Spirit the Bible says the things of God are foolishness. With the indwelling of the Holy Spirit, we can “hear his voice” Hence, the format of this study will “exercise our ears” as we seek to hear his voice to answer questions that are provided.

Someone once said “The Main Thing is to keep the main thing the main thing”. This study guide was designed to help the Christian see that the "Main Thing" in the Christian life is love. For a non-Christian, the main thing is to become a Christian; not to love. Once a Christian, the main thing can truly become love.

To become a Christian, it is necessary to realize that man's natural desires are contrary to God's desires for us. The Bible says these natural desires cause a separation between God and man. The consequence of this separation is physical and spiritual death. To become a Christian, one must come to believe that the sacrificial death of Jesus on the cross was an offering to God on man's behalf. One must then understand that belief in this offering takes away the separation between an individual and God. For more information on becoming a Christian, see Appendix 1 before going on.

Illumination

Love sets Christianity apart from all other belief systems. The Bible says we love God because he first loved us. As a result, before we can love God (to the degree that he wants) we must understand fully what he has done “in space and time” to demonstrate his love for us. The Bible says God demonstrated his love for us when he sent his only son to die for us. The more we understand his sacrifice and love for us, the more we will love him and love to do his will. This love will take us where man alone could never go!

If you have a question about the above or this study guide, send me an email at wayne@thepurposeoflove.net

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PREFACE

I had been interested in the subject of spiritual growth for over a decade having been in a disciple making ministry for much of that time. As I was reading through the gospels one day, I came to the following passage:

Hearing that Jesus had silenced the Sadducees, the Pharisees got together. One of them, an expert in the law, tested him with this question: "Teacher, which is the greatest commandment in the Law?" Jesus replied: "'Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.' This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments." NIV

As I read the last part of the passage the following words got my attention: "All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments". The words immediately begged the question, how could this be? How could the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments? Finding a reason for this phenomenon became a pursuit of my heart and involved a study of the topic that would go on for a number of years. Many things that I found are in this study. As you enter into this study my prayer for you is that you would "know the love of Christ which surpasses knowledge that you may be filled up to all the fullness of God."

Ways to maximize the use of this material

Get the most out of this material by using it as a Workbook. Print out a copy and write down the thoughts God gives you in the space provided. This will ensure important thoughts stay with you and do not get lost or fade away with time.

1. Use it as a devotional

"Christian Meditation" has been described as "prayerful consideration with a view toward application". Spending extended periods of time meditating on the verses that are provided will reveal truth that a casual glance will miss. Looking for answers to the "Why" and "How" questions will bring discovery and will also stimulate application. Repeated passes through the material in this way could be life changing. The time I have spent assembling and meditating on all this material has changed my actions in life and my reactions to life.

2. Use it as the main topic or sub topic of a retreat.

Break a large group up so that individuals spend time filling in the blanks of the study guide. Suggest a quiet place with sufficient time to get God's clear direction. The verses and diagrams that are presented take time to sink in but they will be transforming the more we think about them! Reassemble the individuals into smaller discussion groups to compare answers and come up with a group consensus.

3. Use it as a topical study for a Sunday school class. Give the class sufficient time to write down their answers to a group of questions. Then have people share the answers they have written down. Group discussion will reveal more truths that an individual may miss.

4. Use it to see the "Main Thing" in an outreach or disciple making ministry. Because of Jesus, Christians have many real "reasons" to love God. As we embrace and internalize these reasons, our love for God and love for others will grow and our actions in life and reactions to life will become more Christ-like. As you will find out, loving others is a required attribute in all believers. Unless we have a reason to make it a priority, we will get distracted and neglect it. This study will reinforce the need for a change of heart in this area. Christian love is the motivating force that sets Christianity apart from all other religions.

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Part 1

“The Problem”

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Section 1

“The Fall of Man and the Heart”

Information

Gen 3:17-19,23

To Adam he said, "Because you listened to your wife and ate from the tree about which I commanded you, 'You must not eat of it,'

"Cursed is the ground because of you; through painful toil you will eat of it all the days of your life. It will produce thorns and thistles for you, and you will eat the plants of the field. By the sweat of your brow you will eat your food until you return to the ground, since from it you were taken; for dust you are and to dust you will return."So the Lord God banished him from the Garden of Eden to work the ground from which he had been taken. NIV

Observation

What was the consequence of Adam's sin?

What happened to the ground?

God told Adam about two things that would accompany eating. What are they?

What would the ground produce naturally after the curse?

What task was assigned to Adam?

What would any farmer do to "work the ground" if he had to start with the ground that Adam was given?

Illumination (the ground)

Matt 13:18-23 "Hear then the parable of the sower. "When anyone hears the word of the kingdom, and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what has been sown in his heart. This is the one on whom seed was sown beside the road. "And the one on whom seed was sown on the rocky places, this is the man who hears the word, and immediately receives it with joy; yet he has no firm root in himself, but is only temporary, and when affliction or persecution arises because of the word, immediately he falls away. "And the one on whom seed was sown among the thorns, this is the man who hears the word, and the worry of the world, and the deceitfulness of riches choke the word, and it becomes unfruitful. "And the one on whom seed was sown on the good soil, this is the man who hears the word and understands it; who indeed bears fruit, and brings forth, some a hundredfold, some sixty, and some thirty." (NAS)

What did Jesus say the ground was in the parable of the sower?

Jesus gives three examples of bad soil and one example of good soil. Three different results are given for good soil (hundredfold, sixty, thirty). Can there be more than three good results?

Why?

Luke 6:43-45 "For there is no good tree which produces bad fruit; nor, on the other hand, a bad tree which produces good fruit. "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. "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)

Where does Jesus say good comes from?

Application (the ground)

Ezek 11:19-20 "And I shall give them one heart, and shall put a new spirit within them. And I shall take the heart of stone out of their flesh and give them a heart of flesh, that they may walk in My statutes and keep My ordinances, and do them. Then they will be My people, and I shall be their God. (NAS)

What does God want to do to man's heart?

1 Cor 3:6-15 "I planted, Apollos watered, but God was causing the growth. So then neither the one who plants nor the one who waters is anything, but God who causes the growth. Now he who plants and he who waters are one; but each will receive his own reward according to his own labor. For we are God's fellow workers; you are God's field, God's building. According to the grace of God which was given to me, as a wise master builder I laid a foundation, and another is building upon it. But let each man be careful how he builds upon it. For no man can lay a foundation other than the one which is laid, which is Jesus Christ. Now if any man builds upon the foundation with gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, straw, each man's work will become evident; for the day will show it, because it is to be revealed with fire; and the fire itself will test the quality of each man's work. If any man's work which he has built upon it remains, he shall receive a reward. If any man's work is burned up, he shall suffer loss; but he himself shall be saved, yet so as through fire." (NAS)

How does Paul associate his life with the ground?

What part did Paul and Apollos play in God's plan to change the heart?

Can the heart of one who plants and one who sows affect his ability to be fruitful?

How? _____

Illumination (eating)

The following New Testament verses use the word food (or meat) to describe something spiritual. What is this food?

John 4:34 Jesus said to them, "My food is to do the will of Him who sent Me, and to accomplish His work. (NAS)

John 6:27 "Do not work for the food which perishes, but for the food which endures to eternal life, which the Son of Man shall give to you, for on Him the Father, {even} God, has set His seal." (NAS)

John 6:55-58 "For My flesh is true food, and My blood is true drink. "He who eats My flesh and drinks My blood abides in Me, and I in him. "As the living Father sent Me, and I live because of the Father, so he who eats Me, he also shall live because of Me. "This is the bread which came down out of heaven; not as the fathers ate, and died, he who eats this bread shall live forever." (NAS)

1 Cor 3:2-3 I gave you milk to drink, not solid food; for you were not yet able to receive it. Indeed, even now you are not yet able, for you are still fleshly. For since there is jealousy and strife among you, are you not fleshly, and are you not walking like mere men? (NAS)

1 Cor 10:1-3 For I do not want you to be unaware, brethren, that our fathers were all under the cloud, and all passed through the sea; and all were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea; and all ate the same spiritual food; (NAS)

Heb 5:12-14 For though by this time you ought to be teachers, you have need again for someone to teach you the elementary principles of the oracles of God, and you have come to need milk and not solid food. For everyone who partakes only of milk is not accustomed to the word of righteousness, for he is a babe. But solid food is for the mature, who because of practice have their senses trained to discern good and evil.(NAS)

1 Tim 4:7-8 Have nothing to do with godless myths and old wives' tales; rather, train yourself to be godly. For physical training is of some value, but godliness has value for all things, holding promise for both the present life and the life to come. (NIV)

John 4:34: Jesus said his food (or meat) was to do the will of God.

If physical food causes physical nourishment, can doing God's will cause spiritual nourishment? _____

Why? _____

John 6:27: Jesus said the food (or meat) that matters endure to eternal life.

Does doing God's will endure to eternal life? _____

How? _____

John 6:55-58: Jesus said his flesh is food and the one who eats this food shall live because of him. **Could eating his flesh be related to following his example and essentially doing God's will?** _____

1 Cor 3:2-3: Paul said the Corinthians could not eat "solid food". (or meat). He also calls them fleshly and associates this with character flaws of jealousy and strife.

Was the solid food they could not eat the task of doing God's will? _____

1 Cor 10:1-3 here Paul reminds the Corinthians that their fathers (Jews who left Egypt) ate the same spiritual food. Moses describes this food in Deut 8:3 saying "And He humbled you and let you be hungry, and fed you with manna which you did not know, nor did your fathers know, that He might make you understand that man does not live by bread alone, but man lives by everything that proceeds out of the mouth of the LORD. " In Matt 4:4, Jesus quotes this exact verse to Satan when Satan ask Jesus to turn stones into bread that he may eat. Could Paul be reminding the Jews at Corinth that God's intent for Jews was to live by "everything that proceeds out of the mouth of the LORD"?

Can this be doing God's will? _____

Heb 5:12-14 the writer of the book of Hebrews says the Hebrews are not accustomed to the "word of righteousness". He goes on to say "solid food (or meat) is for the mature who because of practice have their senses trained to discern good and evil". (Also look what Paul says about "training" in 1 Tim:7-8 above.)

Could solid food here be doing God's will? _____

How could doing God's will repeatedly train our senses to discern good from evil?

Application (eating)

Gen 3:17-19,23

To Adam he said, "Because you listened to your wife and ate from the tree about which I commanded you, 'You must not eat of it,'

"Cursed is the ground because of you; through painful toil you will eat of it all the days of your life. It will produce thorns and thistles for you, and you will eat the plants of the field. By the sweat of your brow you will eat your food until you return to the ground, since from it you were taken; for dust you are and to dust you will return."So the Lord God banished him from the Garden of Eden to work the ground from which he had been taken. NIV

God told Adam “painful toil” and “sweat of your brow” would accompany eating after the ground was cursed. How would the cursed ground affect his ability to produce good fruit?

Gal 5:16-17 But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not carry out the desire of the flesh. For the flesh sets its desire against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh; for these are in opposition to one another, so that you may not do the things that you please. (NAS)

What must man do to overcome this cursed condition so that he can bear good fruit?

What must happen to the heart?

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Section 2

“God’s Plan for Man’s Heart”

Information:

Gen 17:9-14 Then God said to Abraham, "As for you, you must keep my covenant, you and your descendants after you for the generations to come. This is my covenant with you and your descendants after you, the covenant you are to keep: Every male among you shall be circumcised. You are to undergo circumcision, and it will be the sign of the covenant between me and you. For the generations to come every male among you who is eight days old must be circumcised, including those born in your household or bought with money from a foreigner — those who are not your offspring. Whether born in your household or bought with your money, they must be circumcised. My covenant in your flesh is to be an everlasting covenant. Any uncircumcised male, who has not been circumcised in the flesh, will be cut off from his people; he has broken my covenant." NIV

Observation:

What part was Abraham to play in this Covenant? _____

What about Abraham's descendants? _____

What happened if a descendent was not circumcised?

See any loophole that would allow a descendent to not be circumcised? _____

Illumination:

Deut 10:11-16 "Then the LORD said to me, 'Arise, proceed on your journey ahead of the people, that they may go in and possess the land which I swore to their fathers to give them.' "And now, Israel, what does the LORD your God require from you, but to fear the LORD your God, to walk in all His ways and love Him, and to serve the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul, and to keep the LORD'S commandments and His statutes which I am commanding you today for your good? "Behold, to the LORD your God belong heaven and the highest heavens, the earth and all that is in it. "Yet on your fathers did the LORD set His affection to love them, and He chose their descendants after them, even you above all peoples, as it is this day. "Circumcise then your heart, and stiffen your neck no more. (NAS)

What part of man did God want man to circumcise?

Deut 30:6 "Moreover the LORD your God will circumcise your heart and the heart of your descendants, to love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul, in order that you may live. (NAS)

What part of man did God say he was going to circumcise?

How can God and man both be involved in circumcision?

Jer 4:1-4 "If you will return, O Israel," declares the LORD, "Then you should return to Me. And if you will put away your detested things from My presence, and will not waver, And you will swear, 'As the LORD lives,' in truth, in justice, and in righteousness; then the nations will bless themselves in Him, and in Him they will glory." For thus says the LORD to the men of Judah and to Jerusalem, "Break up your fallow ground, and do not sow among thorns." "Circumcise yourselves to the LORD and remove the foreskins of your heart, men of Judah and inhabitants of Jerusalem, lest My wrath go forth like fire and burn with none to quench it, because of the evil of your deeds." (NAS)

What does God say about the ground just before he repeats his demand for heart circumcision?

Exod 23:10-11 "And you shall sow your land for six years and gather in its yield, but on the seventh year you shall let it rest and lie fallow, so that the needy of your people may eat; and whatever they leave the beast of the field may eat. You are to do the same with your vineyard and your olive grove. (NAS)

What is fallow ground?

Hosea 10:12 Sow with a view to righteousness, reap in accordance with kindness; break up your fallow ground, for it is time to seek the LORD until He comes to rain righteousness on you. (NAS)

Here God is associating fallow ground with a number of things that are spiritual. What are they?

Do you see any connection to the heart? If so, what is it?

Rom 2:28-29 For he is not a Jew who is one outwardly; neither is circumcision that which is outward in the flesh. But he is a Jew who is one inwardly; and circumcision is that which is of the heart, by the Spirit, not by the letter; and his praise is not from men, but from God. (NAS)

What does this reveal about God's definition of circumcision?

Who praises those who get circumcised?

Why? _____

Phil 3:3 For it is we who are the circumcision, we who worship by the Spirit of God, who glory in Christ Jesus, and who put no confidence in the flesh— NIV

What are the characteristics of someone who is circumcised?

Application:

Eph 4:22-23 You were taught, with regard to your former way of life, to put off your old self, which is being corrupted by its deceitful desires; to be made new in the attitude of your minds; NIV

Where does the "old self" reside? _____

What part of us is to be cut off? _____

Is this verse describing man's part in true circumcision? _____ **If so, how?** _____

Gal 2:20 "I have been crucified with Christ; and it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the {life} which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me, and delivered Himself up for me. (NAS)

What happened to "Paul's life" and "Paul's heart" when he put off the "old self"?

Does God expect this from us? _____ **Why?** _____

Matt 10:38 "And he who does not take his cross and follow after Me is not worthy of Me. (NAS)
Mark 8:34-35 And He summoned the multitude with His disciples, and said to them, "If anyone wishes to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me. "For whoever wishes to save his life shall lose it; but whoever loses his life for My sake and the gospel's shall save it.(NAS)
Luke 9:23 And He was saying to them all, "If anyone wishes to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow Me. (NAS)

What does Jesus expect?

Who does he expect this from?

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Section 3

“The Sacrifice of God”

Gen 3:14-24 And the LORD God said to the serpent, "Because you have done this, cursed are you more than all cattle, and more than every beast of the field; On your belly shall you go, and dust shall you eat all the days of your life; And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your seed and her seed; He shall bruise you on the head, and you shall bruise him on the heel." To the woman He said, "I will greatly multiply Your pain in childbirth, in pain you shall bring forth children; yet your desire shall be for your husband, and he shall rule over you." NAS

Besides man, four others would be affected by the fall of man. Who are they?

How would man's fall directly affect God himself?

Job 1:6-12 Now there was a day when the sons of God came to present themselves before the LORD, and Satan also came among them. And the LORD said to Satan, "From where do you come?" Then Satan answered the LORD and said, "From roaming about on the earth and walking around on it." 8And the LORD said to Satan, "Have you considered My servant Job? For there is no one like him on the earth, a blameless and upright man, fearing God and turning away from evil." Then Satan answered the LORD, "Does Job fear God for nothing?" Hast Thou not made a hedge about him and his house and all that he has, on every side? Thou hast blessed the work of his hands, and his possessions have increased in the land. "But put forth Thy hand now and touch all that he has; he will surely curse Thee to Thy face." Then the LORD said to Satan, "Behold, all that he has is in your power, only do not put forth your hand on him." So Satan departed from the presence of the LORD. (NAS)

Job 2:1-6 Again there was a day when the sons of God came to present themselves before the LORD, and Satan also came among them to present himself before the LORD. And the LORD said to Satan, "Where have you come from?" Then Satan answered the LORD and said, "From roaming about on the earth, and walking around on it." And the LORD said to Satan, "Have you considered My servant Job? For there is no one like him on the earth, a blameless and upright man fearing God and turning away from evil. And he still holds fast his integrity, although you incited Me against him, to ruin him without cause." And Satan answered the LORD and said, "Skin for skin! Yes, all that a man has he will give for his life. "However, put forth Thy hand, now, and touch his bone and his flesh; he will curse Thee to Thy face." So the LORD said to Satan, "Behold, he is in your power, only spare his life." (NAS)

What did God recognize about Job that made him stand out "like no one on earth"?

Why would God bring that to Satan's attention?

What argument did Satan make for Job's standout performance?

What did God give to Satan at the end of this conversation?

Why did God do this?

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The Sacrifice of God

What implication could this have for anyone who was “blameless and upright, fearing God and turning away from evil”?

What did God agree to?

Why did he agree to it?

What will Job do to Satan’s argument?

Seeing the argument Satan brought against Job, what argument might Satan bring to God regarding Jesus while Jesus was a man?

John 20:28-29 Thomas answered and said to Him, "My Lord and my God!" Jesus said to him, "Because you have seen Me, have you believed? Blessed are they who did not see, and yet believed." (NAS)

What title did Jesus accept from one of his disciples? _____

Heb 1:1-3

In many separate revelations [each of which set forth a portion of the Truth] and in different ways God spoke of old to [our] forefathers in and by the prophets, [But] in the last of these days He has spoken to us in [the person of a] Son, Whom He appointed Heir and lawful Owner of all things, also by and through Whom He created the worlds and the reaches of space and the ages of time [He made, produced, built, operated, and arranged them in order]. He is the sole expression of the glory of God [the Light-being, the out-raying or radiance of the divine], and He is the perfect imprint and very image of [God's] nature, upholding and maintaining and guiding and propelling the universe by His mighty word of power. When He had by offering Himself accomplished our cleansing of sins and riddance of guilt, He sat down at the right hand of the divine Majesty on high, AMP

The above passage describes who Jesus is, what his inheritance is, his part in creation, what he expresses, what he is the image of, his relationship to the universe and his current position after his resurrection. To understand this better, fill in the following blanks:

He is _____. He has inherited _____. Creation was through _____

He is the only expression of _____ His mighty word of power _____
_____, _____, and _____ the universe. After he
offered himself he _____.

Phil 2:5-6 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)

Jesus existed in two forms, _____ and _____.

What limitations did Jesus have to accept when he emptied himself and took on the form of a man? _____

Isa 53:1-2 Who has believed our message? And to whom has the arm of the LORD been revealed? For He grew up before Him like a tender shoot, and like a root out of parched ground; He has no stately form or majesty that we should look upon Him, nor appearance that we should be attracted to Him. (NAS)

What was the condition of the ground that was around Jesus as he grew up?

How might this passage explain the adversity he experienced as he grew up?

Luke 2:1-7 Now it came about in those days that a decree went out from Caesar Augustus, that a census be taken of all the inhabited earth. This was the first census taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. And all were proceeding to register for the census, everyone to his own city. And Joseph also went up from Galilee, from the city of Nazareth, to Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and family of David, in order to register, along with Mary, who was engaged to him, and was with child. And it came about that while they were there, the days were completed for her to give birth. And she gave birth to her first-born son; and she wrapped Him in cloths, and laid Him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn. (NAS)

What two things in the account of his birth show the extent of him emptying himself?

_____ and _____ because _____

Luke 2:21-24 And when eight days were completed before His circumcision, His name was then called Jesus, the name given by the angel before He was conceived in the womb. And when the days for their purification according to the law of Moses were completed, they brought Him up to Jerusalem to present Him to the Lord (as it is written in the Law of the Lord, "Every first-born male that opens the womb shall be called holy to the Lord"), and to offer a sacrifice according to what was said in the Law of the Lord, "A pair of turtledoves, or two young pigeons." (NAS)

Lev 12:7-8 "Then he shall offer it before the LORD and make atonement for her; and she shall be cleansed from the flow of her blood. This is the law for her who bears a child, whether a male or a female. But if she cannot afford a lamb, then she shall take two turtledoves or two young pigeons, the one for a burnt offering and the other for a sin offering; and the priest shall make atonement for her, and she shall be clean. '" (NAS)

What detail in his circumcision reveals another limitation Jesus would have at an early age?

Luke 2:30-47 And His parents used to go to Jerusalem every year at the Feast of the Passover. And when He became twelve, they went up there according to the custom of the Feast; and as they were returning, after spending the full number of days, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem. And His parents were unaware of it, but supposed Him to be in the caravan, and went a day's journey; and they began looking for Him among their relatives and acquaintances. And when they did not find Him, they returned to Jerusalem, looking for Him. And it came about that after three days they found Him in the temple, sitting in the midst of the teachers, both listening to them, and asking them questions. And all who heard Him were amazed at His understanding and His answers. (NAS)

How did Jesus stand out early in his childhood?

Luke 2: 51-52 And He went down with them, and came to Nazareth; and He continued in subjection to them; and His mother treasured all these things in her heart. And Jesus kept increasing in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and men. (NAS)

Here it says Jesus kept increasing in three things as he grew up. What were they?

Luke 22:39-46 And He came out and proceeded as was His custom to the Mount of Olives; and the disciples also followed Him. And when He arrived at the place, He said to them, "Pray that you may not enter into temptation." And He withdrew from them about a stone's throw, and He knelt down and began to pray, saying, "Father, if Thou art willing, remove this cup from Me; yet not My will, but Thine be done." Now an angel from heaven appeared to Him, strengthening Him. And being in agony He was praying very fervently; and His sweat became like drops of blood, falling down upon the ground. And when He rose from prayer, He came to the disciples and found them sleeping from sorrow, and said to them, "Why are you sleeping? Rise and pray that you may not enter into temptation."(NAS)

Jesus says "yet not My will, but Thine be done". How many wills are present here? _____

Are they the same or different? _____

What is the struggle going on inside of Jesus? _____

Why is Jesus revealing this struggle to his disciples? _____

Just before and just after identifying this struggle, Jesus says to his disciples "pray that you may not enter into temptation". How is Jesus being an example to them here?

What is the purpose of this example?

Heb 2:17-18 Therefore, He had to be made like His brethren in all things, that He might become a merciful and faithful high priest in things pertaining to God, to make propitiation for the sins of the people. For since He Himself was tempted in that which He has suffered, He is able to come to the aid of those who are tempted. (NAS)

Heb 4:15

For we do not have a high priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but One who has been tempted in all things as {we are, yet} without sin. (NAS)

In how many ways was Jesus like his brethren? _____

Why is it important for us to know that he overcame temptation in this emptied state?

Phil 2:5-6 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.(NAS)

Paul tells us to have the same attitude which was also in Christ Jesus. How could “knowing what it meant to Him to be emptied” help us have “his attitude”?

(Hint: It would help us follow his example)

Put other notes and/or cross references here for your use later:

The Crucifixion

Ps 22:1-22	Matt 27:35-46
<p>MY GOD, my God, why have You forsaken me? Why are You so far from helping me, and from the words of my groaning? [Matt 27:46.] O my God, I cry in the daytime, but You answer not; and by night I am not silent or find no rest. But You are holy, O You Who dwell in [the holy place where] the praises of Israel [are offered]. Our fathers trusted in You; they trusted (leaned on, relied on You, and were confident) and You delivered them. They cried to You and were delivered; they trusted in, leaned on, and confidently relied on You, and were not ashamed or confounded or disappointed. But I am a worm, and no man; I am the scorn of men, and despised by the people. [Matt 27:39-44.] All who see me laugh at me and mock me; they shoot out the lip, they shake the head, saying, [Matt 27:43.] He trusted and rolled himself on the Lord, that He would deliver him. Let Him deliver him, seeing that He delights in him! [Matt 27:39,43; Mark 15:29,30; Luke 23:35.] Yet You are He Who took me out of the womb; You made me hope and trust when I was on my mother's breasts. I was cast upon You from my very birth; from my mother's womb You have been my God. Be not far from me, for trouble is near and there is none to help. Many [foes like] bulls have surrounded me; strong bulls of Bashan have hedged me in. [Ezek 39:18.] Against me they opened their mouths wide, like a ravening and roaring lion. I am poured out like water, and all my bones are out of joint. My heart is like wax; it is softened [with anguish] and melted down within me. My strength is dried up like a fragment of clay pottery; [with thirst] my tongue cleaves to my jaws; and You have brought me into the dust of death. [John 19:28.] For [like a pack of] dogs they have encompassed me; a company of evildoers has encircled me, they pierced my hands and my feet. [Isa 53:7; John 19:37.] I can count all my bones; [the evildoers] gaze at me. [Luke 23:27,35.] They part my clothing among them and cast lots for my raiment (a long, shirt like garment, a seamless under tunic). [John 19:23,24.] But be not far from me, O Lord; O my Help, hasten to aid me! Deliver my life from the sword, my dear life [my only one] from the power of the dog [the agent of execution]. Save me from the lion's mouth; for You have answered me [kindly] from the horns of the wild oxen. I will declare Your name to my brethren; in the midst of the congregation will I praise You. [John 20:17; Rom 8:29; Heb 2:12.] AMP</p>	<p>And when they had crucified Him, they divided and distributed His garments [among them] by casting lots so that the prophet's saying was fulfilled, They parted My garments among them and over My apparel they cast lots. [Ps 22:18.] Then they sat down there and kept watch over Him. And over His head they put the accusation against Him (the cause of His death), which read, This is Jesus, the King of the Jews. At the same time two robbers were crucified with Him, one on the right hand and one on the left. And those who passed by spoke reproachfully and abusively and jeered at Him, wagging their heads, [Ps 22:7,8; 109:25.] And they said, You Who would tear down the sanctuary of the temple and rebuild it in three days, rescue Yourself from death. If You are the Son of God, come down from the cross. In the same way the chief priests, with the scribes and elders, made sport of Him, saying, He rescued others from death; Himself He cannot rescue from death. He is the King of Israel? Let Him come down from the cross now, and we will believe in and acknowledge and cleave to Him. He trusts in God; let God deliver Him now if He cares for Him and will have Him, for He said, I am the Son of God. And the robbers who were crucified with Him also abused and reproached and made sport of Him in the same way. Now from the sixth hour (noon) there was darkness over all the land until the ninth hour (three o'clock). And about the ninth hour (three o'clock) Jesus cried with a loud voice, Eli, Eli, lama sabachthani? — that is, My God, My God, why have You abandoned Me [leaving Me helpless, forsaking and failing Me in My need]? [Ps 22:1.] AMP</p>

Note here things that are important to you about the sacrifice of God:

The Purpose of Love

Section 4

“The Heart of Our Problem”

Various references to vegetation can be found throughout the Bible. In the first book of the Old Testament it is used to describe the consequences of man's first offence against God:

Gen 3:17-24 Then to Adam He said, "Because you have listened to the voice of your wife, and have eaten from the tree about which I commanded you, saying, 'You shall not eat from it'; cursed is the ground because of you; in toil you shall eat of it all the days of your life. "Both thorns and thistles it shall grow for you; and you shall eat the plants of the field; By the sweat of your face you shall eat bread, till you return to the ground, because from it you were taken; for you are dust, and to dust you shall return." Now the man called his wife's name Eve, because she was the mother of all the living. And the LORD God made garments of skin for Adam and his wife, and clothed them. Then the LORD God said, "Behold, the man has become like one of Us, knowing good and evil; and now, lest he stretch out his hand, and take also from the tree of life, and eat, and live forever" therefore the LORD God sent him out from the garden of Eden, to cultivate the ground from which he was taken. (NAS)

In the first book of the New Testament, Jesus describes the kingdom of God as he explains the parable of the sower.

Matt 13:18-23 "Hear then the parable of the sower. "When anyone hears the word of the kingdom, and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what has been sown in his heart. This is the one on whom seed was sown beside the road. "And the one on whom seed was sown on the rocky places, this is the man who hears the word, and immediately receives it with joy; yet he has no firm root in himself, but is only temporary, and when affliction or persecution arises because of the word, immediately he falls away. "And the one on whom seed was sown among the thorns, this is the man who hears the word, and the worry of the world, and the deceitfulness of riches choke the word, and it becomes unfruitful. "And the one on whom seed was sown on the good soil, this is the man who hears the word and understands it; who indeed bears fruit, and brings forth, some a hundredfold, some sixty, and some thirty." (NAS)

Here it is clear that the "ground" is the "heart" of a man and the different conditions of the soil represent different conditions of the heart. This can also be seen in the following passage:

Heb 6:4-8 It is impossible for those who have once been enlightened, who have tasted the heavenly gift, who have shared in the Holy Spirit, who have tasted the goodness of the word of God and the powers of the coming age, if they fall away, to be brought back to repentance, because to their loss they are crucifying the Son of God all over again and subjecting him to public disgrace. Land that drinks in the rain often falling on it and that produces a crop useful to those for whom it is farmed receives the blessing of God. But land that produces thorns and thistles is worthless and is in danger of being cursed. In the end it will be burned. (NIV)

Looking back in Genesis we see what God wants the Christian to do in this cursed condition. He is to "cultivate the ground". From here it is easy to see the Christian's predicament. He is to start with bad soil (depraved heart) and have an active role in making it better. As a result, it is easy to conclude that every Christian is to have a part in the development of his own heart.

Prov 4:23

Above all else, guard your heart, for it is the wellspring of life. (NIV)

The parable of the talents:

Matt 25:1-30 "At that time the kingdom of heaven will be like ten virgins who took their lamps and went out to meet the bridegroom. Five of them were foolish and five were wise. The foolish ones took their lamps but did not take any oil with them. The wise, however, took oil in jars along with their lamps. The bridegroom was a long time in coming, and they all became drowsy and fell asleep. "At midnight the cry rang out: 'Here's the bridegroom! Come out to meet him!' "Then all the virgins woke up and trimmed their lamps. The foolish ones said to the wise, 'Give us some of your oil; our lamps are going out.' "'No,' they replied, 'there may not be enough for both us and you. Instead, go to those who sell oil and buy some for yourselves.' "But while they were on their way to buy the oil, the bridegroom arrived. The virgins who were ready went in with him to the wedding banquet. And the door was shut. "Later the others also came. 'Sir! Sir!' they said. 'Open the door for us!' "But he replied, 'I tell you the truth, I don't know you.' "Therefore keep watch, because you do not know the day or the hour. "Again, it will be like a man going on a journey, who called his servants and entrusted his property to them. To one he gave five talents of money, to another two talents, and to another one talent, each according to his ability. Then he went on his journey. The man who had received the five talents went at once and put his money to work and gained five more. So also, the one with the two talents gained two more. But the man who had received the one talent went off, dug a hole in the ground and hid his master's money. "After a long time the master of those servants returned and settled accounts with them. The man who had received the five talents brought the other five. 'Master,' he said, 'you entrusted me with five talents. See, I have gained five more.' "His master replied, 'Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master's happiness!' "The man with the two talents also came. 'Master,' he said, 'you entrusted me with two talents; see, I have gained two more.' "His master replied, 'Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master's happiness!' "Then the man who had received the one talent came. 'Master,' he said, 'I knew that you are a hard man, harvesting where you have not sown and gathering where you have not scattered seed. So I was afraid and went out and hid your talent in the ground. See, here is what belongs to you.' "His master replied, 'You wicked, lazy servant! So you knew that I harvest where I have not sown and gather where I have not scattered seed? Well then, you should have put my money on deposit with the bankers, so that when I returned I would have received it back with interest. "'Take the talent from him and give it to the one who has the ten talents. For everyone who has will be given more, and he will have an abundance. Whoever does not have, even what he has will be taken from him. And throw that worthless servant outside, into the darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.'(NIV)

Observations/Illumination:

The Purpose of Love

Section 5

“Who Changes the Heart?”

In the space provided, note your observations related to who changes the heart:

Some passages that refer to a change in the heart	Observations:
Exod 7:3 But <u>I will harden Pharaoh's heart</u> , and though I multiply my miraculous signs and wonders in Egypt, (NIV)	
Deut 10:14-16 To the LORD your God belong the heavens, even the highest heavens, the earth and everything in it. Yet the LORD set his affection on your forefathers and loved them, and he chose you, their descendants, above all the nations, as it is today. <u>Circumcise your hearts, therefore</u> , and do not be stiff-necked any longer. (NIV)	
I King 11:4 As Solomon grew old, <u>his wives turned his heart</u> after other gods, and his heart was not fully devoted to the LORD his God, as the heart of David his father had been. (NIV)	
1 Chr 22:19 Now <u>devote your heart</u> and soul to seeking the LORD your God. Begin to build the sanctuary of the LORD God, so that you may bring the ark of the covenant of the LORD and the sacred articles belonging to God into the temple that will be built for the Name of the LORD." (NIV)	
1 Chr 29:18 O LORD, God of our fathers <u>Abraham, Isaac and Israel, keep this desire in the hearts of your people forever, and keep their hearts loyal to you.</u> (NIV)	
2 Chr 12:14 He did evil because <u>he had not set his heart</u> on seeking the LORD. (NIV)	
2 Chr 19:3 There is, however, some good in you, for <u>you have</u> rid the land of the Asherah poles and have <u>set your heart on seeking God.</u> " (NIV)	
2 Chr 36:13 And he also rebelled against King Nebuchadnezzar who had made him swear {allegiance} by God. <u>But he stiffened his neck and hardened his heart</u> against turning to the LORD God of Israel. (NAS)	
Ezra 7:10 For <u>Ezra had set his heart</u> to study the law of the LORD, and to practice {it,} and to teach {His} statutes and ordinances in Israel. (NAS)	
Ps 10:17 O LORD, Thou hast heard the desire of the humble; <u>Thou wilt strengthen their heart</u> , Thou wilt incline Thine ear (NAS)	
Ps 51:10 <u>Create in me a clean heart</u> , O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me. (NAS)	

Some passages that refer to a change in the heart	Observations:
Ps 78:8 And not be like <u>their fathers</u> , a stubborn and rebellious generation, a generation <u>that did not prepare its heart</u> , and whose spirit was not faithful to God. (NAS)	
Ps 86:11 Teach me Thy way, O LORD; I will walk in Thy truth; <u>Unite my heart</u> to fear Thy name. (NAS)	
Ps 119:32-33 I shall run the way of Thy commandments, for Thou <u>wilt enlarge my heart</u> . Teach me, O LORD, the way of Thy statutes, and I shall observe it to the end. (NAS)	
Prov 2:2 Make your ear attentive to wisdom, <u>incline your heart</u> to understanding; (NAS)	
Prov 3:1 My son, do not forget my teaching, but <u>let your heart keep my commandments</u> ; (NAS)	
Prov 4:4 Then he taught me and said to me, " <u>Let your heart hold fast my words</u> ; keep my commandments and live; (NAS)	
Prov 4:23 <u>Watch over your heart</u> with all diligence, for from it {flow} the springs of life. (NAS)	
Prov 23:12 <u>Apply your heart</u> to discipline, and your ears to words of knowledge. (NAS)	
Prov 23:19 Listen, my son, and be wise, and <u>direct your heart</u> in the way. (NAS)	
Prov 27:19 As in water face {reflects} face, so the heart of man {reflects} man. (NAS)	
Prov 28:14 How blessed is the man who fears always, but he <u>who hardens his heart</u> will fall into calamity. (NAS)	
Eccl 7:7 For <u>oppression</u> makes a wise man mad, and a bribe <u>corrupts the heart</u> . (NAS)	
Jer 4:14 <u>Wash your heart</u> from evil, O Jerusalem, that you may be saved. How long will your wicked thoughts lodge within you? (NAS)	
Jer 17:5 Thus says the LORD, " <u>Cursed is the man</u> who trusts in mankind And makes flesh his strength, and <u>whose heart turns away from the LORD</u> . (NAS)	
Lam 3:41 <u>We lift up our heart</u> and hands toward God in heaven; (NAS)	
Ezek 11:19 "And <u>I shall give them one heart</u> , and shall put a new spirit within them. And <u>I shall take the heart of stone</u> out of their flesh and give them a heart of flesh, (NAS)	

Some passages that refer to a change in the heart	Observations:
Ezek 18:31 "Cast away from you all your transgressions which you have committed, and <u>make yourselves a new heart</u> and a new spirit! For why will you die, O house of Israel? (NAS)	
Dan 10:12 Then he said to me, "Do not be afraid, Daniel, for from the first day that <u>you set your heart on understanding {this}</u> and on <u>humbling yourself</u> before your God, your words were heard, and I have come in response to your words. (NAS)	
Matt 6:21 <u>for where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.</u> (NAS)	
Matt 13:15 For the heart of this people has become dull, and with their ears they scarcely hear, and they have closed their eyes lest they should see with their eyes, and hear with their ears, and <u>understand with their heart</u> and return, and I should heal them.' (NAS)	
Matt 19:8 He said to them, " <u>Because of your hardness of heart</u> , Moses permitted you to divorce your wives; but from the beginning it has not been this way. (NAS)	
Luke 6:45 " <u>The good man out of the good treasure of his heart</u> brings forth what is good; and <u>the evil {man}</u> out of the evil {treasure} brings forth what is evil; for his mouth speaks from that which fills his heart. (NAS)	
Acts 28:27 For the heart of this people has become dull, and with their ears they scarcely hear, and they have closed their eyes; lest they should see with their eyes, and hear with their ears, and <u>understand with their heart</u> and return, and I should heal them.'" (NAS)	
Rom 6:17 But thanks be to God that though you were slaves of sin, <u>you became obedient from the heart</u> to that form of teaching to which you were committed, (NAS)	
Heb 3:12 <u>Take care, brethren, lest there should be in any one of you an evil, unbelieving heart</u> , in falling away from the living God. (NAS)	
Heb 3:15 while it is said, "Today if you hear His voice, <u>do not harden your hearts</u> , as when they provoked me." (NAS)	

Conclusion:

Part 2

“The Solution”

Section 6

“Why is Love So Important?”

Most Christians would say love is important. How important should it be?
Why should it be this important?

1 Cor 13:1-13 If I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, but do not have love, I have become a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. 2 If I have the gift of prophecy, and know all mysteries and all knowledge; and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing. 3 And if I give all my possessions to feed the poor, and if I surrender my body to be burned, but do not have love, it profits me nothing. 4 Love is patient, love is kind and is not jealous; love does not brag and is not arrogant, 5 does not act unbecomingly; it does not seek its own, is not provoked, does not take into account a wrong suffered, 6 does not rejoice in unrighteousness, but rejoices with the truth; 7 bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. 8 Love never fails; but if there are gifts of prophecy, they will be done away; if there are tongues, they will cease; if there is knowledge, it will be done away. 9 For we know in part and we prophesy in part; 10 but when the perfect comes, the partial will be done away. 11 When I was a child, I used to speak like a child, think like a child, reason like a child; when I became a man, I did away with childish things. 12 For now we see in a mirror dimly, but then face to face; now I know in part, but then I will know fully just as I also have been fully known. 13 But now faith, hope, love, abide these three; but the greatest of these is love. (NAS)

What is the purpose of Love?

How does it enable us to do so many things perfectly? (Notice how “never” and “all” are used)

How could it be greater than Hope and Faith?

Matt 22:35-40 And one of them, a lawyer, asked Him a question, testing Him, "Teacher, which is the great commandment in the Law?" And He 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.' "On these two commandments depend the whole Law and the Prophets." (NAS)

What is the significance of these words? Jesus is saying the “great and foremost commandment” is to love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind. “All” is a big requirement and a big expectation.

Strong’s definition for the word “all” in this verse is:
3650 holos (hol'-os); a primary word; "whole" or "all",
i.e. complete (in extent, amount, time or degree), especially (neuter) as noun or adverb: KJV-- all, altogether, every whit, + throughout, whole.

Does Jesus really mean all? _____

What could Jesus have meant when he said “On these two commandments depend the whole Law and the Prophets”?

Prov 3:1-4 My son, do not forget my teaching, but keep my commands in your heart, for they will prolong your life many years and bring you prosperity. Let love and faithfulness never leave you; bind them around your neck, write them on the tablet of your heart. Then you will win favor and a good name in the sight of God and man. (NIV)

What part can love play in winning favor with God?

To what lengths are we to go to ensure love does not “leave us”?

Eph 3:17-19 so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith; and that you, being rooted and grounded in love, may be able to comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth and length and height and depth, and to know the love of Christ which surpasses knowledge, that you may be filled up to all the fulness of God. (NAS)

What does “being rooted and grounded in love” lead to?

What does “knowing the love of Christ” allow?

2 Cor 5:14-15 For the love of Christ controls us, having concluded this, that one died for all, therefore all died; and He died for all, that they who live should no longer live for themselves, but for Him who died and rose again on their behalf. (NAS)

What can we learn from the verses above the purpose of love?

Why does this make love important?

Luke 11:42 But woe to you Pharisees! For you pay tithe of mint and rue and every kind of garden herb, and yet disregard justice and the love of God; but these are the things you should have done without neglecting the others. (NAS)

Rev 2:4 But I have {this} against you, that you have left your first love. Remember the height from which you have fallen! Repent and do the things you did at first. If you do not repent, I will come to you and remove your lamp stand from its place. (NAS)

What warnings are associated with losing sight of the importance of love?

The “Resting Place” of Hebrews 3 & 4

I Jn 5:3 For this is the love of God, that we keep His commandments; and His commandments are not burdensome. (NAS)

Matt 11:28-30 "Come to Me, all who are weary and heavy-laden, and I will give you rest. "Take My yoke upon you, and learn from Me, for I am gentle and humble in heart; and you shall find rest for your souls. "For My yoke is easy, and My load is light." (NAS)

What connections can you see related to “the doing of God’s will” in the above verses?

Heb 3:7-19 Therefore, just as the Holy Spirit says, "Today if you hear His voice, Do not harden your hearts as when they provoked Me, as in the day of trial in the wilderness, Where your fathers tried me by testing me, and saw My works for forty years. "Therefore I was angry with this generation, and said, 'They always go astray in their heart; and they did not know My ways'; As I swore in My wrath, 'they shall not enter My rest.'" Take care, brethren, lest there should be in any one of you an evil, unbelieving heart, in falling away from the living God. But encourage one another day after day, as long as it is still called "Today," lest any one of you be hardened by the deceitfulness of sin. For we have become partakers of Christ, if we hold fast the beginning of our assurance firm until the end; while it is said, "Today if you hear His voice, do not harden your hearts, as when they provoked me." For who provoked Him when they had heard? Indeed, did not all those who came out of Egypt led by Moses? And with whom was He angry for forty years? Was it not with those who sinned, whose bodies fell in the wilderness? And to whom did He swear that they should not enter His rest, but to those who were disobedient? And so we see that they were not able to enter because of unbelief. (NAS)

Heb 4:1-11 Therefore, let us fear lest, while a promise remains of entering His rest, any one of you should seem to have come short of it. For indeed we have had good news preached to us, just as they also; but the word they heard did not profit them, because it was not united by faith in those who heard. For we who have believed enter that rest, just as He has said, "As I swore in My wrath, they shall not enter My rest," although His works were finished from the foundation of the world. For He has thus said somewhere concerning the seventh day, "And God rested on the seventh day from all His works"; and again in this passage, "They shall not enter My rest." Since therefore it remains for some to enter it, and those who formerly had good news preached to them failed to enter because of disobedience, He again fixes a certain day, "Today," saying through David after so long a time just as has been said before, "Today if you hear His voice, do not harden your hearts." For if Joshua had given them rest, He would not have spoken of another day after that. There remains therefore a Sabbath rest for the people of God. For the one who has entered His rest has himself also rested from his works, as God did from His. Let us therefore be diligent to enter that rest, lest anyone fall through following the same example of disobedience. (NAS)

The quotes in Heb 3:7-19 is being taken from Ps 95:7-11. Here God is describing the consequence of “unbelief” to the Jews. It is unbelief that is preventing them from entering into God’s rest, (the true promised land). As it was with them, so it can be for us. It is clear in Chapter 4, that there is “a rest” waiting for Christians today. “let us fear lest, while a promise remains of entering His rest” and again, “Since therefore it remains for some to enter it” and again, “There remains therefore a Sabbath rest for the people of God”. The key to understanding this rest is in the following statement “For the one who has entered His rest has himself also rested from his works, as God did from His”. When the love of God fills our hearts, we do nothing from obligation anymore. What we do is motivated and empowered by the Holy Spirit. As a result we can take no credit for what we do. We are not working anymore; the love of God is working through us! If we don’t believe this can happen in this life, our unbelief can prevent us from entering the promised land too.

Examination of the Greek Words used for “rest” in above passages

The word for rest in the above passage is “katapausis” (Strong’s number 2663). In classical Greek it denotes "a causing to cease" or "putting to rest"; in the NT, For more information on this word and related words see Vine's Expository Dictionary of Biblical Words.

The following is everywhere it appears in the new testament:

Acts 7:49 "Heaven is my throne, and the earth is my footstool. What kind of house will you build for me? says the Lord. Or where will my resting place be? (NIV)

Heb 3:11 So I declared on oath in my anger, "They shall never enter my rest." (NIV)

Heb 3:18 And to whom did God swear that they would never enter his rest if not to those who disobeyed? (NIV)

Heb 4:1 Therefore, since the promise of entering his rest still stands, let us be careful that none of you be found to have fallen short of it. (NIV)

Heb 4:3 Now we who have believed enter that rest, just as God has said, "So I declared on oath in my anger, "They shall never enter my rest." And yet his work has been finished since the creation of the world. (NIV)

Heb 4:5 And again in the passage above he says, "They shall never enter my rest." (NIV)

Heb 4:10 for anyone who enters God's rest also rests from his own work, just as God did from his. (NIV)

Heb 4:11 Let us, therefore, make every effort to enter that rest, so that no one will fall by following their example of disobedience. (NIV)

Section 7

“All Things Are Possible With God”

Most mountain climbers climb mountains because they believe “they can be climbed”.
God’s promise to Christians is: “ With God, all things are possible”.
Will you believe him?

1. All Things are Possible with God – “God’s Word”

Matt 19:26 And looking upon {them} Jesus said to them, "With men this is impossible, but with God all things are possible." (NAS)

Mark 9:23 And Jesus said to him, "If You can!" All things are possible to him who believes." (NAS)

Mark 10:27 Looking upon them, Jesus said, "With men it is impossible, but not with God; for all things are possible with God." (NAS)

Luke 18:27 But He said, "The things impossible with men are possible with God." (NAS)

What makes all things possible? _____ What makes some things impossible? _____

Prov 28:5 Evil men do not understand justice, but those who seek the LORD understand all things. (NAS)

John 14:26 "But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all that I said to you. (NAS)

Titus 1:15 To the pure, all things are pure; but to those who are defiled and unbelieving, nothing is pure, but both their mind and their conscience are defiled. (NAS)

1 Jn 2:27 And as for you, the anointing which you received from Him abides in you, and you have no need for anyone to teach you; but as His anointing teaches you about all things, and is true and is not a lie, and just as it has taught you, you abide in Him. (NAS)

1 Cor 13:4-7 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, hopes all things, endures all things. (NAS)

In the space provided below, write down why you believe God chose to use the word “all” in the above verses:

Prov 28:5 _____

John 14:26 _____

Gal 3:10 _____

Titus 1:5 _____

1 John 2:7 _____

1 Cor 13:4-7 _____

If God wants you to love him with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind, and he is able to do all things, can this kind of love really happen in your life?

_____ Why? _____
(Mountain climbers climb mountains because they believe they can reach the top.)

2. All Things are Possible with God – “God’s Grace”

Grace is defined as undeserved kindness. The greatest example of God’s grace is the fact that God sent His Son into the world to redeem a human race that was undeserving of redemption. But God’s grace does not stop there. Listen to Paul describe the benefit that comes as a result of knowing “the love of Christ”:

Eph 3:17-19 May Christ through your faith [actually] dwell (settle down, abide, make His permanent home) in your hearts! May you be rooted deep in love and founded securely on love, That you may have the power *and* be strong to apprehend *and* grasp with all the saints [God's devoted people, the experience of that love] what is the breadth and length and height and depth [of it]; [That you may really come] to know [practically, through experience for yourselves] the love of Christ, which far surpasses mere knowledge [without experience]; that you may be filled [through all your being] unto all the fullness of God [may have the richest measure of the divine Presence, and become a body wholly filled and flooded with God Himself]! “AMP

3. All Things are Possible with God – “Renewing the Mind.”

Have you ever wondered why so many things in the Bible are repeated? Take for example the tradition of the Jews. The Passover feast was repeated every year and the Bible gives specific instruction about things that are to be repeated at every Passover. These things were written to remind the participants of things that God wanted them to remember. In the New Testament, we also see repetition used to help us remember. Take for example the Lord's Supper. During the Lord's Supper, Jesus told his disciples to do certain things in remembrance of Him. Paul's teaching also contains examples of repetition. In Philippians 3:1 Paul says it's no trouble for him to repeat his teachings and it's also a “safeguard for them”. I believe it is a safeguard because of fallen nature of man has resulted in a forgetful memory. In addition, we live in a world that is ungodly. And it is the things of this world that distracts us from God. Every thought that does not come from God is a distraction away from God. As a result, to see things from God's point of view more, we need to be continually seeing his point of view. Paul puts it this way, Romans 12:2 ”Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is — his good, pleasing and perfect will.” Developing a habit of Bible intake renews the mind and this is a “safeguard for us”.

Deut 11:18-19 Therefore you shall lay up these My words in your [minds and] hearts and in your [entire] being, and bind them for a sign upon your hands and as forehead bands between your eyes. And you shall teach them to your children, speaking of them when you sit in your house and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you rise up. AMP

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

Psa 1:1-3 Blessed (happy, fortunate, prosperous, and enviable) is the man who walks *and* lives not in the counsel of the ungodly [following their advice, their plans and purposes], nor stands [submissive and inactive] in the path where sinners walk, nor sits down [to relax and rest] where the scornful [and the mockers] gather. But his delight and desire are in the law of the Lord, and on His law (the precepts, the instructions, the teachings of God) he habitually meditates (ponders and studies) by day and by night. [Rom 13:8-10; Gal 3:1; 2 Tim 3:16.] And he shall be like a tree firmly planted [and tended] by the streams of water, ready to bring forth its fruit in its season; its leaf also shall not fade *or* wither; and everything he does shall prosper [and come to maturity]. [Jer 17:7,8.] AMP

4. All Things are Possible with God – “Entering into His Rest”

Have you ever wondered what the writer of Hebrews meant when he said the following in Heb 3:18-4:1: “And to whom did God swear that they would never enter his rest if not to those who disobeyed? So we see that they were not able to enter, because of their unbelief. Therefore, since the promise of entering his rest still stands, let us be careful that none of you be found to have fallen short of it.” Obviously the rest that was available to Old Testament Jews is currently available to Christians. What is this rests? Jesus talks about this rest in Matt 11:28-30 where he says: “Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light.” Here Jesus equates “rests” with “taking on his yoke”. A non-Christian might conclude that this is a contradiction. But we know the non-Christian does not understand the things of God because they are foolishness to him due to his unbelief. But for the believer, different rules apply as can be seen in. John 16:13-14: “But when he, the Spirit of truth, comes, he will guide you into all truth. He will not speak on his own; he will speak only what he hears, and he will tell you what is yet to come. He will bring glory to me by taking from what is mine and making it known to you.” A better description of God’s rest is found in Heb 4:9-10 which says: “There remains, then, a Sabbath rest for the people of God for anyone who enters God’s rest also rests from his own work, just as God did from his.” From here we see that this rest happens when we do nothing just as God stopped doing things on the seventh day of creation. This begs the question: How can we “take on the yoke of Christ” while “doing nothing”? The answer is “the doing” is done by God when we die to self and live for God. This is clearly what Paul was referring to in Gal 2:20 when he said: “I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.” The same thought is applied to all Christians by Paul in Phil 2:13 where he says: “for it is God who works in you to will and to act according to his good purpose.”

Heb 3:18-4:3 And to whom did He swear that they should not enter His rest, but to those who disobeyed [who had not listened to His word and who refused to be compliant or be persuaded]? So we see that they were not able to enter [into His rest], because of their unwillingness to adhere to *and* trust in *and* rely on God [unbelief had shut them out]. Therefore, while the promise of entering His rest still holds *and* is offered [today], let us be afraid [to distrust it], lest any of you should think he has come too late *and* has come short of [reaching] it. For indeed we have had the glad tidings [Gospel of God] proclaimed to us just as truly as they [the Israelites of old did when the good news of deliverance from bondage came to them]; but the message they heard did not benefit them, because it was not mixed with faith (with the leaning of the entire personality on God in absolute trust and confidence in His power, wisdom, and goodness) by those who heard it; *neither were they united in faith with the ones* [Joshua and Caleb] *who heard (did believe)*. For we who have believed (adhered to and trusted in and relied on God) do enter that rest, in accordance with His declaration that those [who did not believe] should not enter when He said, As I swore in My wrath, They shall not enter My rest; and this He said although [His] works had been completed *and* prepared [and waiting for all who would believe] from the foundation of the world. AMP

5. All Things are Possible with God – “Dying to Self”

Dying to self is a “normal” part of the Christian experience. The enemy would like us to believe it is “abnormal”. “After all” he would say “Paul himself admitted to being controlled by another law at work in the members of his body, waging war against the law of his mind and making him a prisoner of the law of sin in Romans 7”. Then he would say: “ If Paul could not escape this control, how do you think you would have a chance to do it. It is impossible!” Fortunately, Paul did not end Romans 7 with verse 23. He went on to include verse 25 which says: “Thanks be to God — through Jesus Christ our Lord! So then, I myself in my mind am a slave to God’s law, but in the sinful nature a slave to the law of sin.” It is important to note that Paul is praising God in verse 25 for a solution. And it is also important to note that this solution is “in Christ” and “in the mind”. From here I can go many places. However to save time I would like to focus on what happens in the mind because this is where our battle takes place. This is where faith takes control. We basically have two choices. We can believe God or we can believe the enemy. God wants us to believe that we can die to self in this life. Jesus put it this way in John 12:24: “I tell you the truth, unless a kernel of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains only a single seed. But if it dies, it produces many seeds.”

Matt 10:38 And he who does not take up his cross and follow Me [cleave steadfastly to Me, conforming wholly to My example in living and, if need be, in dying also] is not worthy of Me. AMP

Mark 8:34-35 And Jesus called [to Him] the throng with His disciples and said to them, If anyone intends to come after Me, let him deny himself [forget, ignore, disown, and lose sight of himself and his own interests] and take up his cross, and [joining Me as a disciple and siding with My party] follow with Me [continually, cleaving steadfastly to Me]. For whoever wants to save his [higher, spiritual, eternal] life, will lose it [the lower, natural, temporal life which is lived only on earth]; and whoever gives up his life [which is lived only on earth] for My sake and the Gospel’s will save it [his higher, spiritual life **p**in the eternal kingdom of God]. AMP

Luke 9:23 And He said to all, If any person wills to come after Me, let him deny himself [disown himself, forget, lose sight of himself and his own interests, refuse and give up himself] and take up his cross daily and follow Me [cleave steadfastly to Me, conform wholly to My example in living and, if need be, in dying also]. AMP

Rom 6:11 Even so consider yourselves also dead to sin *and* your relation to it broken, but alive to God [living in unbroken fellowship with Him] in Christ Jesus. AMP

1 John 3:6 No one who abides in Him [who lives and remains in communion with and in obedience to Him — deliberately, knowingly, and habitually] commits (practices) sin. No one who [habitually] sins has either seen *or* known Him [recognized, perceived, or understood Him, or has had an experiential acquaintance with Him]. AMP

6. All Things are Possible with God – “Love = the Key to Dying to Self”

Love is the key to dying to self. To illustrate this point, I offer the following analogy. I love my daughters. This love for them causes me to do things for them even when it's a disadvantage for me. Loving God works the same way. In John 14:15, Jesus said: "If you [really] love Me, you will keep (obey) My commands." In other words love causes me to do things for him even though it might be to my disadvantage. Another analogy comes from the words of Jesus in John 15:13 which says: "No one has greater love [no one has shown stronger affection] than to lay down (give up) his own life for his friends." Here "love" is equated with "laying down one's life". Therefore is it not reasonable to conclude that anyone who adheres to the greatest commandment ("love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind (intellect)") would automatically lay down their life for Him? Not convinced yet? Look at the words in 2 Cor 5:14-15: "For the love of Christ controls and urges and impels us, because we are of the opinion *and* conviction that [if] One died for all, then all died; And He died for all, so that all those who live might live no longer to *and* for themselves, but to *and* for Him Who died and was raised again for their sake."

Matt 22:34-40 Now when the Pharisees heard that He had silenced (muzzled) the Sadducees, they gathered together. And one of their number, a lawyer, asked Him a question to test Him. Teacher, which kind of commandment is great and important (the principal kind) in the Law? [Some commandments are light — which are heavy?] And He replied to him, You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind (intellect). [Deut 6:5.] This is the great (most important, principal) and first commandment. And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as [you do] yourself. [Lev 19:18.] These two commandments sum up and upon them depend all the Law and the Prophets. AMP

John 14:15,21,23 If you [really] love Me, you will keep (obey) My commands,,,,,The person who has My commands and keeps them is the one who [really] loves Me; and whoever [really] loves Me will be loved by My Father, and I [too] will love him and will show (reveal, manifest) Myself to him. [I will let Myself be clearly seen by him and make Myself real to him.]Jesus answered, If a person [really] loves Me, he will keep My word [obey My teaching]; and My Father will love him, and We will come to him and make Our home (abode, special dwelling place) with him. AMP

1 Cor 13:4-7 Love endures long *and* is patient and kind; love never is envious *nor* boils over with jealousy, is not boastful *or* vainglorious, does not display itself haughtily. It is not conceited (arrogant and inflated with pride); it is not rude (unmannerly) *and* does not act unbecomingly. Love (God's love in us) does not insist on its own rights *or* its own way, *for* it is not self-seeking; it is not touchy *or* fretful *or* resentful; it takes no account of the evil done to it [it pays no attention to a suffered wrong]. It does not rejoice at injustice *and* unrighteousness, but rejoices when right *and* truth prevail. Love bears up under anything *and* everything that comes, is ever ready to believe the best of every person, its hopes are fadeless under all circumstances, and it endures everything [without weakening]. AMP

1 Cor 16:14 Let everything you do be done in love (true love to God and man as inspired by God's love for us). AMP

1 John 2:3-6 And this is how we may discern [daily, by experience] that we are coming to know Him [to perceive, recognize, understand, and become better acquainted with Him]: if we keep (bear in mind, observe, practice) His teachings (precepts, commandments). Whoever says, I know Him [I perceive, recognize, understand, and am acquainted with Him] but fails to keep *and* obey His commandments (teachings) is a liar, and the Truth [of the Gospel] is not in him. But he who keeps (treasures) His Word [who bears in mind His precepts, who observes His message in its entirety], truly in him has the love of *and* for God been perfected (completed, reached maturity). By this we may perceive (know, recognize, and be sure) that we are in Him: Whoever says he abides in Him ought [as a personal debt] to walk *and* conduct himself in the same way in which He walked *and* conducted Himself. AMP

1 John 5:3 For the [true] love of God is this: that we do His commands [keep His ordinances and are mindful of His precepts and teaching]. And these orders of His are not irksome (burdensome, oppressive, or grievous). AMP

2 John 6 And what this love consists in is this: that we live *and* walk in accordance with *and* guided by His commandments (His orders, ordinances, precepts, teaching). This is the commandment, as you have heard from the beginning, that you continue to walk in love [guided by it and following it]. AMP

7.. All Things are Possible with God – “Now.... Love Him with Your All”

This journey starts with faith. Faith that God will do what he said he will do. Consider the following words of Jesus in 1 John 5:14-15: “ And this is the confidence (the assurance, the privilege of boldness) which we have in Him: [we are sure] that if we ask anything (make any request) according to His will (in agreement with His own plan), He listens to *and* hears us. And if (since) we [positively] know that He listens to us in whatever we ask, we also know [with settled and absolute knowledge] that we have [granted us as our present possessions] the requests made of Him.” Can you think of anything that is more “in God’s will” than loving Him? So why is it so hard to love God with my all, all the time? Could the problem be in my “unbelief” (Heb 4:11)? Is this causing me to put a request to “love God more” on the bottom of my daily prayer list or maybe omit it completely (James 4:2)? Do I need to repent and do something different? What might that something be?

Matt 9:29 Then He touched their eyes, saying, According to your faith *and* trust *and* reliance [on the power invested in Me] be it done to you; AMP

Matt 13:58 And He did not do many works of power there, because of their unbelief (their lack of faith in the divine mission of Jesus). AMP

Matt 17:20 He said to them, Because of the littleness of your faith [that is, your lack of firmly relying trust]. For truly I say to you, if you have faith [that is living] like a grain of mustard seed, you can say to this mountain, Move from here to yonder place, and it will move; and nothing will be impossible to you. AMP

Matt 19:26 But Jesus looked at them and said, With men this is impossible, but all things are possible with God. [Gen 18:14; Job 42:2.] AMP

Mark 9:23 And Jesus said, [You say to Me], If You can do anything? [Why,] all things can be (are possible) to him who believes! AMP

Mark 9:24 At once the father of the boy gave [an eager, piercing, inarticulate] cry *with tears*, and he said, Lord, I believe! [Constantly] help my weakness of faith! AMP

Mark 9:29 And He replied to them, This kind cannot be driven out by anything but prayer *and* fasting. AMP

Mark 10:27 Jesus glanced around at them and said, With men [it is] impossible, but not with God; for all things are possible with God. AMP

Mark 11:24 For this reason I am telling you, whatever you ask for in prayer, believe (trust and be confident) that it is granted to you, and you will [get it]. AMP

Luke 1:38 Then Mary said, Behold, I am the handmaiden of the Lord; let it be done to me according to what you have said. And the angel left her. AMP

Luke 18:1-5 Also [Jesus] told them a parable to the effect that they ought always to pray and not to turn coward (faint, lose heart, and give up). He said, In a certain city there was a judge who neither revered *and* feared God nor respected *or* considered man. And there was a widow in that city who kept coming to him and saying, Protect *and* defend *and* give me justice against my adversary. And for a time he would not; but later he said to himself, Though I have neither reverence *or* fear for God nor respect *or* consideration for man, Yet because this widow continues to bother me, I will defend *and* protect *and* avenge her, lest she give me intolerable annoyance *and* wear me out by her continual coming *or* at the last she come and rail on me *or* assault me *or* strangle me. AMP

Luke 18:27 But He said, What is impossible with men is possible with God. [Gen 18:14; Jer 32:17.] AMP

James 4:2....You do not have, because you do not ask. AMP

Section 8

“Helpful Illustrations”

Where does Love fit into a Christian’s spiritual life? What keeps Love from being the focal point of a Christian’s spiritual life? What enables Love to be the focal point of a Christian’s spiritual life?

As you go through this section, keep the above questions in mind.

The aim of this section is to paint a picture of where love should be in a Christian’s spiritual life.

The Bull's Eye Illustration

Exod 24:12 Now the LORD said to Moses, "Come up to Me on the mountain and remain there, and I will give you the stone tablets with the law and the commandment which I have written for their instruction." (NAS)

1. The Ten Commandments:

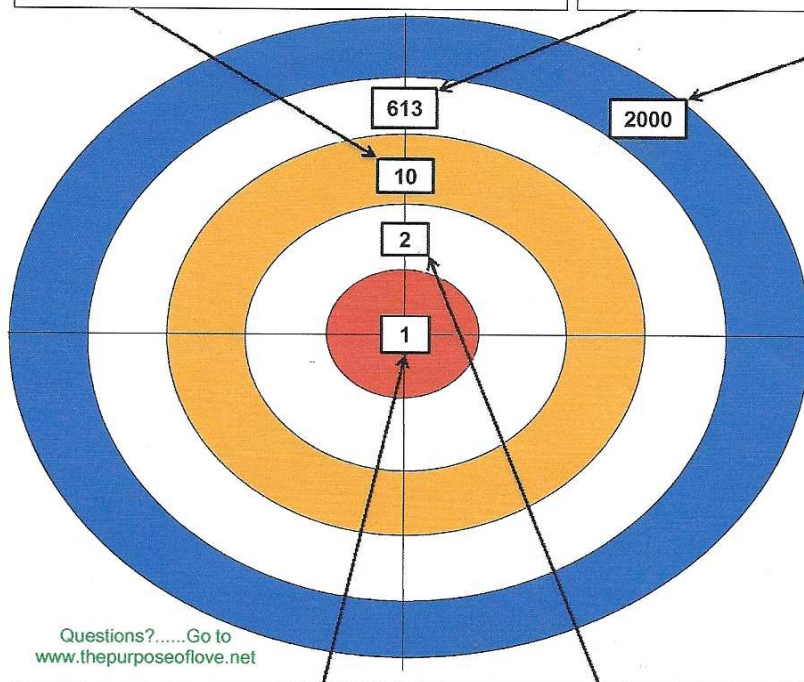
Written in stone by the hand of God twice in AD1450BC, these **10** commandments represented what could be called the minimum requirements that God expected from His people Israel. The first four commandments deal with Israel's relationship with God. The last six commandments deal with Israel's relationships with one another.

Exod 19:5-6 Now then, if you will indeed obey My voice and keep My covenant, then you shall be My own possession among all the peoples, for all the earth is Mine; and you shall be to Me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation.' These are the words that you shall speak to the sons of Israel." (NAS)

Exod 21:1 "Now these are the ordinances which you are to set before them. (NAS)

2. The Mosaic Law:

Communicated verbally by God to Moses in about AD 1450, these judgments or rulings represented how Israel should apply the ten commandments to daily life. The law contained requirements, blessings, and cursings, along with narrative. When counted, one can see there are **613** individual commandments contained in the Mosaic Law.



Questions?.....Go to
www.thepurposeoflove.net

3. The Mishnah

sometimes called "repetition" or "to study and review" was the first major written redaction of the Jewish oral traditions called the "Oral Torah". (Redaction is a form of editing in which multiple source texts are combined and subjected to minor alteration to make them into a single work. Often this is a method of collecting a series of writings on a similar theme and creating a definitive and coherent work. To redact can also mean to select or adapt (as by obscuring or removing sensitive information) from a document prior to publication or release.) The original intent of the Mishnah was to cover all aspects of human living, serve as an example for future judgments, and, most important, demonstrate pragmatic exercise of the Biblical laws. The additional detail would act like a buffer zone around the Law preventing common people from coming close to violating the Law. At the time of Jesus, the **2000+** rules in Mishnah became as important Mosaic Law, sometimes even more important. The following passage shows how Jesus confronted those who legally bound the people to these rules while neglecting the heart of the Mosaic Law. **Mark 7:5-13** And the Pharisees and the scribes asked Him, "Why do Your disciples not walk according to the tradition of the elders, but eat their bread with impure hands?" And He said to them, "Rightly did Isaiah prophesy of you hypocrites, as it is written, 'This people honors Me with their lips, but their heart is far away from me. 'But in vain do they worship me, teaching as doctrines the precepts of men.' 'Neglecting the commandment of God, you hold to the tradition of men.' He was also saying to them, "You nicely set aside the commandment of God in order to keep your tradition. "For Moses said, 'Honor your father and your mother'; and, 'He who speaks evil of father or mother, let him be put to death'; but you say, 'If a man says to his father or his mother, anything of mine you might have been helped by is Corban (that is to say, given to God),' you no longer permit him to do anything for his father or his mother; thus invalidating the word of God by your tradition which you have handed down; and you do many things such as that. (NAS)

5. Love is the one word commandment that fulfills the Law. When our relationship to God and others is being guided by Christian Love, we are truly doing the one thing that is most important.

Rom 13:10 Love does no wrong to a neighbor; love therefore is the fulfillment of {the} law. (NAS)

Luke 10:42 "but {only} a few things are necessary, really {only} one, for Mary has chosen the good part, which shall not be taken away from her." (NAS)

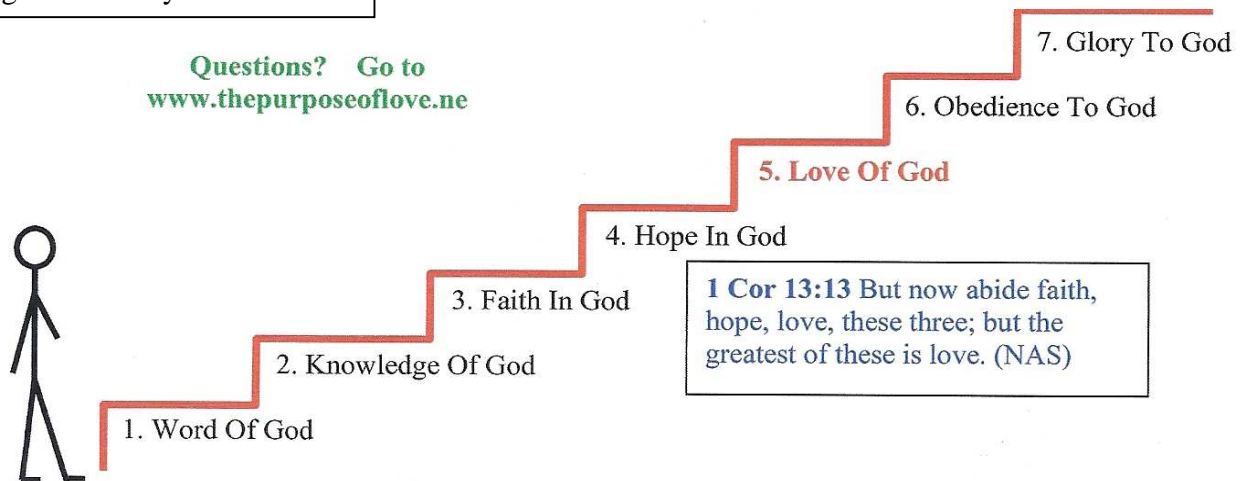
4. Seeing the misguided effect of man-made rules (the Mishnah), Jesus explained the opposite was true by saying the core intent of the Mosaic law and the ten commandments could be reduced to just two commandments!

Matt 22:37-40 An expert of the Law asked Jesus what the greatest commandment was. Jesus replied: "'Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.' This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments." NIV

Understanding the Bull's Eye Illustration and the Divine Purpose of Love

2 Cor 5:14-15

For the love of Christ controls us, having concluded this, that one died for all, therefore all died; and He died for all, that they who live should no longer live for themselves, but for Him who died and rose again on their behalf. (NAS)



The 7 Step Illustration

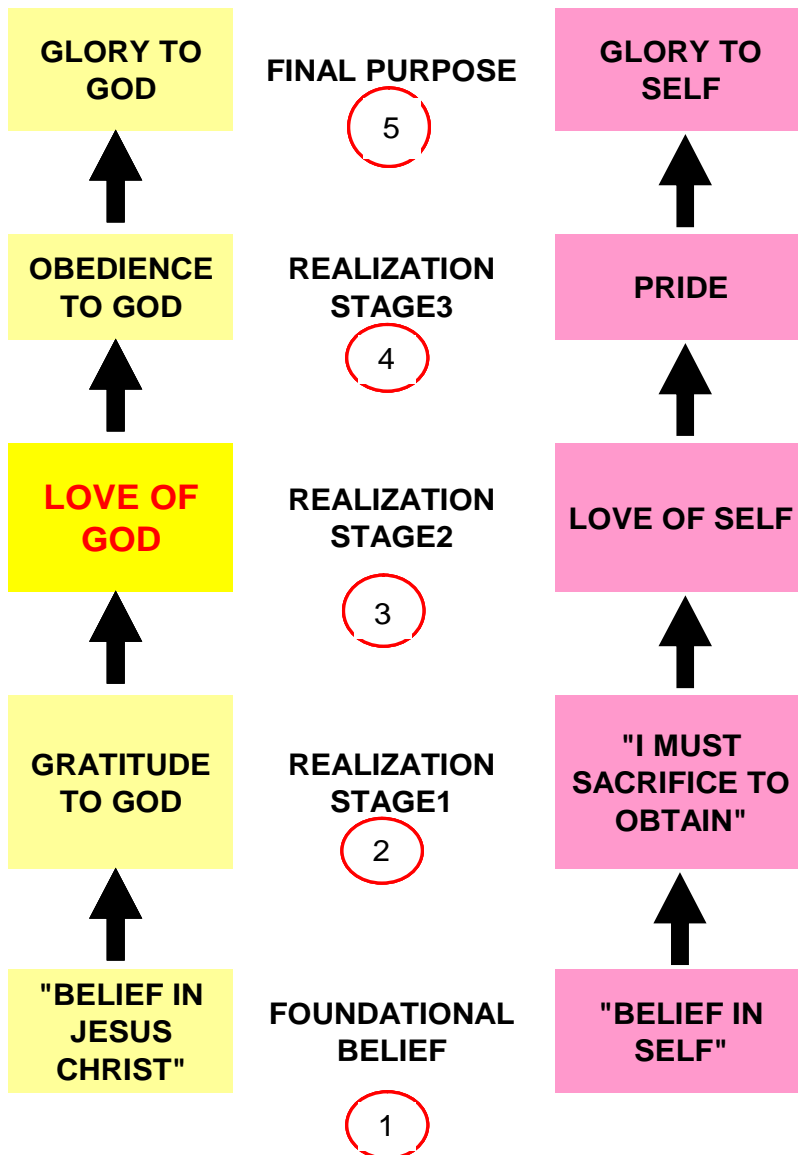
7. **Glory to God** (John 17:4, Matt 5:16 & Eph 2:10)
The above verses tell us God gets glory via acts of obedience (doing his will). God got glory as Jesus accomplished God's will. We bring glory to God as we do good works. Good works are those things that God wants us to do and enables us to do. When we are controlled by the Holy Spirit, we walk in good works as we were created to do. This brings glory to God.
6. **Obedience to God** (2 Cor 5:14-15, John 14:23 & Rom 13:10)
Love of God is a controlling influence and it is an enabler. Love of God leads to the conclusion that we should live our life for him and not ourselves. Love of God enables us to keep his word (obedience to God).
5. **Love of God** (1 Jn 4:19 & 1 Pet 1:13)
Hope lies with things in the future. God has done great things and has many promises to those that are his. We are told to fix our hope on Christ. Doing this causes us to be grateful to God and this turns into Love.
4. **Hope in God** (Heb 11:1 & 1 Cor 13: 4-9)
Faith comes before hope (Heb 11:1). Faith is the seed of hope. To be excited about the future is to be convinced that the good things are in the future.
3. **Faith In God** (Rom 10:17, Prov 2:1 and 2:5)
Faith comes from God's word. God's primary way to explain himself is through his word.
2. **Knowledge of God** (John 14:9)
We can come to know God by knowing Jesus.
1. **The Word of God** (John 1:1 and 1:14)
Jesus is the Word of God. Realizing this is the first step toward glorifying God.

Many Christian experts over time have concluded the chief end of man is to glorify God. What leads to God's glory in the 7 step illustration?

Why are Jesus and the Bible so important in this illustration?

The Spirit of Truth and Error Illustration

DEVELOPMENTAL DIRECTION



Matt 7:17 Likewise every good tree bears good fruit, but a bad tree bears bad fruit. (NIV)

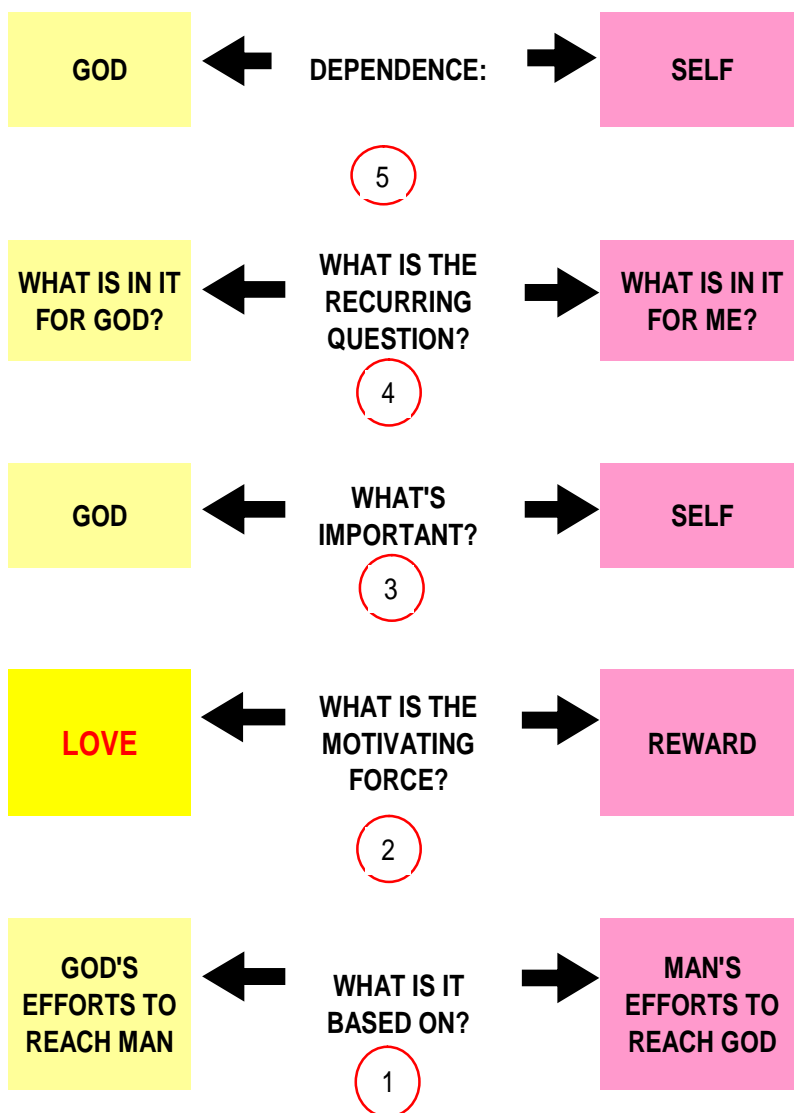
How do the fruits of "love of God" and the fruits of "love of self" differ?

Rom 8:5 Those who live according to the sinful nature have their minds set on what that nature desires; but those who live in accordance with the Spirit have their minds on what the Spirit desires. (NIV)

How does gratitude in our mind lead to love in our heart?

The Spirit of Truth and Error Illustration

WAYS TO RECOGNIZE DIRECTION



John 10:27 "My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me; (NAS)

As sheep, how can this diagram help us make sure we are going in God's direction?

1 Cor 2:14-16 But a natural man 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. But he who is spiritual appraises all things, yet he himself is appraised by no man. For who has known the mind of the Lord, that he should instruct Him? But we have the mind of Christ. (NAS)

What things might we do differently or need to change to have the mind of Christ?

Section 9

“Loving God”

In the previous section, we “saw” why loving God is important. In this section we will look at the scriptures in more detail to re-enforce this perspective.

I Jn 4:19 We love, because He first loved us. (NAS)

Think about the purpose of loving God here . Where does this love begin?

Why is our love for God dependent on knowing he loves us? (Think about the way God made us emotionally.)

Eph 3:17-19 so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith; and that you, being rooted and grounded in love, may be able to comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth and length and height and depth, and to know the love of Christ which surpasses knowledge, that you may be filled up to all the fullness of God. (NAS)

Think about the purpose of loving God here. What does “knowing the love of Christ” do?

How much of the fullness of God is this verse promising to those who are rooted and grounded in love and who know the love of Christ? _____

I Jn 2:3-6 And by this we know that we have come to know Him, if we keep His commandments. The one who says, "I have come to know Him," and does not keep His commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him; but whoever keeps His word, in him the love of God has truly been perfected. By this we know that we are in Him: the one who says he abides in Him ought himself to walk in the same manner as He walked. (NAS)

It may surprise some that God is using the word “perfected” here. Some just assume we cannot be perfect at times in this life. Why would God use the word “perfected” if it were not possible?

Think about the purpose of loving God here. When the love of God is perfected in our life, two things happen. What are they?

_____ and _____

2 Cor 5:14-15 For the love of Christ controls us, ..., so that they who live might no longer live for themselves, but for Him who died and rose again on their behalf. (NAS)

John 15:13 "Greater love has no one than this, that one lay down his life for his friends. (NAS)

Think about the purpose of loving God here. Humans generally do what they are motivated to do and do not do what they are not motivated to do. How is Love a motivating force in the above verses?

What will Love empower us to do in 2 Cor 5:14-15?

What will Love empower us to do in John 15:13?

Rom 2:13-15 for not the hearers of the Law are just before God, but the doers of the Law will be justified. For when Gentiles who do not have the Law do instinctively the things of the Law, these, not having the Law, are a law to themselves, in that they show the work of the Law written in their hearts, their conscience bearing witness, and their (NAS)

In context, this is referring to non Jews who have become Christians (a new creation). How might love account for the Gentiles doing instinctively the things of the Law?

John 14:15 "If you love Me, you will keep My commandments. (NAS)

Think about the purpose of loving God here. According to this verse, what will we do if we love Jesus?

I love my daughters. It is my love for them that motivates me to give them what they want. How is this similar to being motivated by love to do what the Father wants?

John 14:21 "He who has My commandments and keeps them, he it is who loves Me; and he who loves Me shall be loved by My Father, and I will love him, and will disclose Myself to him." (NAS)

Think about the purpose of loving Jesus here. What does keeping his commandments prove?

What does this say about the purpose of Love?

John 14:23 Jesus answered and said to him, "If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word; and My Father will love him, and We will come to him, and make Our abode with him. (NAS)

Think about the purpose of loving Jesus here. Who does this verse apply to?

What happens when we love Jesus?

What does this say about the purpose of Love?

Matt 11:28-30 "Come to Me, all who are weary and heavy-laden, and I will give you rest. "Take My yoke upon you, and learn from Me, for I am gentle and humble in heart; and you shall find rest for your souls. "For My yoke is easy, and My load is light."(NAS)

I Jn 5:3 For this is the love of God, that we keep His commandments; and His commandments are not burdensome. (NAS)

Think about the purpose of loving God here. Jesus is the best example of Love. It is not hard to conclude love motivated him to do the things that he did. What connection could this have with making his yoke easy and his burden light?

What can make my yoke easy and my burden light?

What makes obedience not burdensome in 1 John 5:3? _____

Why is this? _____

I Jn 5:3 For this is the love of God, that we keep His commandments; and His commandments are not burdensome. (NAS)

II Jn 1:6 And this is love, that we walk according to His commandments. This is the commandment, just as you have heard from the beginning, that you should walk in it. (NAS)

Think about the purpose of loving God here. What do these verses say the love of God is?

Why do you think loving God is equated with obedience here?

Rom 1:5 through whom we have received grace and apostleship to bring about {the} obedience of faith among all the Gentiles, for His name's sake, (NAS)

What does Paul say the Apostles were tasked to “bring about”?

Deut 7:9 "Know therefore that the LORD your God, He is God, the faithful God, who keeps His covenant and His lovingkindness to a thousandth generation with those who love Him and keep His commandments; (NAS)

Neh 1:5 And I said, "I beseech Thee, O LORD God of heaven, the great and awesome God, who preserves the covenant and lovingkindness for those who love Him and keep His commandments, (NAS)

Dan 9:4 And I prayed to the LORD my God and confessed and said, "Alas, O Lord, the great and awesome God, who keeps His covenant and lovingkindness for those who love Him and keep His commandments, (NAS)

I Jn 5:2 By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and observe His commandments. (NAS)

Think about the purpose of Loving God. The above verses are from the Law, the Prophets and the New Testament. What link do you see repeated in these verses?

Why do you think God put these together?

Rom 8:28 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. (NAS)

Think about the purpose of loving God. What else happens when we love God?

Luke 10:38-42 Now as they were traveling along, He entered a certain village; and a woman named Martha welcomed Him into her home. And she had a sister called Mary, who moreover was listening to the Lord's word, seated at His feet. But Martha was distracted with all her preparations; and she came up to Him, and said, "Lord, do You not care that my sister has left me to do all the serving alone? Then tell her to help me." But the Lord answered and said to her, "Martha, Martha, you are worried and bothered about so many things; but only a few things are necessary, really only one, for Mary has chosen the good part, which shall not be taken away from her." (NAS)

How were Martha and Mary different?

What distracted Martha from Jesus and what attracted Mary to Jesus?

Was Mary displaying perfect obedience?

Luke 11:39 Then the Lord said to him, "Now then, you Pharisees clean the outside of the cup and dish, but inside you are full of greed and wickedness. (NIV)

Think about the purpose of loving God. The religious leaders of Jesus' day focused on commandments instead of the condition of the heart. In other words, they were distracted from the Main Thing "love motivated obedience". What can happen if we only focus on commandments?

Luke 11:42 But woe to you Pharisees! For you pay tithe of mint and rue and every kind of garden herb, and yet disregard justice and the love of God; but these are the things you should have done without neglecting the others. (NAS)

Rev 2:4 But I have {this} against you, that you have left your first love. Remember the height from which you have fallen! Repent and do the things you did at first. If you do not repent, I will come to you and remove your lamp stand from its place. (NAS)

Think about the purpose of loving God. What warnings are associated with losing sight of the importance of love?

1 Cor 16:13-14 Be on the alert, stand firm in the faith, act like men, be strong. Let all that you do be done in love. (NAS)

Is it possible to do “all things” in love?

Why is this possible? What makes this possible? _____

Review questions in section 3. Add additional information under those questions you now feel is important.

“Loving God” Conclusions:

Review your answers to the above questions and then answer questions below..

Why is “love motivated obedience” so important?

What divine purpose can “love of God” play when it is in the heart of man?

Why?

Section 10

“Loving Christians”

In the previous section, we looked at the scripture in more detail to re-enforce the need to love God more. In this section, we will look at the scripture in more detail to see why we should love other Christians more.

John 13:34 "A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another, even as I have loved you, that you also love one another. (NAS)

John 15:12 "This is My commandment, that you love one another, just as I have loved you. (NAS)

John 15:17 "This I command you, that you love one another. (NAS)

What is Jesus commanding in these verses _____

To what degree are we to love other Christians? _____

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

What do we owe other Christians?

What happens when we do this?

What does fulfilling the law do?

1Thes 4:9 Now as to the love of the brethren, you have no need for {anyone} to write to you, for you yourselves are taught by God to love one another; (NAS)

Why is there no need to write about our need to love the brethren (i.e. Christians)?

If we do not love other Christians, what is wrong?

1 Pet 1:22 Since you have in obedience to the truth purified your souls for a sincere love of the brethren, fervently love one another from the heart, (NAS)

What should obedience to the truth lead to?

What should we do if we do not fervently love one another from the heart?

I Jn 3:11 For this is the message which you have heard from the beginning, that we should love one another; (NAS)

What is the significance of this verse?

I Jn 3:23 And this is His commandment, that we believe in the name of His Son Jesus Christ, and love one another, just as He commanded us. (NAS)

What is the significance of this verse?

I Jn 4:7 Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God; and everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. (NAS)

What is the significance of this verse?

I Jn 4:11 Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. (NAS)

What is the significance of this verse?

I Jn 4:12 No one has beheld God at any time; if we love one another, God abides in us, and His love is perfected in us. (NAS)

What is the significance of this verse?

II Jn 1:5 And now I ask you, lady, not as writing to you a new commandment, but the one which we have had from the beginning, that we love one another. (NAS)

What is the significance of this verse?

Jn 4:19 We love, because He first loved us. (NAS)

Think about the purpose of loving Christians here . Where does love begin?

Why is our love for Christians dependent on knowing God loves us? (Think about the way God made us emotionally.)

John 15:13 "Greater love has no one than this, that one lay down his life for his friends. (NAS)

Think about the purpose of loving Christians. Humans generally do what they are motivated to do and do not do what they are not motivated to do. How is Love a motivating force in the above verses?

What does “laying down his life” mean to me? Is this verse applicable to just Jesus or us?

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Section 11

“Loving Others”

In the previous sections, we looked at the scripture in more detail to re-enforce the need to love God and Christians more. In this section, we will look at the scripture in more detail to see why non-Christians deserve our love too. We will also look at scriptures that show us there are limits on love.

Matt 22:35-40 And one of them, a lawyer, asked Him a question, testing Him, "Teacher, which is the great commandment in the Law?" And He 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.' "On these two commandments depend the whole Law and the Prophets." (NAS)

What does “love your neighbor as yourself” mean ?

Luke 10:25-37 And behold, a certain lawyer stood up and put Him to the test, saying, "Teacher, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?" And He said to him, "What is written in the Law? How does it read to you?" And he answered and said, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your strength, and with all your mind; and your neighbor as yourself." And He said to him, "You have answered correctly; do this, and you will live." But wishing to justify himself, he said to Jesus, "And who is my neighbor?" Jesus replied and said, "A certain man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho; and he fell among robbers, and they stripped him and beat him, and went off leaving him half dead. "And by chance a certain priest was going down on that road, and when he saw him, he passed by on the other side. "And likewise a Levite also, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side. "But a certain Samaritan, who was on a journey, came upon him; and when he saw him, he felt compassion, and came to him, and bandaged up his wounds, pouring oil and wine on them; and he put him on his own beast, and brought him to an inn, and took care of him. "And on the next day he took out two denarii and gave them to the innkeeper and said, 'Take care of him; and whatever more you spend, when I return, I will repay you.' "Which of these three do you think proved to be a neighbor to the man who fell into the robbers' hands?" And he said, "The one who showed mercy toward him." And Jesus said to him, "Go and do the same." (NAS)

Who is my neighbor? _____

Matt 5:44-45 "But I say to you, love your enemies, and pray for those who persecute you in order that you may be sons of your Father who is in heaven; for He causes His sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous. (NAS)

2 Tim 2:24-26 And the Lord's bond-servant must not be quarrelsome, but be kind to all, able to teach, patient when wronged, with gentleness correcting those who are in opposition, if perhaps God may grant them repentance leading to the knowledge of the truth, and they may come to their senses and escape from the snare of the devil, having been held captive by him to do his will. (NAS)

How can knowing these consequences that are coming to those that oppose the truth help me show love to them?

Why is “love motivated actions toward people” so important?

Matt 7:6 "Do not give what is holy to dogs, and do not throw your pearls before swine, lest they trample them under their feet, and turn and tear you to pieces. (NAS)

Matt 12:31-32 "Therefore I say to you, any sin and blasphemy shall be forgiven men, but blasphemy against the Spirit shall not be forgiven. "And whoever shall speak a word against the Son of Man, it shall be forgiven him; but whoever shall speak against the Holy Spirit, it shall not be forgiven him, (NAS)

Matt 23:13-27 "But woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites, because you shut off the kingdom of heaven from men; for you do not enter in yourselves, nor do you allow those who are entering to go in. ["Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites, because you devour widows' houses, even while for a pretense you make long prayers; therefore you shall receive greater condemnation.] "Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites, because you travel about on sea and land to make one proselyte; and when he becomes one, you make him twice as much a son of hell as yourselves. "Woe to you, blind guides, who say, 'Whoever swears by the temple, that is nothing; but whoever swears by the gold of the temple, he is obligated.' "You fools and blind men; which is more important, the gold, or the temple that sanctified the gold? "And, 'Whoever swears by the altar, that is nothing, but whoever swears by the offering upon it, he is obligated.' "You blind men, which is more important, the offering or the altar that sanctifies the offering? "Therefore he who swears by the altar, swears both by the altar and by everything on it. "And he who swears by the temple, swears both by the temple and by Him who dwells within it. "And he who swears by heaven, swears both by the throne of God and by Him who sits upon it. "Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you tithe mint and dill and cummin, and have neglected the weightier provisions of the law: justice and mercy and faithfulness; but these are the things you should have done without neglecting the others. "You blind guides, who strain out a gnat and swallow a camel! "Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you clean the outside of the cup and of the dish, but inside they are full of robbery and self-indulgence. "You blind Pharisee, first clean the inside of the cup and of the dish, so that the outside of it may become clean also. "Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you are like whitewashed tombs which on the outside appear beautiful, but inside they are full of dead men's bones and all uncleanness. (NAS)

Heb 6:4-8 For in the case of those who have once been enlightened and have tasted of the heavenly gift and have been made partakers of the Holy Spirit, and have tasted the good word of God and the powers of the age to come, and then have fallen away, it is impossible to renew them again to repentance, since they again crucify to themselves the Son of God, and put Him to open shame. For ground that drinks the rain which often falls upon it and brings forth vegetation useful to those for whose sake it is also tilled, receives a blessing from God; but if it yields thorns and thistles, it is worthless and close to being cursed, and it ends up being burned.(NAS)

II Jn 1:7-11 For many deceivers have gone out into the world, those who do not acknowledge Jesus Christ as coming in the flesh. This is the deceiver and the antichrist. Watch yourselves, that you might not lose what we have accomplished, but that you may receive a full reward. Anyone who goes too far and does not abide in the teaching of Christ, does not have God; the one who abides in the teaching, he has both the Father and the Son. If anyone comes to you and does not bring this teaching, do not receive him into your house, and do not give him a greeting; for the one who gives him a greeting participates in his evil deeds. (NAS)

Rev 2:9 `I know your tribulation and your poverty (but you are rich), and the blasphemy by those who say they are Jews and are not, but are a synagogue of Satan. (NAS)

What limits should we put on Love? _____

Loving the Wrong Thing...

Matt 6:5 Also when you pray, you must not be like the hypocrites, for they love to pray standing in the synagogues and on the corners of the streets, that they may be seen by people. Truly I tell you, they have their reward in full already. AMP

John 12:25 Anyone who loves his life loses it, but anyone who hates his life in this world will keep it to life eternal. [Whoever has no love for, no concern for, no regard for his life here on earth, but despises it, preserves his life forever and ever.] AMP

1 Tim 6:10 For the love of money is a root of all evils; it is through this craving that some have been led astray *and* have wandered from the faith and pierced themselves through with many acute [mental] pangs. AMP

1 John 2:15 Do not love *or* cherish the world or the things that are in the world. If anyone loves the world, love for the Father is not in him. AMP

1 John 3:17 But if anyone has this world's goods (resources for sustaining life) and sees his brother *and* fellow believer in need, yet closes his heart of compassion against him, how can the love of God live *and* remain in him? AMP

Observations: _____

The Purpose of Love

Someone has said:

“The main thing is to keep the main thing the main thing”
Is the main thing in the Christian life Love?

! End of the Study Section !
Overall Analysis:

Take a few minutes to review what was covered and list here what you want to take away from this study regarding loving God, loving Christians and loving others.

God: _____

Christians: _____

Others: _____

Part 3

“The Path Forward”

Section 12

**Application
“Opportunities for Growth”**

In the study section, you reached a conclusion about the purpose of Love. To some the purpose of Love was to produce Christ likeness in our life so that our actions would bring God glory. The objective of the study section was to help us realize how important love is in a Christian’s spiritual life and motivate us to make it a priority to grow in our love for God and others. Now we need to move on toward doing things that will increase growth in our love for God and others. As you might expect, this involves a change in the heart.

The basic picture is this:
God wants our hearts to change and he will do his part to change it.
The only question remaining is:
Will I do my part?

Why title this section as “Application – Opportunities for Growth”?

A study of the word “heart” in the Bible will show that both man and God can do things that change the heart. (See Section 5 for some examples)
Doing things requires time. A good application will require you to take time away from things you normally do and put that time aside for your application. It may be helpful to look at it as an investment of time in time. God can do more with 10% of your time than he can do with 10% of your money. As a result, you need to be firmly committed to putting aside some time for your application.

By now, you should “know” that you need to love more.
The question now is what will you do with “this knowledge” in the application section.

Things to Know About Applications

“Knowing → Doing → Being”

Matt 5:16 "Let your light shine before men in such a way that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father who is in heaven. (NAS)

Before proceeding, it is important to understand the definition of **Knowing, Becoming** and **Being** as used in this guide.

Knowing: This is information that God has revealed to you from the Bible. It can be a character quality of God that can help you to understand God and know his will for you. It does not have to cause you to do anything.

Doing: This is your application of the Bible. It is the actions that the Father wants you to do. You do not have to want to do these actions. You do them solely because you know that God wants you to do them. Consider reviewing “The Spirit of Truth and Error Illustration” in section 8 before seeking an application

Being: This is when you “become” the action that God wants you to do. It is when your desire and God’s desire for you are the same. It is when you are filled with the Spirit and empowered by God to do a work. As a result, God is totally responsible for the work done through you and rightly gets all the credit. Ultimately, “Being” is what God wants and can expect from a Christian. God may not expect us to be in a state of excellence all the time but he does expect us to seek it and experience it in our life. (See Appendix 3 for Scriptures Supporting God’s Expectation of Excellence in the Christian Life)

A good example of knowing, becoming and being can be seen in the concept of a servant. I can know what a servant should do without becoming what a servant does. I can even do what a servant does without being a servant in my heart. But when I “become” a servant, my desires are that of a servant. There is no effort on my part to serve. God is 100% in control of my thoughts and desires. His will is my will and my will is his will. Love is the only thing that can enable me to reach this state of being. Being is the only way I Jn 5:3 can be fulfilled in me.

I Jn 5:3 For this is the love of God, that we keep His commandments; and His commandments are not burdensome. (NAS)

One word of caution, do not view an application or an exercise as just another task to do toward a goal. Rather, see it as something God can use in your life to change you into his image! (2 Cor 3:18)

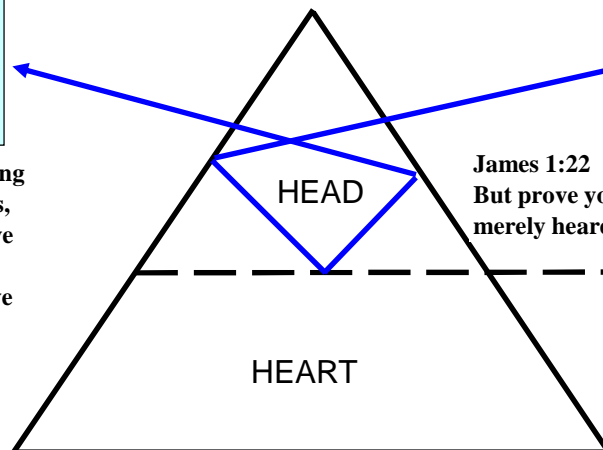
“Now to Him who is able to do exceeding abundantly beyond all that we ask or think, according to the power that works within us,”(NAS)

Eph 3:20

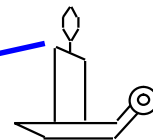
The Prism Illustration

**INFORMATION ONLY
LEADS ONLY TO
MORE KNOWLEDGE**

1 Cor 8:1 Now concerning things sacrificed to idols, we know that we all have knowledge. Knowledge makes arrogant, but love edifies. (NAS)



PS 119:105



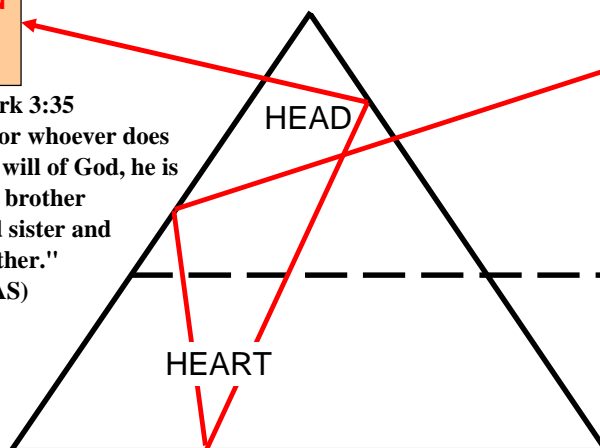
James 1:22 But prove yourselves doers of the word, and not merely hearers who delude themselves. (NAS)

1 Cor 2:14 But a natural man 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. (NAS)

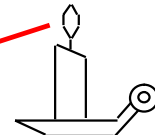
DELUSION = "HEARING THE WORD AND NOT DOING ANYTHING WITH IT."

**APPLICATION OF
INFORMATION
LEADS TO
TRANSFORMATION
(SPIRITUAL
GROWTH)**

Mark 3:35 "For whoever does the will of God, he is My brother and sister and mother." (NAS)



Ps 119:105 Thy word is a lamp to my feet, and a light to my path. (NAS)



Jer 15:16 Thy words were found and I ate them, and Thy words became for me a joy and the delight of my heart; (NAS)

MEDITATION = "PRAYERFUL REFLECTION WITH A VIEW TOWARD APPLICATION"

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. (NAS)

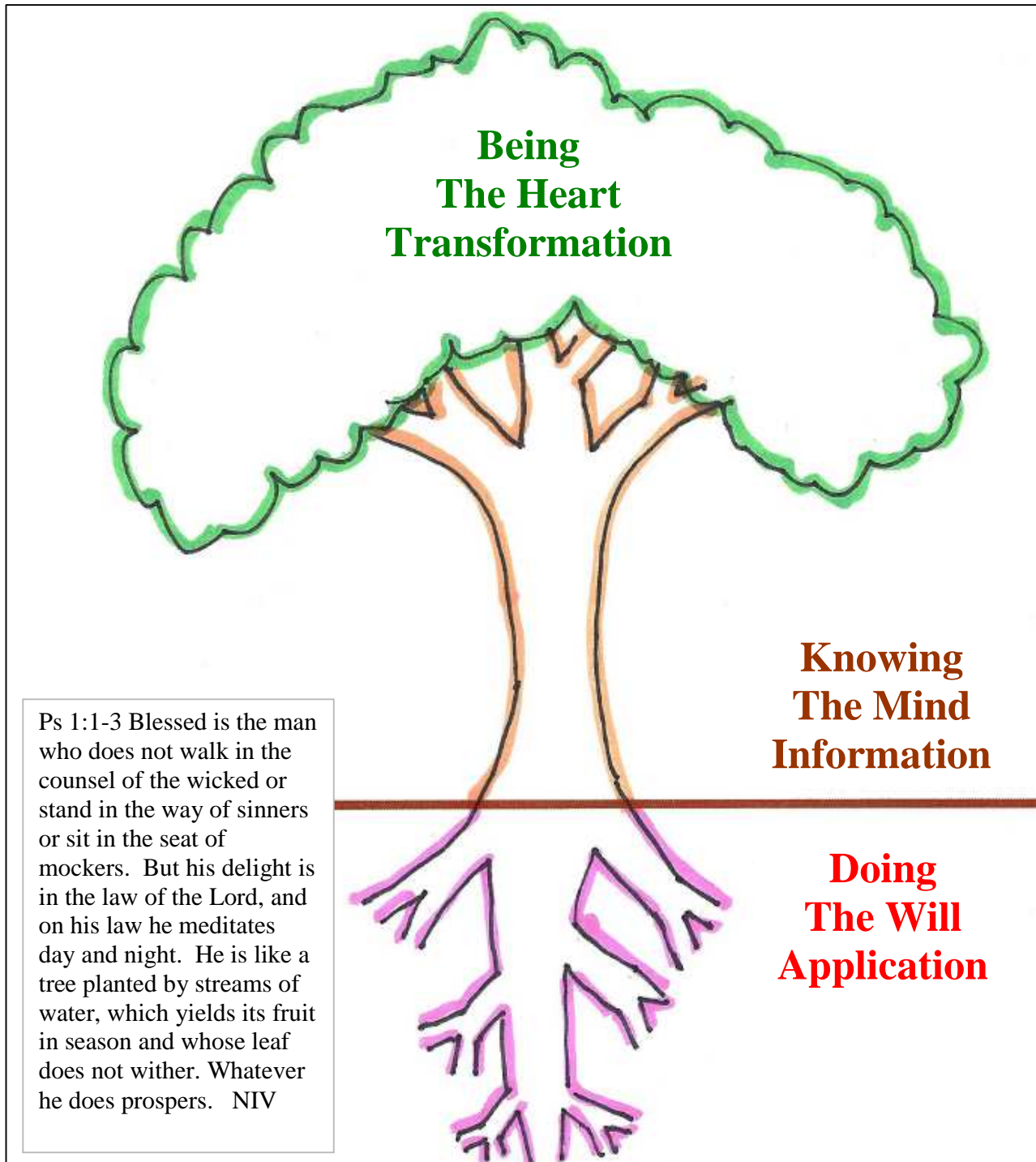
Explanation of the Prism Illustration:

The Prism Illustration shows two states of man, the natural man (above) and the new man (below). The new man wants to please God, the natural man does not. The will of the new man directs God's intentions through the heart into actions. The old man is simply not willing to let this happen.

So the point of the illustration is this: We as Christians need to be willing to seek, understand and become the will of God no matter what it is.

- Seeking requires an act of the will and involves time in the Bible.
- Understanding requires an act of the will and involves looking for what matters to God not what matters to me.
- Becoming requires an act of the will and involves submission to God.

The Tree Illustration



“Knowing” → “Doing” → “Being”
“The Mind” → “The Will” → “The Heart”
“Information” → “Application” → “Transformation”

Explanation of the Tree Illustration:

Various references to vegetation can be found throughout the Bible.

The intent of the Tree Illustration is to show how application of the Bible can be seen in a diagram of a tree. There are two parts of the tree that can be seen (above the ground) and one part that normally can not be seen (below the ground).

The top of the tree can be seen and it is our **heart**. Our heart is revealed to others when we react to adverse circumstances. Our heart is a reflection of who we really are. It is our “**being**”. It is where **transformation** takes place and fruit is produced.

Prov 27:19 As water reflects a face, so a man's heart reflects the man. (NIV)

Matt 6:21 For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also. (NIV)

Matt 7:17 Likewise every good tree bears good fruit, but a bad tree bears bad fruit. (NIV)

The other part of the tree that can be seen is the trunk. The trunk is where the **mind** is and it is where **information** from the Bible resides. “**Knowing**” the Bible is an essential part of the tree and needed to produce good fruit.

Ps 119:105 Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light for my path. (NIV)

Jer 15:16 When your words came, I ate them; they were my joy and my heart's delight, for I bear your name, O LORD God Almighty. (NIV)

The part of the tree that is not easy to see is the roots. The roots of the tree provide nourishment to the whole tree allowing it to grow and bear fruit in the heart. The root is where the **will** is and the place where **application** takes place. As a result, it is where “**becoming**” begins.

Prov 2:1-5 My son, if you accept my words and store up my commands within you, turning your ear to wisdom and applying your heart to understanding, and if you call out for insight and cry aloud for understanding, and if you look for it as for silver and search for it as for hidden treasure, then you will understand the fear of the LORD and find the knowledge of God.(NIV)

One more thing to think about before diving in:

Prov 27:19 As water reflects a face, so a man's heart reflects the man. (NIV)

John 2:23-25 Now while he was in Jerusalem at the Passover Feast, many people saw the miraculous signs he was doing and believed in his name. But Jesus would not entrust himself to them, for he knew all men. He did not need man's testimony about man, for he knew what was in a man. (NIV)

Matt 15:18-19 But the things that come out of the mouth come from the heart, and these make a man 'unclean.' For out of the heart come evil thoughts, murder, adultery, sexual immorality, theft, false testimony, slander. (NIV)

Matt 6:21 For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also. (NIV)

My heart is “who I really am”. It is my “being”. The heart is what Jesus looked at when he looked at people. My heart can be known by God at anytime because he knows my thoughts and desires. Desires are from the heart. Reactions to life are from the heart. Others can see our heart by observing our reactions to adversity. Our actions can be disguised to reflect what we want others to see. As a result, what we “do” is not always from the heart. Doing things we desire to do is always from the heart. God wants us to not just do things but rather he wants us to do things from the heart. The home of love is the heart. When love is at home, our desires are in line with God because God is love.

Doing God's Will

Illustration

John 15:7

"If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it shall be done for you. (NAS)

1 Jn 5:14-15

And this is the confidence which we have before Him, that, if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us. And if we know that He hears us in whatever we ask, we know that we have the requests which we have asked from Him. (NAS)

I N F O R M A T I O N	How can I "Abide in Him" when I pray? ----->	Realize God speaks to me when I READ the word (1 Thess 2:13)	Realize I can SPEAK back God's word to Him when I PRAY (Palmss 5:3)
	What Is GOD's RESPONSIBILITY ----->	SHOW me more of Him and His will for me (Psalms 32:8)	Lovingly RESPOND to my prayer according to His WILL for me. (2 Chron 16:9a)
	What Is my RESPONSIBILITY? ----->	SEEK to know God LISTEN for His will (Psalms 63:1)	Pray About what I FIND and HEAR (John 15:7)
A P P L I C A T I O N	THINGS I CAN DO TO HELP ME GET MORE OUT OF GOD's WORD ----->	Look for S.P.E.C.K. While I READ the Word	Use the A.C.T.S. of prayer when I PRAY back to God the things that I read
		Does this verse show me a SIN to avoid?	ADORATION Worship God with the things He revealed to me about himself
		Does this verse show me a PROMISE to claim?	CONFESSION Tell my Father about the sin His word has revealed in my life
		Does this verse show me an EXAMPLE to follow?	THANKSGIVING Tell my Father what I am grateful for.
		Does this verse show me a COMMAND to obey?	SUPPLICATION Lay my request before my Father
		Does this verse help me KNOW God?	

2 Chr 16:9a

"For the eyes of the LORD move to and fro throughout the earth that He may strongly support those whose heart is completely His....." (NAS)

Questions?Go to www.thepurposeoflove.net

In the space provided below, write out your personal application. If you have trouble identifying your personal application, review the Appendix that is appropriate for you.

Loving God More

Assuming God does his part and based on what was covered, what can I do to grow in my love of God?

To Do List	Why it will Work

Loving Christians More

Assuming God does his part and based on what was covered, what can I do to grow in my love of Christians?

To Do List	Why it will Work

Loving Non Christians More

Assuming God does his part and based on what was covered, what can I do to grow in my love of Non-Christians?

To Do List	Why it will Work

Appendix 1

Exercises for a Potential Christian

2 Cor 13:5

Examine yourselves to see whether you are in the faith; test yourselves. Do you not realize that Christ Jesus is in you-- unless, of course, you fail the test? (NIV)

Exercise 1

If you did not read the “Important information before going on” on the welcome page, please read that first and then go to Exercise 2 below.

Exercise 2

In the space provided write down your understanding of the correct answers to the question below:

All Have Sinned

Rom 3:23 for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, (NIV)

Isa 53:6 We all, like sheep, have gone astray, each of us has turned to his own way; and the LORD has laid on him the iniquity of us all. (NIV)

How many individuals have sinned and gone astray?

The Penalty of Sin

Rom 6:23 For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord. (NIV)

Heb 9:27 Just as man is destined to die once, and after that to face judgment, (NIV)

What does the word “wage” communicate to you?

Christ Paid the Penalty

Rom 5:8 But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us. (NIV)

1 Pet 3:18 For Christ died for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, to bring you to God. He was put to death in the body but made alive by the Spirit, (NIV)

What evidence do we have that God loves man?

Where did the death of Christ bring us?

Salvation Not By Works

Eph 2:8-10 For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith-- and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God-- not by works, so that no one can boast. For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do. (NIV)

Titus 3:5 he saved us, not because of righteous things we had done, but because of his mercy. He saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit, (NIV)

Some people believe they can gain acceptance with God by working hard and doing good things.

How does that idea conflict with the Titus 3:5?

Describe the gift in Eph 2:8-9

Must Receive Christ

John 1:12 Yet to all who received him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God-- (NIV)

Rev 3:20 Here I am! I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in and eat with him, and he with me. (NIV)

What does belief in his name do in Jn 1:12? _____

Jesus is at the door of your heart knocking Rev 3:20. What does he want you to do?

Assurance of Salvation

I Jn 5:13 I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God so that you may know that you have eternal life. (NIV)

John 5:24 "I tell you the truth, whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life and will not be condemned; he has crossed over from death to life. (NIV)

1 Jn 5:13: Why was the Bible written?

John 5:24: What does hearing and believing Jesus do for the hearer and believer?

Summary of Correct Answers

-All people are born with a nature that is self centered instead of being God centered. This self centered attitude is obvious to parents raising children. This self-centeredness is sometimes called the "sin nature" or the "old man". Every person has it. This is why all have sinned.

-The consequence of this nature is huge and is both physical and spiritual. The physical consequence is physical death and the spiritual consequence is spiritual death. Physical death ends this life and spiritual death separates us from God for eternity. This is the penalty of sin.

-God has determined that the only way this self centered attitude can be taken away is to reveal his love to us. He made us so that we would respond to love with love. God's means of expressing this love would take the form of a savior whose name would be "God with us", in the Old Testament, and "Jesus" in the New Testament of the Bible. The savior would have to endure life as we do without being self-centered or in any other way offending God. This would make him perfect in God's eyes and allow him, of his own free will, to take the penalty of sin upon himself and die the death due all men. This is how Christ paid the penalty for sin.

-This is contrary to man's sin nature. The sin nature tells man he can do enough good works to please God. These good works only serve to separate man further from God because it leads to pride and eliminates a response that comes from gratitude to God for what Jesus has done. Salvation is a result of the work of Christ only and not a result of any work we did or can do.

-This opened a door for all men to be forgiven and end the eternal separation from God. God's only requirement is that man admits he has this sin nature and wants to turn from it, trust in the sacrificial death of Jesus to take away sin and trust God to direct him for the rest of this physical life. This is why man must receive Christ.

-Notice that John 5:24 uses the past tense "has". This gives man assurance of salvation.

Appendix 2

Exercises for a New Christian

Exercise 1.

“Do “Who Am I Exercise” on the following page

Exercise 2.

Ask God, every day for the next 15 days to show you what you must do to be able to love God more.

Write important thoughts you receive when doing these exercises in the space below:

Who am I?

Exercise

Where does the love of God come from? It is a gift that comes from seeds of gratitude rooted in faith. Gratitude for what God in Christ has done for me. To increase your gratitude:

1. Read the verses below
2. Fill in the blanks as directed
3. Prayerfully reflect on who you are in Christ and the privileges you enjoy in Him as read your response to God. (reading out loud is special!)

CAUTION!

When reading the completed text, do not be surprised if the enemy plants seeds of unbelief in your mind Heb 3:18-19. He wants you to “identify with the failings of the old man” instead of identifying with the privileges in the new man. In Phil 3:13 Paul said: “...forgetting what lies behind and reaching forward to what lies ahead. I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.” Remembering who I am in Christ is part of that upward call and part of the transformation process. (Rom 12:2)

Fill in the blanks on the right with a description of who you are in Christ and/or what you have in Christ. Some blanks have been filled in as examples. Selection of verses are from the “Bondage Breaker” by Neil T. Anderson		
1 Cor 1:2	To the church (assembly) of God which is in Corinth, to those <u>consecrated</u> and <u>purified</u> and <u>made holy</u> in Christ Jesus, [who are] <u>selected and called to be saints</u> (God's people), together with all those who in any place call upon and give honor to the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, both their Lord and ours: (AMP)	I am consecrated and purified and made holy. I am selected and called to be a saint
1 Cor 3:16	Do you not discern and understand that you [the whole church at Corinth] are God's temple (His sanctuary), and that God's Spirit has His permanent dwelling in you [to be at home in you, collectively as a church and also individually]? (AMP)	

Fill in the blanks on the right with a description of who you are in Christ and/or what you have in Christ. Some blanks have been filled in as examples		
1 Cor 6:17	But the person who is united to the Lord becomes one spirit with Him. (AMP)	
1 Cor 6:19	Do you not know that your body is the temple (the very sanctuary) of the Holy Spirit Who lives within you, Whom you have received [as a Gift] from God? You are not your own, (AMP)	
1 John 3:1-2	SEE WHAT [an incredible] quality of love the Father has given (shown, bestowed on) us, that we should [be permitted to] be named and called and counted the children of God! And so we are! The reason that the world does not know (recognize, acknowledge) us is that it does not know (recognize, acknowledge) Him. 2 Beloved, we are [even here and] now God's children; it is not yet disclosed (made clear) what we shall be [hereafter], but we know that when He comes and is manifested, we shall [as God's children] resemble and be like Him, for we shall see Him just as He [really] is. (AMP)	
1 John 5:18	We know [absolutely] that anyone born of God does not [deliberately and knowingly] practice committing sin, but the One Who was begotten of God carefully watches over and protects him [Christ's divine presence within him preserves him against the evil], and the wicked one does not lay hold (get a grip) on him or touch [him]. (AMP)	I am watched over and protected so that the wicked one does not lay hold of me
1 Peter 2:11	Beloved, I implore you as aliens and strangers and exiles [in this world] to abstain from the sensual urges (the evil desires, the passions of the flesh, your lower nature) that wage war against the soul. (AMP)	

Fill in the blanks on the right with a description of who you are in Christ and/or what you have in Christ. Some blanks have been filled in as examples		
1 Peter 2:5	[Come] and, like living stones, be yourselves built [into] a spiritual house, for a holy (dedicated, consecrated) priesthood, to offer up [those] spiritual sacrifices [that are] acceptable and pleasing to God through Jesus Christ. (AMP)	
1 Peter 2:9-10	But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a dedicated nation, [God's] own purchased, special people, that you may set forth the wonderful deeds and display the virtues and perfections of Him Who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light. [Ex 19:5,6.] 10 Once you were not a people [at all], but now you are God's people; once you were unpitied, but now you are pitied and have received mercy. [Hos 2:23.] (AMP)	
1 Peter 5:8	Be well balanced (temperate, sober of mind), be vigilant and cautious at all times; for that enemy of yours, the devil, roams around like a lion roaring [in fierce hunger], seeking someone to seize upon and devour. (AMP)	The devil is my enemy
1 Thess 1:4	[O] brethren beloved by God, we recognize and know that He has selected (chosen) you; (AMP)	
1 Thess 5:5	For you are all sons of light and sons of the day; we do not belong either to the night or to darkness. (AMP)	
2 Cor 5:17	Therefore if any person is [ingrafted] in Christ (the Messiah) he is a new creation (a new creature altogether); the old [previous moral and spiritual condition] has passed away. Behold, the fresh and new has come! (AMP)	

Fill in the blanks on the right with a description of who you are in Christ and/or what you have in Christ. Some blanks have been filled in as examples		
2 Cor 5:18-19	But all things are from God, Who through Jesus Christ reconciled us to Himself [received us into favor, brought us into harmony with Himself] and gave to us the ministry of reconciliation [that by word and deed we might aim to bring others into harmony with Him]. 19 It was God [personally present] in Christ, reconciling and restoring the world to favor with Himself, not counting up and holding against [men] their trespasses [but cancelling them], and committing to us the message of reconciliation (of the restoration to favor). (AMP)	
Col 1:2	To the saints (the consecrated people of God) and believing and faithful brethren in Christ who are at Colossae: Grace (spiritual favor and blessing) to you and [heart] peace from God our Father. (AMP)	
Col 3:12	Clothe yourselves therefore, as God's own chosen ones (His own picked representatives), [who are] purified and holy and well-beloved [by God Himself, by putting on behavior marked by] tenderhearted pity and mercy, kind feeling, a lowly opinion of yourselves, gentle ways, [and] patience [which is tireless and long-suffering, and has the power to endure whatever comes, with good temper]. (AMP)	
Col 3:3	For [as far as this world is concerned] you have died, and your [new, real] life is hidden with Christ in God. (AMP)	

Fill in the blanks on the right with a description of who you are in Christ and/or what you have in Christ. Some blanks have been filled in as examples		
Col 3:4	When Christ, Who is our life, appears, then you also will appear with Him in [the splendor of His] glory. (AMP)	
Eph 1:1	1 PAUL, AN apostle (special messenger) of Christ Jesus (the Messiah), by the divine will (the purpose and the choice of God) to the saints (the consecrated, set-apart ones) at Ephesus who are also faithful and loyal and steadfast in Christ Jesus: (AMP)	
Eph 2:10	For we are God's [own] handiwork (His workmanship), recreated in Christ Jesus, [born anew] that we may do those good works which God predestined (planned beforehand) for us [taking paths which He prepared ahead of time], that we should walk in them [living the good life which He prearranged and made ready for us to live]. (AMP)	
Eph 2:19	Therefore you are no longer outsiders (exiles, migrants, and aliens, excluded from the rights of citizens), but you now share citizenship with the saints (God's own people, consecrated and set apart for Himself); and you belong to God's [own] household. (AMP)	
Eph 2:6	And He raised us up together with Him and made us sit down together [giving us joint seating with Him] in the heavenly sphere [by virtue of our being] in Christ Jesus (the Messiah, the Anointed One). (AMP)	I have been raised up with Christ and am seated with Christ in the heavenly sphere.

Fill in the blanks on the right with a description of who you are in Christ and/or what you have in Christ. Some blanks have been filled in as examples		
Eph 4:1	I THEREFORE, the prisoner for the Lord, appeal to and beg you to walk (lead a life) worthy of the [divine] calling to which you have been called [with behavior that is a credit to the summons to God's service, (AMP)]	I have been called to walk worthy of Christ.
Eph 4:24	And put on the new nature (the regenerate self) created in God's image, [Godlike] in true righteousness and holiness. (AMP)	
Eph 5:30	Because we are members (parts) of His body. (AMP)	
Gal 3:26-28	For in Christ Jesus you are all sons of God through faith. 27 For as many [of you] as were baptized into Christ [into a spiritual union and communion with Christ, the Anointed One, the Messiah] have put on (clothed yourselves with) Christ. There is [now no distinction] neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is not male and female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus. (AMP)	
Gal 4:6-7	And because you [really] are [His] sons, God has sent the [Holy] Spirit of His Son into our hearts, crying, Abba (Father)! Father! 7 Therefore, you are no longer a slave (bond servant) but a son; and if a son, then [it follows that you are] an heir by the aid of God, through Christ. (AMP)	
Heb 3:1	1 SO THEN, brethren, consecrated and set apart for God, who share in the heavenly calling, [thoughtfully and attentively] consider Jesus, the Apostle and High Priest Whom we confessed [as ours when we embraced the Christian faith]. (AMP)	

Fill in the blanks on the right with a description of who you are in Christ and/or what you have in Christ. Some blanks have been filled in as examples		
Heb 3:14	For we have become fellows with Christ (the Messiah) and share in all He has for us, if only we hold our first newborn confidence and original assured expectation [in virtue of which we are believers] firm and unshaken to the end. (AMP)	I have become a fellow with Christ
John 1:12	But to as many as did receive and welcome Him, He gave the authority (power, privilege, right) to become the children of God, that is, to those who believe in (adhere to, trust in, and rely on) His name — [Isa 56:5.](AMP)	
John 15:1,5	I AM the True Vine, and My Father is the Vinedresser. I am the Vine; you are the branches. Whoever lives in Me and I in him bears much (abundant) fruit. However, apart from Me [cut off from vital union with Me] you can do nothing.(AMP)	
John 15:15	I do not call you servants (slaves) any longer, for the servant does not know what his master is doing (working out). But I have called you My friends, because I have made known to you everything that I have heard from My Father. [I have revealed to you everything that I have learned from Him.] (AMP)	
John 15:16	You have not chosen Me, but I have chosen you and I have appointed you [I have planted you], that you might go and bear fruit and keep on bearing, and that your fruit may be lasting [that it may remain, abide], so that whatever you ask the Father in My Name [as presenting all that I AM], He may give it to you. (AMP)	

Fill in the blanks on the right with a description of who you are in Christ and/or what you have in Christ. Some blanks have been filled in as examples		
Matt 5:13	You are the salt of the earth, but if salt has lost its taste (its strength, its quality), how can its saltiness be restored? It is not good for anything any longer but to be thrown out and trodden underfoot by men.(AMP)	
Matt 5:14	You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden.(AMP)	
Phil 3:20	But we are citizens of the state (commonwealth, homeland) which is in heaven, and from it also we earnestly and patiently await [the coming of] the Lord Jesus Christ (the Messiah) [as] Savior, (AMP)	I am a citizen of the state of heaven.
Rom 6:18	And having been set free from sin, you have become the servants of righteousness (of conformity to the divine will in thought, purpose, and action). (AMP)	
Rom 6:22	But now since you have been set free from sin and have become the slaves of God, you have your present reward in holiness and its end is eternal life. (AMP)	
Rom 8:14-15	For all who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God. For [the Spirit which] you have now received [is] not a spirit of slavery to put you once more in bondage to fear, but you have received the Spirit of adoption [the Spirit producing sonship] in [the bliss of] which we cry, Abba (Father)! Father! (AMP)	
Rom 8:17	And if we are [His] children, then we are [His] heirs also: heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ [sharing His inheritance with Him]; only we must share His suffering if we are to share His glory. (AMP)	

Rom 12:2 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)

If there is one word that describes this life, it is “distraction”.

Everything, apart from the Holy Spirit, seems to distract us from being all that God would like us to be. The above verse is a key to understanding what we must do to "be all that God would like us to be". In the space below, summarize who you now are in Christ and what you can do with this information to "be transformed". The more you understand and reflect on God's love for you, the more you will love Him in return.

[illegible]

Appendix 3

Exercises for a Maturing Christian

1 Cor 9:26-27

Therefore I do not run like a man running aimlessly; I do not fight like a man beating the air. No, I beat my body and make it my slave so that after I have preached to others, I myself will not be disqualified for the prize. (NIV)

2 Cor 13:11

Finally, brothers, good-by. Aim for perfection, listen to my appeal, be of one mind, live in peace. And the God of love and peace will be with you. (NIV)

1 Cor 9:25 Everyone who competes in the games goes into strict training. They do it to get a crown that will not last; but we do it to get a crown that will last forever. (NIV)

1 Tim 4:7-8 Have nothing to do with godless myths and old wives' tales; rather, train yourself to be godly. For physical training is of some value, but godliness has value for all things, holding promise for both the present life and the life to come. (NIV)

2 Tim 3:16 All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, (NIV)

Exercise 1.

Do Exercises for a New Christian (page 73)

Exercise 2

Fill in the blanks on the following pages through the end of this Appendix

Exercise 3

Once a day, for the next 30 days, review the word study in this section and ask God to give you a desire to love God with all of your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.

(“All things are possible with God”)

Exercise 4

Once a day, for the following 30 days, ask God to give you a desire to be filled with His Spirit all of the time.

(“All things are possible with God”)

Eph 4:14-24 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; but speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in all aspects into Him, who is the head, even Christ, from whom the whole body, being fitted and held together by that which every joint supplies, according to the proper working of each individual part, causes the growth of the body for the building up of itself in love. This I say therefore, and affirm together with the Lord, that you walk no longer just as the Gentiles also walk, in the futility of their mind, being darkened in their understanding, excluded from the life of God, because of the ignorance that is in them, because of the hardness of their heart; and they, having become callous, have given themselves over to sensuality, for the practice of every kind of impurity with greediness. But you did not learn Christ in this way, if indeed you have heard Him and have been taught in Him, just as truth is in Jesus, that, in reference to your former manner of life, you lay aside the old self, which is being corrupted in accordance with the lusts of deceit, and that you be renewed in the spirit of your mind, and put on the new self, which in the likeness of God has been created in righteousness and holiness of the truth. (NAS)

How does love cause us to “grow up” in all aspects of Him?

What did Paul affirm together with the Lord?

What does it mean to “lay aside the old self” and “put on the new self”?

What is so amazing about the “new self” as described at the end of this passage?

Is this “new self” something we might expect in another life or has it been made available to Christians in this life?

Why is this important to understand?

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. (NAS)

What does the “new creature” in 2 Cor 5:17 have in common with the “new self” in Eph 4:14-24?

Rom 6:1-18 What shall we say then? Are we to continue in sin that grace might increase? May it never be! How shall we who died to sin still live in it? Or do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus have been baptized into His death? Therefore we have been buried with Him through baptism into death, in order that as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life. For if we have become united with Him in the likeness of His death, certainly we shall be also in the likeness of His resurrection, knowing this, that our old self was crucified with Him, that our body of sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves to sin; for he who has died is freed from sin. Now if we have died with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with Him, knowing that Christ, having been raised from the dead, is never to die again; death no longer is master over Him. For the death that He died, He died to sin, once for all; but the life that He lives, He lives to God. Even so consider yourselves to be dead to sin, but alive to God in Christ Jesus. Therefore do not let sin reign in your mortal body that you should obey its lusts, and do not go on presenting the members of your body to sin as instruments of unrighteousness; but present yourselves to God as those alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness to God. For sin shall not be master over you, for you are not under law, but under grace. What then? Shall we sin because we are not under law but under grace? May it never be! Do you not know that when you present yourselves to someone as slaves for obedience, you are slaves of the one whom you obey, either of sin resulting in death, or of obedience resulting in righteousness? But thanks be to God that though you were slaves of sin, you became obedient from the heart to that form of teaching to which you were committed, and having been freed from sin, you became slaves of righteousness. (NAS)

Is it possible for the Christian to “walk in newness of life” in this life? _____

Can God expect this from the Christian? _____

Why? _____

Who is to prevent sin from “reigning” in the Christian’s mortal body?

What does obedience result in _____

Why is being dead to sin so important in bringing about this righteousness?

What part does the Christian’s “will” play in all of the above?

What perspective does Paul want the reader to have regarding the believer’s relation to sin?

Rom 7:22-8:14 For I joyfully concur with the law of God in the inner man, but I see a different law in the members of my body, waging war against the law of my mind, and making me a prisoner of the law of sin which is in my members. Wretched man that I am! Who will set me free from the body of this death? Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord! So then, on the one hand I myself with my mind am serving the law of God, but on the other, with my flesh the law of sin. There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has set you free from the law of sin and of death. For what the Law could not do, weak as it was through the flesh, God did: sending His own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh and as an offering for sin, He condemned sin in the flesh, in order that the requirement of the Law might be fulfilled in us, who do not walk according to the flesh, but according to the Spirit. For those who are according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who are according to the Spirit, the things of the Spirit. For the mind set on the flesh is death, but the mind set on the Spirit is life and peace, because the mind set on the flesh is hostile toward God; for it does not subject itself to the law of God, for it is not even able to do so; and those who are in the flesh cannot please God. However, you are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God dwells in you. But if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he does not belong to Him. And if Christ is in you, though the body is dead because of sin, yet the spirit is alive because of righteousness. 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, brethren, 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; 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. (NAS)

What/who is “the inner man”?

What are characteristics of the “war” that Paul describes above?

Paul thanks God and then explains why he is thankful. Why is Paul thankful?

Is Paul free to serve the law of God with his mind (in the inner man) because the law of sin is limited to the flesh? _____

Why is it so important that sin not also reign in his mind (in the inner man)?

How can ‘limiting the law of sin to the flesh’ set me (the inner man) ‘free to from the law of sin and death’?

(Hint: “you are not in the flesh”. “the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has set you free from the law of sin and of death”)

I Jn 4:12-18 No one has beheld God at any time; if we love one another, God abides in us, and His love is perfected in us. By this we know that we abide in Him and He in us, because He has given us of His Spirit. And we have beheld and bear witness that the Father has sent the Son to be the Savior of the world. Whoever confesses that Jesus is the Son of God, God abides in him, and he in God. And we have come to know and have believed the love which God has for us. God is love, and the one who abides in love abides in God, and God abides in him. By this, love is perfected with us, that we may have confidence in the day of judgment; because as He is, so also are we in this world. There is no fear in love; but perfect love casts out fear, because fear involves punishment, and the one who fears is not perfected in love. (NAS)

Can God's love be perfected in us in this life? _____ By "what" is love perfected? _____

How are answers to the above questions related to having "confidence in the day of judgment"?

_____ What is there to fear? _____

How can perfect love cast out fear? _____

Is the above verse saying it is possible to have "perfect love" in this life? _____

Why are these questions important? _____

Rom 14:20-23 Do not tear down the work of God for the sake of food. All things indeed are clean, but they are evil for the man who eats and gives offense. It is good not to eat meat or to drink wine, or to do anything by which your brother stumbles. The faith which you have, have as your own conviction before God. Happy is he who does not condemn himself in what he approves. But he who doubts is condemned if he eats, because his eating is not from faith; and whatever is not from faith is sin. (NAS)

Gal 5:16-18 But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not carry out the desire of the flesh. For the flesh sets its desire against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh; for these are in opposition to one another, so that you may not do the things that you please. But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the Law. (NAS)

What two things in the above verses will keep us from sin.

_____ and _____

Will doing these things all the time result in perfection in the Christian life? _____

2 Cor 13:9-11 We are glad whenever we are weak but you are strong; and our prayer is for your perfection. This is why I write these things when I am absent, that when I come I may not have to be harsh in my use of authority-- the authority the Lord gave me for building you up, not for tearing you down. Finally, brothers, good-bye. Aim for perfection, listen to my appeal, be of one mind, live in peace. And the God of love and peace will be with you. (NIV)

What is your definition of perfection? _____

The following pages are the result of a brief study of the word "perfect" and "perfected" in the New Testament. As you go through this material, ask God to show you what is possible "in Christ" and record your thoughts on the last page of this Appendix.

Matt 5:43-48 "You have heard that it was said, 'You shall love your neighbor, and hate your enemy.' "But I say to you, love your enemies, and pray for those who persecute you in order that you may be sons of your Father who is in heaven; for He causes His sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous. "For if you love those who love you, what reward have you? Do not even the tax-gatherers do the same? "And if you greet your brothers only, what do you do more than others? Do not even the Gentiles do the same? "Therefore you are to be perfect, as your heavenly Father is perfect. (NAS)

Closer look at the word “perfect” in Mat 5:28

1. Strong's definition of word = 5046= teleios (tel'-i-os); from 5056; meaning complete (in various applications of labor, growth, mental and moral character, etc.); neuter (as noun, with 3588) completeness:
2. Other English word in the KJV that come from this Greek word: of full age, man, perfect.
3. All places where this Greek word appears:

Matt 5:48 Be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect. (NIV)

Matt 19:21 Jesus answered, "If you want to be perfect, go, sell your possessions and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come, follow me." (NIV)

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

1 Cor 2:6 We do, however, speak a message of wisdom among the mature, but not the wisdom of this age or of the rulers of this age, who are coming to nothing. (NIV)

1 Cor 13:10 but when perfection comes, the imperfect disappears. (NIV)

1 Cor 14:20 Brothers, stop thinking like children. In regard to evil be infants, but in your thinking be adults. (NIV)

Eph 4:13 until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ. (NIV)

Phil 3:15 All of us who are mature should take such a view of things. And if on some point you think differently, that too God will make clear to you. (NIV)

Col 1:28 We proclaim him, admonishing and teaching everyone with all wisdom, so that we may present everyone perfect in Christ. (NIV)

Col 4:12 Epaphras, who is one of you and a servant of Christ Jesus, sends greetings. He is always wrestling in prayer for you, that you may stand firm in all the will of God, mature and fully assured. (NIV)

Heb 5:14 But solid food is for the mature, who by constant use have trained themselves to distinguish good from evil. (NIV)

Heb 9:11 When Christ came as high priest of the good things that are already here, he went through the greater and more perfect tabernacle that is not man-made, that is to say, not a part of this creation. (NIV)

James 1:4 Perseverance must finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything. (NIV)

James 1:17 Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows. (NIV)

James 1:25 But the man who looks intently into the perfect law that gives freedom, and continues to do this, not forgetting what he has heard, but doing it-- he will be blessed in what he does. (NIV)

James 3:2 We all stumble in many ways. If anyone is never at fault in what he says, he is a perfect man, able to keep his whole body in check. (NIV)

1 Jn 4:18 There is no fear in love. But perfect love drives out fear, because fear has to do with punishment. The one who fears is not made perfect in love. (NIV)

John 17:20-23 "I do not ask in behalf of these alone, 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; that the world may believe that Thou didst send Me. "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. (NAS)

Closer look at the word “perfected” in John 17:23

1. Strong’s definition of word = 5048= teleios (tel'-i-os); from 5056;
meaning: to complete, i.e. (literally) accomplish, or (figuratively) consummate (in character):
2. Other English word in the KJV that come from this Greek word:
consecrate, finish, fulfill, make) perfect.
3. All places where this Greek word appears:

Luke 2:43 After the Feast was over, while his parents were returning home, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem, but they were unaware of it. (NIV)

Luke 13:32 He replied, "Go tell that fox, 'I will drive out demons and heal people today and tomorrow, and on the third day I will reach my goal.' (NIV)

John 4:34 "My food," said Jesus, "is to do the will of him who sent me and to finish his work. (NIV)

John 5:36 "I have testimony weightier than that of John. For the very work that the Father has given me to finish, and which I am doing, testifies that the Father has sent me. (NIV)

John 17:4 I have brought you glory on earth by completing the work you gave me to do. (NIV)

John 17:23 I in them and you in me. May they be brought to complete unity to let the world know that you sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me. (NIV)

John 19:28 Later, knowing that all was now completed, and so that the Scripture would be fulfilled, Jesus said, "I am thirsty." (NIV)

Acts 20:24 However, I consider my life worth nothing to me, if only I may finish the race and complete the task the Lord Jesus has given me-- the task of testifying to the gospel of God's grace. (NIV)

2 Cor 12:9 But he said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness." Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ's power may rest on me. (NIV)

Phil 3:12 Not that I have already obtained all this, or have already been made perfect, but I press on to take hold of that for which Christ Jesus took hold of me. (NIV)

Heb 2:10 In bringing many sons to glory, it was fitting that God, for whom and through whom everything exists, should make the author of their salvation perfect through suffering. (NIV)

Heb 5:9 and, once made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation for all who obey him (NIV)

Heb 7:19 (for the law made nothing perfect), and a better hope is introduced, by which we draw near to God. (NIV)

Heb 7:28 For the law appoints as high priests men who are weak; but the oath, which came after the law, appointed the Son, who has been made perfect forever. (NIV)

Heb 9:9 This is an illustration for the present time, indicating that the gifts and sacrifices being offered were not able to clear the conscience of the worshiper. (NIV)

Heb 10:1 The law is only a shadow of the good things that are coming-- not the realities themselves. For this reason it can never, by the same sacrifices repeated endlessly year after year, make perfect those who draw near to worship. (NIV)

Heb 10:14 because by one sacrifice he has made perfect forever those who are being made holy. (NIV)

Heb 11:40 God had planned something better for us so that only together with us would they be made perfect. (NIV)

Heb 12:23 to the church of the firstborn, whose names are written in heaven. You have come to God, the judge of all men, to the spirits of righteous men made perfect, (NIV)

James 2:22 You see that his faith and his actions were working together, and his faith was made complete by what he did. (NIV)

1 Jn 2:5 But if anyone obeys his word, God's love is truly made complete in him. This is how we know we are in him: (NIV)

1 Jn 4:12 No one has ever seen God; but if we love one another, God lives in us and his love is made complete in us. (NIV)

1 Jn 4:17-18 In this way, love is made complete among us so that we will have confidence on the day of judgment, because in this world we are like him. There is no fear in love. But perfect love drives out fear, because fear has to do with punishment. The one who fears is not made perfect in love. (NIV)

Phil 1:6 {For I am} confident of this very thing, that He who began a good work in you will perfect it until the day of Christ Jesus. (NAS)

Closer look at the word “perfect” in Phil 1:6

1. Strong’s definition of word = 2005 = epiteleo (ep-ee-tel-eh'-o); from 1909 and 5055; meaning to fulfill further (or completely), i.e. execute; by implication, to terminate, undergo;
2. Other English word in the KJV that come from this Greek word:
accomplish, do, finish, (make) (perfect), perform (X -ance).
3. All places where this Greek word appears

Rom 15:28 So after I have completed this task and have made sure that they have received this fruit, I will go to Spain and visit you on the way. (NIV)

2 Cor 7:1 Since we have these promises, dear friends, let us purify ourselves from everything that contaminates body and spirit, perfecting holiness out of reverence for God. (NIV)

2 Cor 8:6 So we urged Titus, since he had earlier made a beginning, to bring also to completion this act of grace on your part. (NIV)

2 Cor 8:11 Now finish the work, so that your eager willingness to do it may be matched by your completion of it, according to your means. (NIV)

Gal 3:3 Are you so foolish? After beginning with the Spirit, are you now trying to attain your goal by human effort? (NIV)

Phil 1:6 being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus. (NIV)

Heb 8:5 They serve at a sanctuary that is a copy and shadow of what is in heaven. This is why Moses was warned when he was about to build the tabernacle: "See to it that you make everything according to the pattern shown you on the mountain." (NIV)

Heb 9:6 When everything had been arranged like this, the priests entered regularly into the outer room to carry on their ministry. (NIV)

1 Pet 5:9 Resist him, standing firm in the faith, because you know that your brothers throughout the world are undergoing the same kind of sufferings. (NIV)

Eph 3:14-19 For this reason, I bow my knees before the Father, from whom every family in heaven and on earth derives its name, that He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with power through His Spirit in the inner man; so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith; and that you, being rooted and grounded in love, may be able to comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth and length and height and depth, and to know the love of Christ which surpasses knowledge, that you may be filled up to all the fulness of God. (NAS)

What is possible “in Christ”

This image shows a blank sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and extend across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.

Return to the beginning of this Appendix and complete Exercise 3 and 4

Appendix 4

A True Story About One Man's Heart

*Man has walked through the ages in many winding paths;
Picking up bits and pieces and wondering what he has.
Many say they have the answer, but how am I to know?
Which one is right or wrong; which way should I go?*

*Stumbling, fumbling, like a blinded baby boy;
Searching for a golden road in life that leads a life to joy.
I follow no direction; only a leading that's inside me;
It is something that is pure and good - what can it be?*

*Roaming, searching, trying to find truth;
Like grabbing something hard to grab, always slipping loose.
Walking, wandering, from road to road;
Seeking the truth, a path made of gold.*

*There must be more to life than working everyday;
The answer must be some truth unfound, can there be another way?
The answer to this question escapes me all the time;
It seems I have all the answers, except the one I seek to find.*

*The years of my life, I see slowly slipping by;
The reason that I am here today, I really don't know why.
Questions, questions, a never ending number;
Oh, let me rest inside that I might find slumber.*

*The world seems so dark and cold; getting darker every day;
I wish, I wish with all my heart that I might find the way.
But this truth I seek to find is not plain for me to see.
Should I sit and scratch my head and just wonder what will be?*

*Some say they found the answer; while others search far and wide.
For me, I think this search starts within me deep inside.
It's a search for what's right and wrong - this is what I feel;
A search for meaning in life - a search for what is real.*

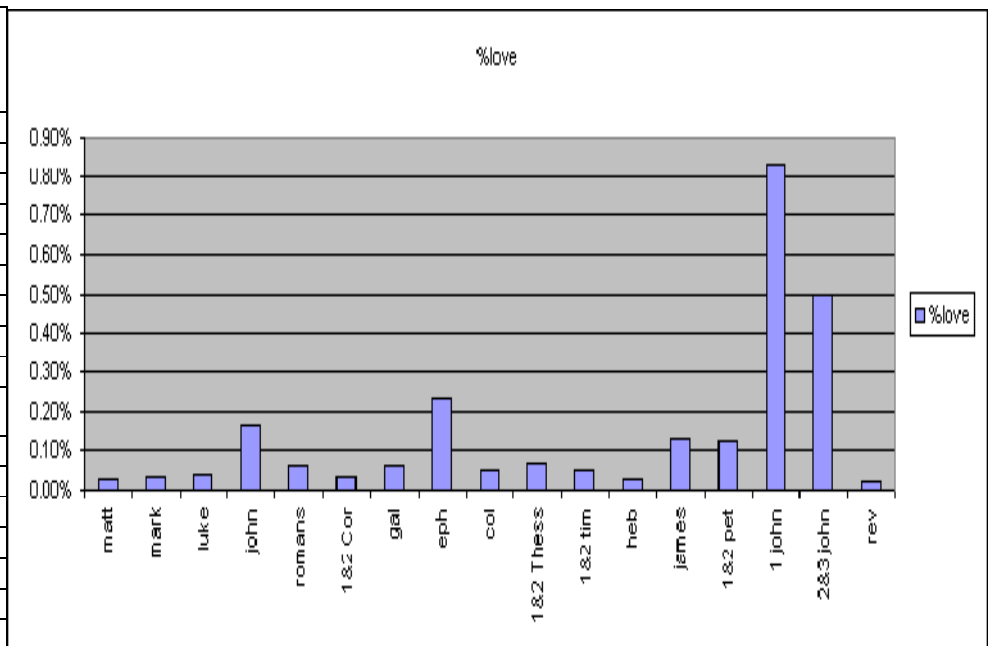
*Another shows me a book of truth, that leads to a life of gold;
As I read it, I begin to see the purpose of life unfold.
It's a life full of meaning and riches more than I can say;
My quest is taking shape I see, more clear becomes the way!*

*The road I seek is straight and narrow - not a winding path;
It leads to joy unmeasured and to happiness that lasts.
Now I have found the truth I sought, it's in the one who paid the price.
The answer to all my questions is a risen Jesus Christ!*

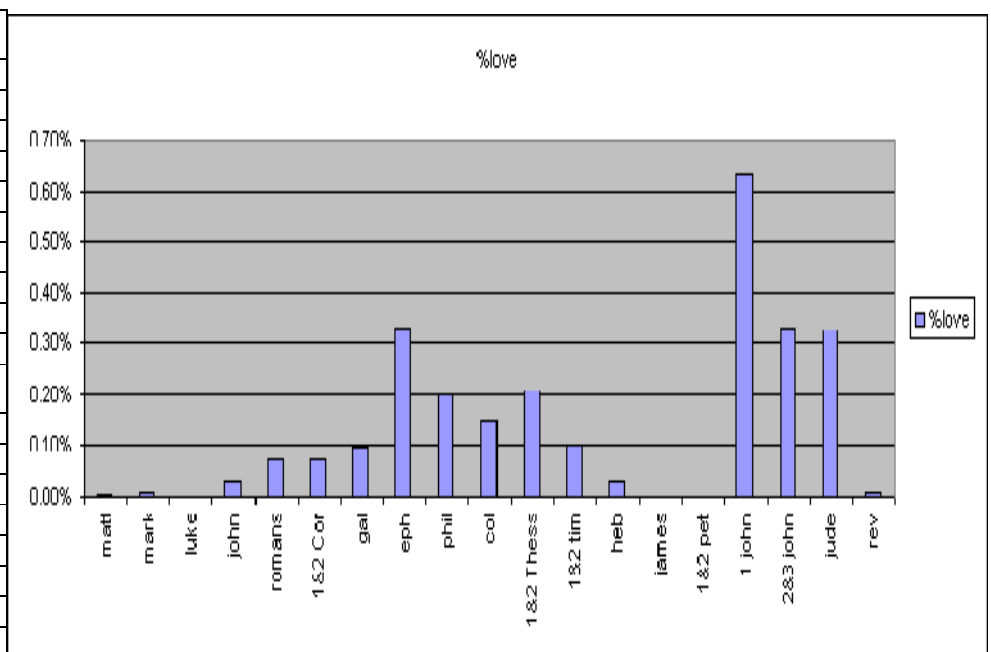
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The Purpose of Love

agapao= "to love"	total words	book	%love
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5	15171	mark	0.03%
10	25944	luke	0.04%
31	19099	john	0.16%
6	9447	romans	0.06%
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2	3098	gal	0.06%
7	3039	eph	0.23%
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3	2309	james	0.13%
5	4041	1&2 pet	0.12%
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3	602	2&3 john	0.50%
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John is the only disciple who is called "the disciple whom Jesus loved"

About The Author

Wayne Ruschel is a person who has had a long-time interest in spiritual growth and spiritual multiplication. Driven by a need to know God and a need to understand God's will for man, he came across an explanation of love that Jesus gave to an expert of the Jewish Law. That explanation sparked an interest in the topic and launched him into detailed word studies that took years to complete. His findings are in this study guide and workbook in a question and answer format so as to not get in the way of the Holy Spirit speaking directly to the reader.