

## 2

# Triumphing Over Performance

- *REST* -

*No man can please God through good works. Even though one aims for the target of righteousness, he will in time fall short of the glory of God. We must come to accept the grace that we find in Jesus Christ. We then enter into His rest. We receive eternal life through faith in Jesus. Moreover, we must also live by grace (the ability to will and do the will of God).*

### The Four Lepers

**W**e find an interesting story in the book of II Kings chapters six and seven. Benhadad, the king of Syria, went up to besiege Israel in Samaria. There was such a great famine in Samaria that a donkey's head was for sold 40 pieces of silver and one fourth part of their smallest measure of "dove's dung" was sold for 8 pieces of silver. It was so bad that two women agreed to kill and eat their own sons.

Elisha, the prophet, prophesied that the next day the prices for flour and barley would drop dramatically to near normal levels. There were four lepers who sat outside the gate

of the city. Leprosy was a contagious, incurable, and fatal disease. They were outcasts! They struggled with their options. They said, "If we go into the city, there is famine there and we will die. If we sit here, we will die. If we go into the Syrian camp, maybe, they will let us live, but if not, they will kill us and we will die." They decided to step out and go to the camp of the Syrians.

Meanwhile, God caused the Syrians to hear the noise of horses, of chariots, and of a great army. The Syrians said to each other, "Israel must have hired the Hittites and the kings of Egypt to come against us." Therefore, they decided to flee for their lives in the twilight leaving everything behind.

When the four lepers came into the Syrian camp, they found no one. However, there were food and drinks on the table. In their hunger, they sat down and ate until they were filled. Then, as they began to look around, they found items of silver and of gold. They also found the elegant garments that the Syrians had left behind. At first, they began to load up and went and hid the bounty. After doing this several times, they stopped. They said to one another, "This is not right." "Something bad will surely happen to us if we don't go back to the city and tell the king." So they returned to the city to tell the king's household. They called to the porter of the city and told him what had happened and he went and told the king's household. The king got up upon hearing the news, but couldn't believe that it was true. He thought that it was a trick of the Syrians to get them to come out of the city. Then one of the king's servants suggested that they send out a search party to investigate. He said, "We only have five horses left." The people had obviously eaten the other horses. He said, "After all, five horses won't last long among so many people anyway." The king took his advice and sent out men in two chariots. They immediately found the spoil that the Syrians had left behind. They returned to the city to tell the good news (the gospel). There was a stampede of people to get the spoil and the gatekeeper was trampled to death in the process. That day the words of the prophet were fulfilled and the price of flour and barley dropped.

## Like The Lepers

Many people have been like the four lepers. They have contracted the leprosy of sin. There is a death pronounced upon them. They are outcasts. They say, "If we return to the world, there is a famine in the world." The prophet, Amos, says, "*Behold, the days come, saith the Lord GOD, that I will send a famine in the land, not a famine of bread, nor a thirst for water, but of hearing the words of the LORD: and they shall wander from sea to sea, and from the north even to the east, they shall run to and fro to seek the word of the LORD, and shall not find it*" (Amos 8:11-12). They say, "If we go the way of the world, then we die." "If we stay where we are, we will also die." "Maybe, the Syrians will let us live?" "We have lost nothing if we try it."

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This is the way that people sometimes look at Christianity. They take a step of faith and find salvation. They have yet to realize that Jesus came to spoil the enemy. *"For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that he might destroy the works of the devil"* (I John 3:8). Isaiah, the prophet, told of the coming of Jesus when he said, *"Therefore will I (God) divide him (Jesus) a portion with the great, and he (Jesus) shall divide the **spoil** with the strong; because he hath poured out his soul unto death: and he was number with the transgressors; and he bare the sin of many, and made intercession for the transgressors"* (Isaiah 53:12). Jesus had victory over the enemy when he died for our sins upon the cross and was resurrected the third day. Now, those who will step out by faith can receive what Jesus has left for them.

## The Issue Of Grace

The four lepers found food to eat and something to drink. They found a table set before them, that they didn't even prepare. This is interesting because they did nothing to deserve what they received. God provided the spoil. They did not work for what they received. In like fashion, we do not deserve salvation in Christ, yet God sets it before in response to our faith. They could have said, "I am afraid to eat. After all, the enemy might come back and kill us." They could have just pinched themselves and said, "This is too good to be true." They could have said, "I can't eat and drink, because I don't deserve it."

The four lepers wasted no time. They were hungry and thirsty. They sat down and ate and drank. When one becomes hungry enough, he will sit down and eat and drink of Jesus in a spiritual sense (John 7:53-54). The Lord's supper is a picture of this. Jesus becomes the life of the Believer. After the lepers finished eating, they began to look around to discover that there were items of great value also that the Syrians had left behind. Some were made of silver. Silver in Scripture is a symbol of redemption. We are not only saved from death and receive life, we also are redeemed by the blood of Jesus unto God. Our relationship to God is restored. Some items were made of gold. Gold is a symbol of purity and royalty. When we receive Christ, we are born into the royal family of God. We become sons of God. The lepers also discovered the fine garments that were left behind. We also receive the robe of righteousness that Jesus left for us.

In fact, we find in the book of Hebrews that there are many things that accompany salvation (Hebrews 6:9). Paul writes, *"For all the promises of God in him (Jesus) are yea, and in him Amen, unto the glory of God by us"* (II Corinthians 1:20). These may be **any** promises that God has spoken. Jesus has provided every one. They are just sitting there for us to pick up by faith. However, we need to open our spiritual eyes to see them and have the faith to receive them. Then God says, "Yes, and so let it be." We can also

be sure that the devil, our accuser, will come and tell us that we can not have them because we do not deserve them. He will try to freeze us with fear saying that God will take them away from us if we do receive them.

## Sharing Grace

Sometimes, Believers try simply to store up all the goodies like the lepers as they took and hid the spoil. Then one day they come to realize that they can't keep all that is available. They realize that they are responsible to share the spoil with others. The lepers went to the city and gave the good report (the Gospel). The people received it with skepticism. However, one of the servants told the king that he should investigate the matter. The king sent out two men to see if what the lepers were telling them was the truth. When the two found men discovered the reality of the great spoil and that the enemy was defeated, they returned to tell the king and all their friends. Then the whole city rushed out to get the spoil. One individual shared the good news of Jesus Christ with Billy Graham. He, in turn, has led thousands to receive Jesus Christ. This is a basic, universal principle of sowing seed.

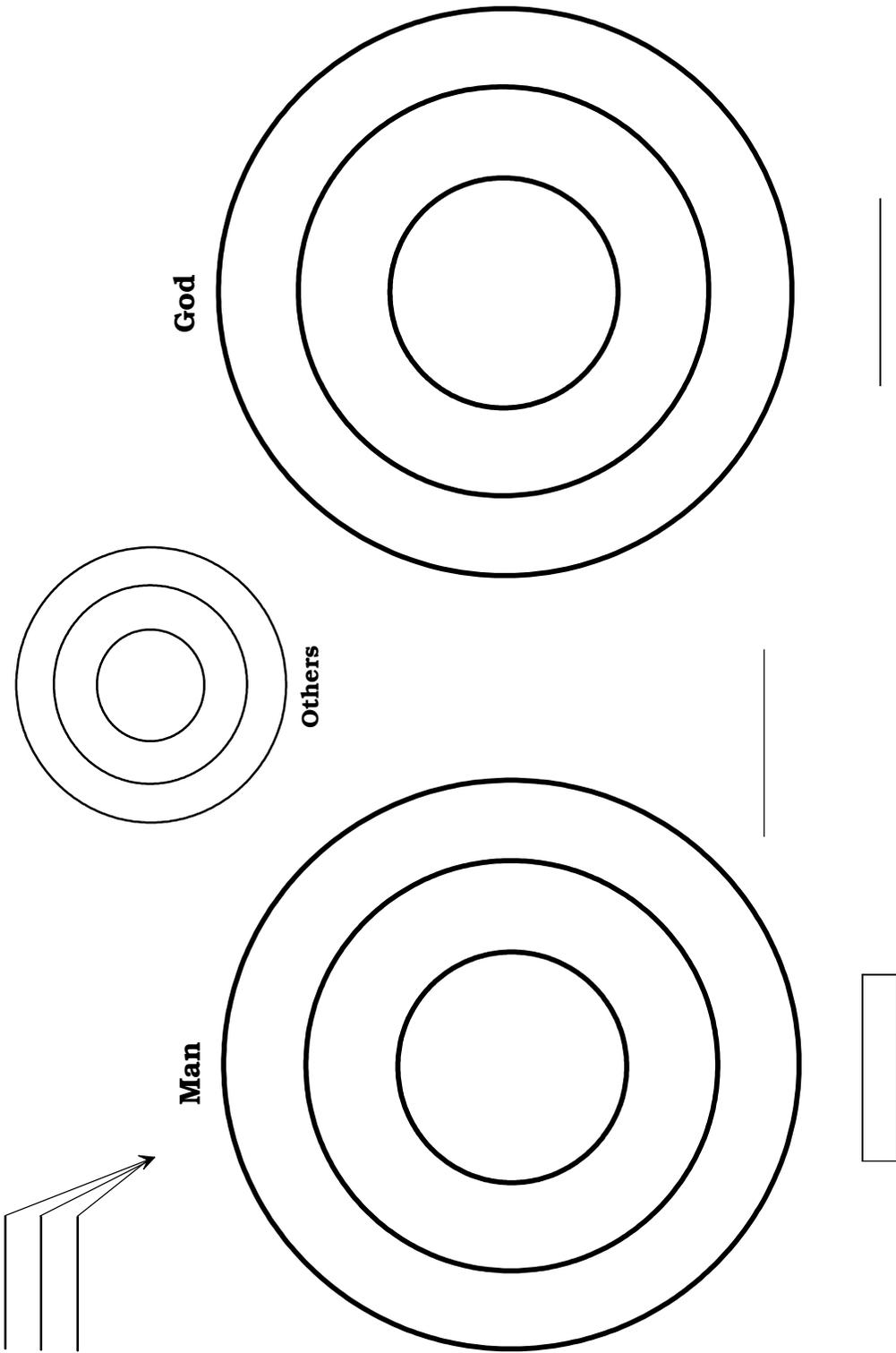
Believers have a responsibility to tell the city, even the world, about the defeat of the enemy and of the great spoil that Jesus has left behind for those who will receive it. My purpose in writing this chapter is to lead people into salvation through Jesus that they might sit down, eat of Him, and discover what inheritance we have in Him.

## Receiving Salvation

In sharing salvation with other people, it is generally not a good idea just to ask someone, "Are you saved?" Even many church-goers don't understand the meaning of salvation. It is far better to explain the meaning of the gospel first, then ask a very pointed question that I will explain later. Although there are many ways to share the gospel with those who have not heard it, I would like to give a simple way that one can easily present in about fifteen minutes. However, one may elaborate on various sections of it and expand it to over an hour in presentation.

God has led me to choose the concept of a seed as the vehicle of communication. This vehicle is universal for in every country and culture, because people are somewhat familiar with what happens to a seed. Jesus himself used this vehicle of communication. He said in **John 12:24-25**, *"Verily, verily, I say unto you, Except a corn of wheat fall into the ground and die, it abideth alone: but if it die, it bringeth forth much fruit. He that loveth his life shall lose it; and he that hateth his life in this world shall keep it unto life eternal."*

**The Seed**



## The Seed

First, Jesus, in essence, said, "If you put a seed on a table top, it will just sit there." It has an existence. It may even be a good seed. However, it will not fulfill its purpose just sitting there. For it to become productive and fulfill its purpose, it must die to the world above ground and be planted. Then the moisture in the ground will penetrate the seed and cause the life germ inside to sprout and begin to grow. Next, it is to grow into a mature plant and then it will produce many seeds (plural). This illustration is simple enough for a six year old child to grasp the basic concepts.

Second, Jesus spoke of himself being like a seed. In the context of the Scripture, Jesus was saying to his disciples, "Hey, you guys, for me to fulfill my purpose, I must die on the cross and be buried or planted like a seed." "Then I will be made alive by the Holy Spirit and sprout forth from the grave (be resurrected)." "Then I will produce fruit, those who will commit their lives to me."

The third picture that Jesus gives is of our being like a seed. When he said, "He that loveth his life shall lose it; and he that hateth his life in this world shall keep it unto life eternal," he brought you and me into the picture. He was saying that we have some of the same characteristics as seeds. I had never thought of being like a seed until I came to see the principles of God's Word in this passage of Scripture.

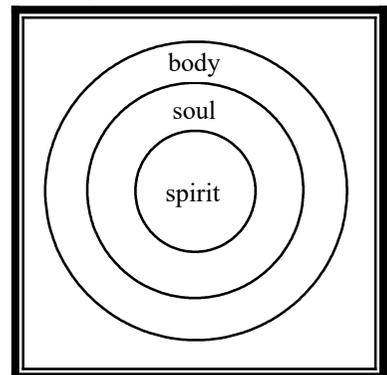
## Man Is Like A Seed

 The diagram on the previous page is the diagram that I use in sharing the gospel whenever it is appropriate. You may reproduce it to share the gospel with others. A parallel outline of Scriptures is also located on page 76.

We should understand that man is like a seed in that he has three parts. The seed has three basic parts: the outer shell, the meat, and the life-germ. In the same fashion, man has a body, soul, and spirit. Paul writes, *"And the very God of peace sanctify you wholly; and I pray God your whole spirit and soul and body be preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus*

*Christ"* (I Thessalonians 5:23). We can see that the **whole person** is made up of three parts. God starts on the inside with the spirit and then moves to the outside.

The purpose of the **body** is for physical awareness and physical relationships. We have the five senses of seeing, hearing, smelling, tasting, and touching.



The purpose of the **soul** is that of self awareness. With the soul, we also have relationships with other people. The soul is made up of three parts: the mind, will, and emotions. With the mind we reason, remember, and imagine. With the will we make decisions. It is our volition mechanism. We may say, "I will go to the store", or we may

 As I explain the parts of man (body, soul, and spirit), I fill in each of those parts on the left-hand diagram. For example, I write the word "spirit" in the smaller center circle. I also fill in the mind, will, and emotions on the lines at the top left side pointing to the soul.

say, "I will not eat all that spinach." The emotions are the means by which we "feel". We may feel happy, sad, angry, upset, or excited. The word for soul in the New Testament is the word "ψυχη" or "psuche". We get such words as psychic and psychological from it. We all have a soul. We are each unique. A couple may go to see a movie. The boy may laugh at what he sees and hears, while the girl may become tearful. This does not necessarily mean that one is right and the other is wrong. They just come from different sociological backgrounds. They simply respond as unique

individuals.

The third part of man is the spirit. Psychology, by its own definition, can not deal with this area. Jesus said, "*God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth*" (John 4:24). We are a **spirit**, that has a soul, living in a body. We find that the purpose of the **spirit** is for an awareness of God or a relationship with God.

## Back To The Seed

Now, going back to the concept of a seed, if I set a seed on the top of a table and take a hammer and crack it open, it would die on the inside. You could take that dead seed and plant it, water it, and fertilize it, but it would do no good. It would never live again or grow or produce fruit. It would take a miracle of God to give it life again. A dead seed is good for nothing, but to be burned.

Something similar to this has happened to man. Now, we did not get hit in the head with a hammer! We, however, have allowed a little three-lettered word into our lives. We call it "**sin**". Sin is simply disobeying God. There are two kinds of sin. One is that of commission and the other is that of omission. When God says not to do something and we do it anyway, it is the sin of commission. When God tells us to do something and we fail to do it, it is the sin of omission. We also need to understand that everyone sins, and sin brings spiritual death.

 You should write the word "**sin**" in the box below the left bull's eye of circles.

## Steps Of Salvation

**First**, everyone who understands the difference between good and evil, has chosen to sin. The truth is that all have sinned. The Word of God says, "*As it is written, There is*

*none righteous, no, not one*" (Romans 3:10). This means that no one in the eyes of God has done what is right. *"For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God"* (Romans 3:23). The Scripture is very descriptive. It is the picture of someone taking a bow and arrows and shooting at a target. However, his arrows fall short. The New Testament Greek word for sin is "αμαρτια" (hamartia) which means "missing the mark". We may try our very best to please God, but some of our arrows fall short. This is **sin**.

**Second**, we should realize that there is a consequence for sin. The penalty for sin is death. The Scriptures tell us, *"Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned"* (Romans 5:12). This means that sin came into the world through the one man, Adam. God told Adam that he could eat of any of the trees of the Garden of Eden, except one tree. *"But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it: for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die"* (Genesis 2:17). Eve ate of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil and then gave it to Adam and he ate of it. They disobeyed God. They sinned! However, they lived for a number of years after that. Adam became one of the oldest men in the Bible. In fact, he lived to be 939 years old. What the Hebrew words actually say is that in "dying he would die". Adam would die on the inside and that death would spread to the outside. Adam and Eve died in their spirits the day that they ate of the tree of knowledge of good and evil. We also die in the area of the spirit-man when we come to the age of knowing what is right from what is wrong and choose evil. Paul writes, *"For I was alive without the law once: but when the commandment came, sin revived, and I died"* (Romans 7:9). We all died spiritually because of sin!

 Next, draw an **arrow** from the box labeled "sin" to the center circle named, "spirit". Then draw another **arrow** diagonally downward from the center circle to the blank line by the circles representing man. Next, write "**dead**" on the blank line by the circles. This indicates that the spirit of man becomes dead because of sin.

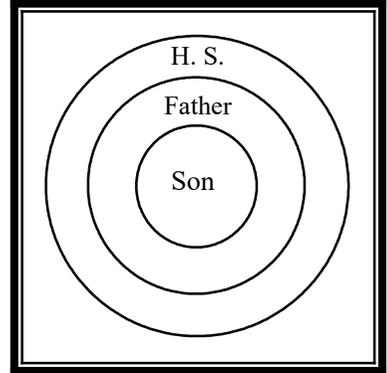
Listen to the Word of God, *"For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord."* (Romans 6:23). If you go to work, you expect to get a payment for your work. The payment for the work of sin is spiritual death. Furthermore, a spiritually dead person is incapable of having a relationship with God. He must receive a **new life** from God in order to have a relationship with God. This is a **gift** from God.

**Third**, we must understand that Jesus paid the penalty for our sin. Again the Word says, *"But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us"* (Romans 5:8). God in His foreknowledge, knew that we all would disobey Him and sin. He knew that we all would die on the inside. Therefore, He devised a plan whereby we could receive life again. That plan involved God's very own Son, Jesus Christ.

 You should fill in the circles on the right side (Son, Father, and Holy Spirit). Begin by putting the word "Holy Spirit" (H. S.) in the outer circle, then "Father" in the middle circle, and "Son" in the inner circle.

God created us in His own image. As God has three parts, we also have three parts. We know the parts of God as the Trinity (the Father, the Holy Spirit, and the Son).

Jesus, God's Son, was conceived by the Holy Spirit in the virgin, Mary. We should note that Jesus existed in the form of God before the



foundation of the world (Philippians 2:6). However, He took on the form of human flesh and was born about two thousand years ago as the person of Jesus. He lived a perfectly righteous life before His heavenly Father. Because he claimed to be the Son of God, he was falsely accused by false witnesses and sentenced to be executed.

However, the execution was apart of God's divine plan. When Jesus was hung on the cross to be executed, God the Father laid all our sins upon Jesus. The prophet, Isaiah, foretold of this when he wrote, *"All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and the LORD hath laid on him the iniquity of us all"* (Isaiah 53:6). He was saying that every one of us has done his own thing rather than doing what God would have him to do. However, he was also saying that Jesus took our place and that the wrath of God was poured out upon him. Jesus not only died, was buried, spent three days in the grave, but was also resurrected that he might offer to us **life**. He said that He was **the Way, the Truth,**

 Next, draw an **arrow** from the box labeled "sin" through the word "death" to the center circle named, "Son". This indicates that Jesus took our sins upon himself and **died** for our sins.

**and the Life** and that no man comes to the Father except through Him (John 14:6).

**Fourth**, in order for us to receive salvation and the gift of life, we must accept Jesus (make a faith commitment) as our **Lord** and **Saviour**. By our natural illustration, man is spiritually dead on the inside. In contrast to this, there is **life** in Jesus. Therefore, somehow, we must receive the life that is in Jesus into our spirit. We can, using our eyes, read about Jesus in the Scriptures. Jesus said that we are to search for life in the Scriptures and we will find Him (John 5:39). However, just reading the Scriptures **does not** save us. Intellectual agreement to historical facts will not bring salvation to anyone either. Our efforts to keep God's Law only shows us that we are guilty (Romans 3:19-20).

 Write on the blank line below the right group of circles the word "life". Then draw an **arrow** from the word "life" to the middle circle where the word "Son" is written. This illustrates that there is now **life** in Jesus. Next, draw an **arrow** from the "Son" toward the "spirit" of man which is dead.

However, God has given us a simple way to receive the LIFE of Jesus. The Word of God says, *"That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation"* (Romans 10:9-10). This means that we must be willing to give our lives to Jesus as our **Lord**. The word "lord" means "ruler", "king", or "boss". If we are willing to do this, the Spirit of God in Christ joins with our spirit to give us life, and we become a child of God. We are **born again** on the inside. We become a new creation of God on the inside, a new person.

At this, point I must ask the reader the most important question anyone can ask. **Have you ever at any time in your life given your life to Jesus allowing Him to become your Lord & Saviour?** If you have not, would you like to receive the **LIFE** of Jesus into your life? Would you be willing to give your life to Jesus right now? If your answer is "Yes", please pray the following prayer.

Now, I would like to ask you two very simple questions. (1) If you have given your life to Jesus, to whom does your life belong? Of course the obvious answer is Jesus. It is

Dear God,

1. I confess to You that I have disobeyed You and understand that is sin.
2. I understand there is a consequence for my sin and that is spiritual death.
3. I believe that Jesus, God's Son, died upon the cross taking the penalty for my sin.
4. Therefore, I give my life to You, Jesus, asking You to become my Lord and Saviour and to come and live inside of me and give me your life. Amen.

important that we understand that it does not belong to a church or anyone but Jesus. (2) Who is living inside of you, now? The Holy Spirit should give a witness to your spirit of Jesus living inside of you.

**Fifth**, we should understand that we receive **eternal life**. Please take a close notice of the words of Jesus. *"And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any (man) pluck them out of my hand. My Father, which gave them me, is greater than all; and no (man) is able to pluck them out of my Father's hand. My Father, which gave them me, is greater than all; and no (man) is able to pluck them out of my Father's hand."* (John 10:28-29). He uses the words "eternal life". This means that this life is forever and forever. This life is of the highest quality, but is also of the greatest quantity. Some years ago, I knew a pastor who was struggling with whether or not one could lose their salvation. I gave him a long list of Scriptures including this one. This

pastor had been a Greek professor in a Bible college. Upon returning from a vacation, this pastor reported that he had settled the issue. He said that in the Greek language that the above mentioned verse can only be translated one way. First, he noted that the Greek properly uses a double negative wording for emphasis. Literally the verse says, "From a point in time, no how, no way, will one perish, continuing into eternity." You may also notice that I have put the word "man" in parentheses indicating it was not in the original writing of the Scripture passage. Someone simply added the word "man" for his own clarification. Again, the passage is saying God places a Believer in the hand of Jesus and that nobody nor nothing shall take one out of the hand of Jesus. Moreover, the Father places His hand on top of the hand of Jesus and that nobody or nothing can take us out of the hand of the Father. We are secure, **forever**, between the hand of Jesus and the hand of the Father.

**Sixth**, we need to distinguish between the soul and spirit. When one receives the life of Jesus, where does the change take place? Did you get a new body immediately when you gave your life to Jesus. No! Did you get a new soul? Absolutely not! You will still think some of the bad thoughts that you thought before you received eternal life. You will still make some wrong decisions. You did not become a robot for God to manipulate. You still have a free

 At this point, you may direct the individual's attention to the man and ask, "Where does the change in man take place?" People often think that the change is in the "soul". There is a need to emphasize that the change takes place in the "spirit" of man only.

will. You will still get angry and depressed at times. **So what changed?** The change took place in your spirit. It is very important that we understand this! The reason is that, after we become Christians, we still will disobey God from time to time. Then the devil, our Accuser, will come to us

and tell us that we have blown it and that God will never receive us back again. However, the devil is a liar! He likes to feed us lies. Therefore it is important that we understand where the change has taken place.

John writes in his letter that the new spiritual man will not sin (I John 3:9). He is not saying that a man in his soul will not think wrong thoughts, or make wrong decisions, or feel wrong emotions. He is speaking of the new spiritual man. The new man is born of the seed of God. God's seed remains in him and he is not capable of sin. You see, the Holy Spirit is joined unto our spirit. Therefore, to say that the new spiritual man could sin would be to say that the Holy Spirit could sin and thus that God could sin. That would be ridiculous!

Look at the words of the writer of the book of Hebrews, *"For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart"* (Hebrews 4:12). The more that a Believer studies the

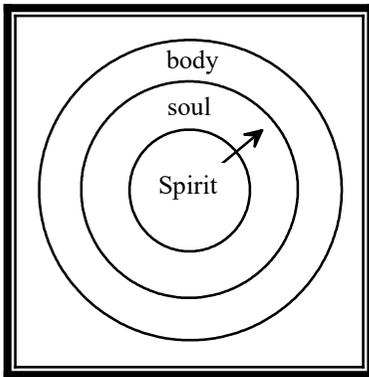
Word of God, the more he should come to distinguish the difference between the soul and the spirit. The Word is like a surgeon's scalpel that divides between the soul and the spirit. It is like looking at the end of your arm after having it cut off. You could see the outer flesh, the bone, and within the bone there would also be the marrow.

**Seventh**, we need to understand that the new man (creation) is not capable of being corrupted. Read closely the words of Peter, *"Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the word of God, which liveth and abideth for ever"* (I Peter 1:23). I often use a stainless steel pocket knife to illustrate this point. It has a bright shiny blade. I could, at least in theory, take that knife and gut a deer with it. I could get hair, blood, guts, dirt, and even manure on it. It might look terrible, feel dirty, and smell awful. However, it would not change the knife, because the blade is stainless steel. In fact, all that I would need to do is to wash it in some clean water. The same is true with the new man. The spirit man is **incorruptible**. This means that it is not capable of being corrupted! Even if in our soul, we think bad thoughts, make sinful decisions, and feel wrong emotions, we will not corrupt the inner man.

✂ Again, you may direct the individual's attention to the "spirit" of man and change the small letter "s" in the word "spirit" so that it reads "Spirit". This shows that man has the Holy Spirit now living in him. The man has become a new creation.

From the outside, we may appear to be unrighteous and unholy, but the inside has not changed. In one sense, all we have to do is to wash our souls with the water of the Word of God. Again, look at the Scripture. How long does it say that the seed of God would say alive in us? **For Ever!** There is nothing we can do to destroy the new life that we have received. I have three daughters. All of them are born of my seed. They will always be my daughters, whether they are good or bad. Our relationship will remain the same. However, our fellowship may vary. If they respond to me in the wrong way, our fellowship may be broken for a period of time. In the same fashion, the Believers' relationship will remain the same with God. However, the Believer will remain a child of God, because he is born of the Spirit of God. A Believer's fellowship may vary sharply based upon whether or not he chooses to walk in the Spirit.

Jesus not only wants to live inside of us, He wants to live as Lord where we live (the **soul**). Please note the distinction between relationship and fellowship. Jesus spoke to the church of Laodicea saying, *"Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me"* (Revelation 3:20). Please notice that Jesus is speaking to Believers. Where is Jesus in relationship to Believers? He lives inside of them in the new spirit man. So where is this door? It is the door leading from the new spiritual man to the soul. The Believer is not a robot, but still has a free will. Jesus wants to come in and fellowship with the Believer where the Believer lives on a day by day basis. For Jesus to come in, we must be willing



to open the door and allow Jesus to become Lord of our thoughts, our decisions, and our emotions. We should also understand, that this has nothing to do with relationship, but has everything to do with fellowship. Jesus said that we are to deny our wants and desires on a daily basis and follow Him.

**Ninth**, Jesus not only wants to live inside of us and to live where we live, He also wants us to be a channel for

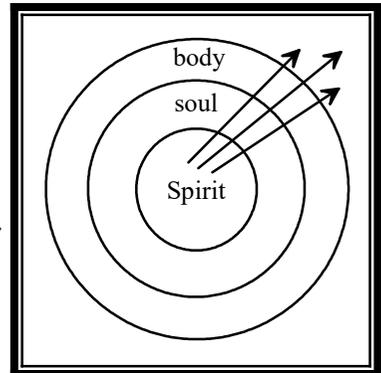
 Draw an **arrow** from the "Spirit" of man upward at about a 45° angle into the "soul" as the drawing illustrates. This illustrates Jesus coming into our soul to have fellowship with us on a day by day basis.

His **life** to flow through us that others might receive his life. *"In the last day, that great day of the feast, Jesus stood and cried, saying, If any man thirst, let him come unto me, and drink. He that believeth on me, as the scripture hath said,*

*out of his belly (inner most being) shall flow rivers of living water"* (John 7:37-38). In the land of Israel there are two dominant bodies of water. One is the Sea of Galilee and the other is the Dead Sea. Both are on the Jordan river. The Jordan River flows out of the mountains to the North into the beautiful, clear Sea of Galilee. This is the sea upon which the disciples of Jesus fished. The water is alive with fish and is so clear that the disciples had to fish at night so that the fish could not see

 Draw several **arrows** from the "Spirit" of man upward at about a 45° angle through the "soul" and the "body" as the drawing illustrates. This shows the life of Jesus flowing through the Believer to touch the lives of others.

their nets. The Jordan River flows out of the Sea of Galilee and down to the Dead Sea. The Dead Sea is rightly named because there is little life in it. The water is dark and murky. What is the difference between the two bodies of water? Both have inlets, but only the Sea of Galilee has an outlet. Jesus wants us to become a channel so that His **life** can flow through us to touch the lives of others. We are to have an outlet as well as an inlet.



There is, however, a problem for most of us. The problem is there are conflicts within our souls that hinder the flow of life through us. We may divide these conflicts into six types. First, we may have hidden sin in our soul. The sin may be habitual. It is an area in which we have yet to have victory. It may be smoking, lying, or pride. The second area is guilt. A guilty conscience keeps us from trusting God. The third area deals with hurts and unforgiveness. We may have been severely hurt by someone and the hurts remain. We may have tried to forgive the person, but the hurts still trigger

bitterness in us. The fourth area is that of fear and doubt. This keeps us from doing the will of God. We are afraid to obey. The fifth area is a failure to ask the forgiveness of others whom we have offended. The sixth area deals with evil spirits. Of course, evil spirits may harass us through any of the first five areas. Therefore, any of these areas may be like a dam that stops the flow of the water of life. My job as a Christian counselor is to help the people who come to me to identify the dams and remove them that the life of Christ may flow through their lives to touch the lives of others.

After the counselee accepts Christ and I review the above material, I give him a **Certificate Of The New Birth**. You may copy and fill out the certificate found in the appendix of this chapter. I use this to help validate within the counselee's soul that the event actually occurred on the date that he gave his life to the Lord. The enemy will come to discourage us into believing that nothing ever took place. The certificate, therefore, serves a physical reminder that the rebirth did take place on the day designated.

## PERFORMANCE

### Difficulties

So far in this chapter, the reader may think, "How does all this apply to counseling concerning **rest**?" Man tries to change himself on the outside. God, on the other hand, starts with the inside and works outward. An apple may appear good on the outside, but be rotten on the inside. **God sees us basically as a spirit that has a soul and lives in the house of a body.**

The person who simply attempts to change the outside is a performance (works) oriented person. If he has grown up in a strict, religious, legalistic home where one of the parents demanded performance, the adult child will most likely have mental, emotional, and even physical problems. Quite often the individual becomes a critical, judgmental person both of others and of himself. Performance oriented people must have a standard for their performance. As long as they measure up to the standard, they may accept themselves and others who measure up to that standard. However, when they fall, they hit rock bottom. This is the basis for bipolar (manic-depressive behavioral) cycles that we may see in many people. When their performance meets the set criteria, there is a swing toward the manic side. When their performance does not meet the standard, they swing toward depression and suicide.

The person who is performance oriented also generally becomes extremely critical and judgmental of others. If he can "put others in their place", then he does not feel so bad about his own performance when he fails. The legalistic person is very difficult to

get along with. He bases his friendship upon performance. The person in marriage who is legalistic or performance oriented, usually is "hot / cold" in his relationship with his spouse. Quite often his spouse never knows which mood to expect. The spouse often lives in fear with expectation of the worse behavior.

Another reaction coming out of strict performance oriented families is that of rebellion. The child growing up realizes that he is not able to measure up; therefore, he throws out everything. If his family goes to church, then he will rebel against going to church. If the father believed in God, the individual may want nothing to do with God. I often hear people say, "The Christian life is too hard." I usually confront them with the Word of Truth. Jesus said, "*Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light*" (Matthew 11:28-30). Either Jesus is a liar or we have believed a lie and taken the wrong approach. In contrast to what many believe and teach, the Christian life is easy and doing His work is lighter than trying to do it the world's way. Again, Solomon, the wise man, reminds us in the Scripture, "*Good understanding giveth favour: but the way of transgressors is hard*" (Proverbs 13:15). Jesus spoke to Saul (later to be known as Paul) saying, ". . . *I am Jesus whom thou persecutest: it is hard for thee to kick against the pricks*" (Acts 9:5). The world's way of sin is nothing but hard. Even when the Christian tries to do things the world's way, he finds life to be hard.

It also follows that the child who comes out of the strict, performance oriented family, often distances himself from any authority figure that he encounters in adult life. This is especially true when the authority figure encountered in adulthood is the same sex as was in the family setting. The woman who experiences performance oriented abuse by her father may have great difficulty in being intimate with her husband.

Another response to performance oriented abuse is that of becoming passive in relationships. By passive, I mean, developing a victim mentality. The person learns to expect to be abused and rejected by others. Also, controlling people seek out those who have a victim mentality. Finally, there are people who will continue to seek acceptance through their performance. The young lady will perform for the boyfriend on the date, if that is what it takes to be accepted. The employee will perform for the boss, even if it is after hours at his private apartment.

Therefore, it is extremely important in counseling to help the individual to come to find acceptance in the unconditional love of Jesus Christ. Then one should encourage him to practice the same grace toward others as he has found in Jesus. We must receive God's grace before we can share it with others.

## RELATIONSHIPS



Do you desire to be accepted by others, but find yourself critical and judgmental of others? Do you find yourself measuring friendships by the performance of others? Do you feel like no one cares? Do you often feel alone? Do you find yourself demanding performance of others? **You may feel compelled to perform to feel accepted.** Please read Luke 10:38-42.

Mary did two things according to the Scripture. She sat at the feet of Jesus and she heard his words. We can see at least four important characteristics: **(1)** availability, **(2)** nearness, **(3)** a position of service or teachability, **(4)** attentiveness, **(5)** and receptiveness. Mary may have seen all that Martha saw to do. However, she laid aside what she was doing to make herself available to fellowship with Jesus. In spite of whatever fears she may have had, she made a point to get near Jesus. She also positioned herself at the feet of Jesus. She placed herself in a position of a servant, allowing Jesus to control the situation. A student or disciple would also place himself at the feet of a teacher. Mary was open to what Jesus had to tell her. She received what Jesus taught.

Martha had a sincere desire to be able to relate (fellowship) to Jesus, for she was the one who invited Jesus into their home. However, she was "*cumbered about with much serving.*" The word translated "cumbered" actually means "driven". Martha was driven by performance. She was controlled by the thought that she had to perform! She also became judgmental or critical of her sister, Mary. She measured her friendship with Mary by Mary's performance. She said to Jesus, "Don't you care how my sister treats me?" In other words, she felt that even Jesus might not care about her. She also felt left all alone. She told Jesus, "Make Mary come and help me." Again, she became demanding!

Jesus responded to Martha, "*Martha, Martha, thou art careful and troubled about many things.*" (Luke 10:41). Martha was so caught up in the performance mode that Jesus called her name twice, just to get her attention. Does your spouse or do your friends have to call your name twice just to get your attention? Then Jesus spoke the truth in love to Martha. He said to her, "You are full of cares!" "You are disturbed about many things!" She was worrying! Remember the words of Jesus, "*But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you*" (Matthew 6:33).

Then Jesus gave her some very wise counsel. He said, *"But one thing is needful; and Mary hath chosen that good part, which shall not be taken away from her"* (Luke 10:42). Please notice again that Martha was full of cares and disturbed about many things. However, Jesus expressed that she needed to be only concerned about one thing. What was that one thing? It was to relate (or fellowship) with Jesus. Martha was to make fellowshiping with Jesus the priority!

Jesus did not say that we are to exclude performance. However, He said that Mary had chosen the best part. We must make ourselves available, we must get close, we must become teachable, we must be attentive, and we must receive what Jesus says. If we truly hear Him, then we will obey Him.

Jesus also said that this part will not be taken away. A some years ago, I had the responsibility to care for my mother who was 85 years old. I would make a list of medicines, groceries, and hardware supplies, make the necessary stops picking up the merchandise, and take it to Mother who lived a few miles out of town. I would unload the supplies, check the bills, and do a few chores. By then, it is time for me to rush back to my office for counseling appointments. My mother could not understand why I couldn't stay and talk with her. However, from my mother's point of view, the groceries would be gone in a few days, the dog collar would be old in a few months, and the home fixtures would be gone in a few years. The only good thing that would remain would be the memories of the time I spent visiting with Mother.

If we are to have the proper fellowship with others, we must **first** have Mary's kind of fellowship with Jesus. **(1)** We are to make ourselves available, **(2)** be willing to get close, **(3)** place ourselves in a position of service or being taught, **(4)** be attentive, and **(5)** then hear what they have to share with us. **Then** we are to relate to others in the same way as Mary did with Jesus.

## Grace

# E x p a n d e d

We may define **Grace** as a gift of God. We may also define it as God's unmerited favor. A third definition is that it is the God-given ability both to will and to do of His good pleasure. **What three positive things can you do with Grace?** You can receive it, grow in it, and give it to others.

**First**, to receive God's grace we must first understand that God gives grace through His Word. God is a giver while the devil is a thief. The Word says, *"Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights, with whom is*

*no variableness, neither shadow of turning.*" (James 1:17). In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth and everything in them. However, He waited until the sixth day to create man. This tells us that God had made it all for our benefit. We should also go beyond this to see that God gave through His Word. *"He sent his word, and healed them, and delivered [them] from their destructions"* (Psalms 107:20). We see in the historical context that God gave healing through His Word. All graces come through His Word. Look at what Paul wrote to the young preacher Timothy, *"All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works"* (2 Timothy 3:16-17).

**Second**, through believing God's Word, we receive grace. If I walked up to you and told you that I had deposited \$10,000.00 in your bank account, you have to make a decision either to believe me or disbelieve me. Look at Hebrews 11:1, 6, *"Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen. But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him."* Faith is the title deed to God's grace. You probably wouldn't write a check for \$10,000.00 on your bank if you did not believe that I had deposited that amount in your account and previously didn't have enough in the bank.

**Third**, we should be grateful if we believe that we have received God's grace. There is a brief story in Luke 17:11-19 about ten lepers who cried out to Jesus for him to have mercy on them. He told them to go show themselves unto the priests to validate their healing. All ten men believed enough to start to go to the temple. As they believed, they were healed. All ten were healed, but only one stopped to thank Jesus for the healing.

**Fourth**, we are to act upon the grace that God has given to us. We should understand, that we do not live by our will-power, but by His will and by His power. *"For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of his good pleasure"* (Philippians 2:13). We should **repeat** this truth over and over in our minds to renew our minds. We often try to live the Christian life by our abilities rather than by His grace. Note the words of Paul, *"I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me"* (Galatians 2:20). Even the faith is not of ourselves! It is a gift of God based upon His faithfulness.

**Fifth**, we are to continue to rest in God's grace. In the book of Hebrews, we see this principle in God's Word. *"For he that is entered into his rest, he also hath ceased from his own works, as God did from his. Let us labour therefore to enter into that rest, lest any man fall after the same example of unbelief"* (Hebrews 4:10-11). As long as one is working for his salvation (of the spirit, soul, or body) he has yet to receive it. Christians

often say, "One day, I am going to overcome this habit." That is doubtful! What he is saying is, "If I just try hard enough, I will get in a position to receive God's grace." What we need to see is that Jesus has already overcome the devil and all his works. Rather than looking forward to the future, we need, by faith, to look back at the work that Jesus has already done. For example, the Scripture does not say that one day we will have victory in Christ, but it says that we are more than conquerors in Christ (Romans 8:37). We need to look at the victory that we already have. Look again at the verse, *"I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me"* (Galatians 2:20). It is not that one day we will be crucified with Christ, but that we have already been crucified with Christ. It is not one day that we will have life, but that, in Christ, we now have life. We may apply this truth to any area of salvation (spiritual or otherwise). This is not to negate our obedience to the Word, nor does it negate the testing of the Lord.

**Sixth**, we are to share the grace of God with others. Jesus is the bread of life like that manna in the Old Testament (Exodus 16:15, John 6:58). In the Old Testament, God did not allow the people to store the manna. It would get worms in it and become rotten. In one sense, Christianity may become rotten to us if we do not share it. God refreshes us in the faith as we share our faith with others. If people are bored with Christianity, they simply are not sharing their faith. Jesus said, *"Heal the sick, cleanse the lepers, raise the dead, cast out devils: freely ye have received, freely give"* (Matthew 10:8). The grace of God is not completely fulfilled in our lives until we give it away.

**Seventh**, in giving grace away, **we receive more grace**. Recently, our pastor had the people, as they took of the bread in the Lord's Supper or communion, to break off a piece and to give it to someone else in the name of Jesus. The idea was that we are to share the Bread of Life, Jesus, with others. Although the illustration was good, it had its limitations in picturing God's grace. Soon the people ran out of bread as they took some for themselves. God's grace is different! The more we give, the more we receive, even if we use some ourselves. *"And God is able to make all grace abound toward you; that ye, always having all sufficiency in all things, may abound to every good work . (As it is written, He hath dispersed abroad; he hath given to the poor: his righteousness remaineth for ever. Now he that ministereth seed to the sower both minister bread for your food, and multiply your seed sown, and increase the fruits of your righteousness;)"* (II Corinthians 9:8-10).

Jesus said, *"Give, and it shall be given unto you; good measure, pressed down, and shaken together, and running over, shall men give into your bosom. For with the same measure that ye mete withal it shall be measured to you again"* (Luke 6:38). The thought pattern of the world is that if we give, then we won't have anything left. **We**

**need to change our thinking.** We need to practice the principle of giving grace to others. *"But this I say, He which soweth sparingly shall reap also sparingly; and he which soweth bountifully shall reap also bountifully."* (2 Corinthians 9:6). Look at what Paul said that Jesus said, *"I have shewed you all things, how that so labouring ye ought to support the weak, and to remember the words of the Lord Jesus, how he said, It is more blessed to give than to receive"* (Acts 20:35).

**Eighth,** when we give God's grace to others, it attracts them to His grace. The grace that we give to others is like the light given off by a candle in that it attracts people as the candle attracts moths. After Paul speaks some time about the Grace of God that the church was to give to others, he encourages the church by telling it that the recipients of the grace desired to know more of the grace. He says, *"And by their prayer for you, which long after you for the exceeding grace of God in you. Thanks be unto God for his unspeakable gift"* (II Corinthians 9:14-15). If you want to have friends, grace them with your friendship. They will like the grace, and desire more of it. A church that wants to grow, must be willing to share the grace of God with others. God's grace in turn, will attract people to the church as they seek for more of God's grace.

**Ninth,** we break curses as we share God's grace. We find the principle in the fact that man was under the curse of the law of sin and death, but God broke that curse over man through the giving (grace) of His Son, Jesus, to be crucified for us. *"Christ hath redeemed us from the curse of the law, being made a curse for us: for it is written, Cursed is every one that hangeth on a tree: That the blessing of Abraham might come on the Gentiles through Jesus Christ; that we might receive the promise of the Spirit through faith"* (Galatians 3:13-14). We may apply this principle to alcoholism. In place of the curse of alcohol, what does God give us? The Father gave us the HOLY SPIRIT. Jesus said, *"If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children: how much more shall your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to them that ask him?"* (Luke 11:13). Paul also wrote, *"And be not drunk with wine, wherein is excess; but be filled with the Spirit"* (Ephesians 5:18). We see that being filled with the Holy Spirit is to replace one's being filled with alcohol. God has the gift of grace for you for whatever the curse is over your life.

## Our Journey

The Old Testament serves as an **example** to us who are to follow Jesus Christ in the New Testament. There is a journey that we are to take. We are to leave Egypt and go to the promised land. **"Then shall we know, if we follow on to know the LORD: his going forth is prepared as the morning; and he shall come unto us as the rain, as the latter and former rain unto the earth"** (Hosea 6:3).

**This journey begins in Egypt.** Egypt is a symbol of the lust of the flesh and the sinful nature of man. After Joseph was taken to Egypt and he became second in command under the Pharaoh, his family also went down to Egypt. They remained there rather than returning to Canaan. They became slaves there as we, who were sinners, were slaves to sin. Moses (the deliverer) is a symbol of Jesus. Moses, by the miraculous hand of God through their observance of the Passover, led the people out of Egypt. Jesus is our Passover lamb that was crucified upon the cross. This deliverance from Egypt represents our salvation in Jesus Christ.

**Our first stop on the way out of Egypt is the Red Sea.** On the Israelites' way out of Egypt, they came to the Red Sea. At God's instructions, Moses raised his rod (which had become representative of the power and authority of God, as does the name of Jesus today) and parted the sea. The people went through the sea on dry ground to the other side. Walking through the sea is symbolic of **water baptism** to the Believer of the New Testament. It helps in the saving (I Peter 3:21) of our mind, will, and emotions from the things of world (Egyptians).

**Next, we must go to Mt. Sinai where Moses received the law.** While Moses went up to the top of the mountain to receive the Law of God, the Israelites stayed behind without the Law. What happened to them when they were without the Law? They entered into idolatry. We need the Law of God. This is symbolic of our studying the Bible, the Word of God. Without reading, studying, memorizing, and meditating upon the Word of God, we enter into sin. We get our eyes off God and upon the lust of the flesh. We also suffer the consequence for our sins.

**We may also send spies into the promised land.** Next, Moses sent spies into the promised land, but they came back with a bad report (except for Joshua and Caleb). The spies said there was abundant fruit in the land, but there were also giants that were too great for them to conquer. Spies today (some of those in denominational churches) often look at the "abundant life" and say, "There is blessings there, but there are giants too great for us to conquer. Let us stay on this side where it is safe." Therefore, the Israelites, God's chosen people, had to wander in the dry wilderness for forty years. God did provide for them, but they still missed the **promised land**. Christians who have heard of the abundant life, but doubt and fear, miss many of the blessings of God and the fullness of the Spirit. Those who are afraid, end up back in the dry wilderness of the doctrines of men.

**We may allow a "Joshua" to lead us to the Jordan River.** Then one day, the next generation of people led by Joshua (also a symbol of the person of Jesus), came to the Jordan River. The Jordan River separated the people from the promised land. When they came to it, it was the spring of the year. The Jordan was overflowing its banks (it is at

flood stage). The word "Jordan" means *a descender*. It also comes from a root word that has the following meanings: *to cast down, to sink down, hanging down, put down, subdue as by an enemy, fallen down, let down, taken down, have the enemy to come down against*. I am sure *these* were the feelings of many of the people that day as they came up against an impossible barrier, the swollen Jordan river. How could they cross over into the promised land, when they could not even get through the current circumstances? **It was interesting that God led them to the impossible situation.** I had the same experience in my life as do many other people. I wanted to experience the abundant life, but I had the impossible difficulty of facing the current situations.

**We should see that the priests of God are to carry the Ark into the Jordan.** God had Joshua to instruct the priests to carry the Ark of the Covenant to the edge of the Jordan and to step into the water while holding the Ark upon their shoulders. When the priests stepped into the Jordan, it dried up at that point, and the people crossed on the dry ground. The priests remained in the midst of the Jordan holding the Ark while the people crossed. God has his ministers and Christian counselors today (priests) to stand and hold up Jesus in the middle of **down cast** situations that people face so that the raging water is stopped. As God looked down from Heaven, He first saw the gold mercy seat (His throne) covered with the blood of the atonement bull. We are today to lift up the mercy of God covered with the blood of Jesus. At either end of the mercy seat were cherubim (angelic beings) with outstretched wings guarding the mercy of God. One may see these cherubim as being the **awe** and **fear** of God. Under the mercy seat was the Ark of the Covenant that represents the person of Christ. It was a chest of shittim wood overlaid with gold. The wood represented His humanity and the gold represented His deity. We need to lift up Jesus, the God-man. Around the top of the mercy seat was a crown of pure gold. Jesus is to be King of kings. We are to lift Jesus above our heads. Within the Ark were the two tables of stone upon which the Law of God was written. These represent the Word of God that we are to lift up before the people. God exalted His Word even above His name. The Ark also contained the pot of manna. The pot of manna is representative of the provision of Jesus. Third, was the Rod of Aaron. We see the Rod as the power and authority of God. For us, it represents the name of Jesus, which is above every name.

\* By way of application, you may have come to raging water in your life today. God would have His priests to step into the raging, flooding water and hold up JESUS that the water might cease. Someone called me recently in the middle of the night facing the raging water of fear. They were so afraid that they were just trembling. God had me to step into the water holding up Jesus (as the Priest did the Ark). The overflowing river of fear stopped.

\* Also by way of application, if you are a Believer and you see that God has brought someone to the edge of the flood waters and that person is overwhelmed, you may put Jesus on your shoulders and step into the middle of the river. Remember, Jesus said that His yoke is easy and his burden is light. You can stop a raging river. The priests stood in the midst of the Jordan while the people crossed!

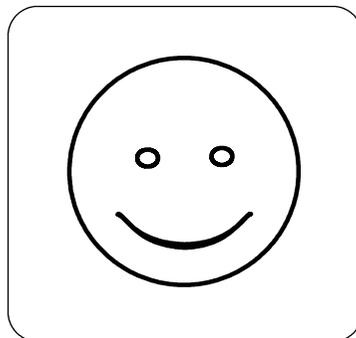
**We must walk across the Jordan into the promised land!** Once the river is dry, you have an opportunity to cross on dry ground to the other side. The other side is the **promised land**. It is not Heaven, but it is the **abundant life** of which Jesus spoke. The Israelites were alive and safe after they came out of Egypt before they crossed the Jordan River, but they had to cross the Jordan before they entered into the promised land. As going through the Red Sea is a symbol of water Baptism, the crossing of the Jordan River is a symbol of the Baptism in the Holy Spirit.

Yes, there were walled cities in the land. There were also giants in the land. There were also battles to be fought, fields to be plowed and planted, and crops to be harvested. However, God promised that He would be with them. He would do the fighting for them. He would bring the rain and bring the harvest. So it is with the abundant life. You will hear the spies tell you that there are giants there and that some who cross over lose their battles. This is true. However, God promised that He would go with us and give us the land as we are obedient to him. Those who lose the battles are not obedient in their walk of faith. Once the Israelites crossed the Jordan, the priests built an altar of twelve large stones out in the midst of the Jordan to stand as a monument to what God had done. The flood swollen waters of the Jordan returned, but the monument remained standing. It stood as a symbol of the power and work of God. **The experience of the Baptism of the Holy Spirit stands as symbol of the power and work of God in our lives.**

Christian counselor, the priests could not cross for the people. The people had to walk across themselves by faith. God did not violate their will by translating them across to the other side, either. In fact, some chose to stay outside of the promised land. In the Christian life, we must also choose to walk by faith across to the other side. No one can do it for us. God will not violate our will.

**We can walk and live by faith in the promised land.** On the other side of the Jordan is the promised land, a land that is overflowing (the word "abundant" as found in John 10:10 means *above measure*) with milk and honey. There are  **blessings**  that are only dreamed of on the one side. There is power for witnessing, and there is revelational knowledge of the Word. There is healing, there is prosperity, there is the fullness of the presence of the Comforter, and there is intimate worship of Jesus. There also is the leading of the Holy Spirit on a day by day basis and much, much, more.

**"Then shall we know, if we follow on to know the LORD: his going forth is prepared as the morning; and he shall come unto us as the rain, as the latter and former rain unto the earth."** (Hosea 6:3). The **invitation** is open to you. Are you still in Egypt? Are you still a slave to sin? You can be free today! All you have to do is to accept the sacrificial blood of Jesus as full payment for all your sins. Give your life to Jesus allowing Him to become your personal **Lord** and **Saviour**. You already have the prayer outlined in this chapter. If you are already a Believer, but have yet to be baptized (immersed), make plans with a minister to do so. Maybe you are a Christian, but have come to a raging river in your life, one that seems impossible to cross? Jesus has brought you to that river that is out of its banks. There is a dry wilderness behind you and flood water before you. However, **the promised land** is on the other side. Seek a minister or Christian counselor that will lift up Jesus before you. Finally, have you received a call from God to be a priest, a minister, a counselor unto Him? Today is the day to commit your life unto Jesus. Commit yourself to lift up Jesus and carry Him upon your shoulders into the midst of the raging river so that the water will be stopped and others can cross over on dry ground into the promised land. You can hold up Jesus before others as the Holy Spirit directs so that the flood waters will stop for them.



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## Appendix

### BASIS FOR ETERNAL SECURITY:

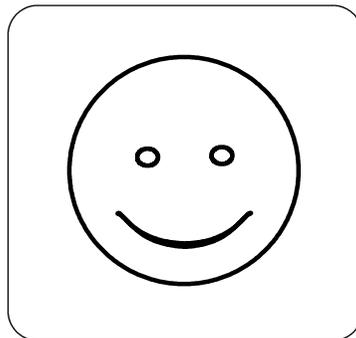
1. Salvation is not based upon our works, but the work of God in Jesus Christ. (Romans 3:26, 4:5, Ephesians 2:8-9, Galatians 2:16, Romans 11:6, Romans 10:4, Philippians 3:9, Hebrews 10:9-14).
2. God will continue His good work in the Believer. (Philippians 1:6).
3. Salvation is based upon God's keeping of the Believer. (II Timothy 1:12).
4. Salvation is pictured by God's Word as a marriage union. God does not believe in divorce. (Ephesians 5:23-33, Malachi 2:15-16, Matthew 19:5-11).
5. Even if the Believer comes to disbelieve, Jesus remains faithful. To do otherwise, would be for Him to deny His own Spirit living in the Believer. (II Timothy 2:13).
6. A Believer is born of the Spirit of God and is thus a child of God, which means that God does have the right to discipline one when he disobeys. (John 3:1-8, Hebrews 12:5-13).
7. Nothing can separate the Believer from God's love. (Romans 8:35-39).
8. Those whom God foreknew would receive Jesus as their Lord, He predestinated to be conformed to the image of His Son. Thus He called, justified, and glorified them. (Romans 8:29-34).
9. No one (none) can take a Believer from the hands of God. (John 10:28-29).
10. Believers are born of the Seed of God that remains in them and keeps them (in the Spirit-man) from sinning. To say that the new spiritual man could sin would be to say that the Holy Spirit, Himself, could sin and thus God could sin, which is impossible. (I John 3:9).
11. Believers are translated out of the kingdom of darkness and into the kingdom of Jesus, and thus are no longer subjects in or to the kingdom of darkness. (Colossians 1:13).
12. The Holy Spirit, dwelling in the Believer, is greater than the devil dwelling in the world. (I John 4:4).
13. The New Covenant is unique in that it includes the rebirth for Believers. Such was not a part of the Old Covenant. The rebirth is accomplished by the Spirit of God dwelling in

## Bringing Every Thought Captive

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the Believer. (Jeremiah 31:29, Hebrews 8:6-13, 10:16-18, I Corinthians 6:11, II Corinthians 1:22, 5:5, Ephesians 4:30, I John 4:13).

14. Under the Old Covenant (the Law) one could lose their salvation, but the New Covenant is a far better agreement. (Hebrews 6:9, Hebrew 8:6, 10:39).
15. The words "eternal life" imply that the Believer receives **LIFE** for **ETERNITY**. (John 3:15, Romans 6:23).
16. The words "everlasting life" imply that the Believer receives **LIFE** that will last and last. (John 3:16, 6:47).
17. When a Believer is born of the Spirit, he is born of the eternal Spirit. (Hebrews 9:14).



## The Seed

John 12:24-25 *"Verily, verily, I say unto you, Except a corn of wheat fall into the ground and die, it abideth alone: but if it die, it bringeth forth much fruit. He that loveth his life shall lose it; and he that hateth his life in this world shall keep it unto life eternal."*

1. All have sinned.

**Romans 3:10** "As it is written, There is none righteous, no, not one." **Romans 3:23** "For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God."

2. The penalty for sin is death.

**Romans 5:12** "Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned." (**Genesis 2:17** "But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it: for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die.") **Romans 6:23** "For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord."

3. Jesus paid the penalty for our sin.

**Romans 5:8** "But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us." **Isaiah 53:6** "All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and the LORD hath laid on him the iniquity of us all."

4. We must accept Jesus (make a faith commitment) as our Lord and Saviour.

**Romans 10:9-10** "That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation."

\*\*\* Have you ever given your life to Jesus allowing Him to become your Lord & Saviour?

5. Jesus gives us eternal life.

**John 10:28-29** "And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand. My Father, which gave them me, is greater than all; and no man is able to pluck them out of my Father's hand."

6. We need to distinguish between the soul and spirit.

**Hebrews 4:12** "For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart."

7. We need to understand that the new man (creation) is not capable of being corrupted.

**1 Peter 1:23** "Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the word of God, which liveth and abideth for ever."

8. Jesus not only wants to live inside of us, He wants to live as Lord where we live (the *soul*). (Note: distinction between relationship and fellowship).

**Revelation 3:20** "Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me."

9. Jesus not only wants to live inside of us and to live where we live, He wants for us to be a channel for His life to flow through us that others might receive his life.

**John 7:37-38** "In the last day, that great day of the feast, Jesus stood and cried, saying, If any man thirst, let him come unto me, and drink. He that believeth on me, as the scripture hath said, out of his belly (inner most being) shall flow rivers of living water."



*Certificate Of The New Birth*

Presented to

\_\_\_\_\_

to receive all blessings and promises

as a child of the Kingdom of God through faith in Jesus



this \_\_\_ day of \_\_\_ 20 \_\_\_



signed Jesus Christ

## GRACE

### DEFINITIONS:

1. **Judgment** = receiving what we deserve.
2. **Mercy** = not receiving what we deserve.
3. **Grace** = receiving what we don't deserve.

EXAMPLE: [situation] = You get stopped for speeding and the patrolman gives you a ticket. You stand before the judge. OPTIONS: 1. The judge fines you \$45.00 (righteous **judgment**). 2. The judge waves the fine and issues you a warning instead (**mercy**). 3. The judge gives you \$45.00 for you to have an evening out with you spouse (**grace**). GRACE IS GOD'S UNMERITED FAVOR TO US....

### 1. Grace is received by faith.

Romans 5:2 "By whom also we have access by faith into this grace wherein we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God."

### 2. Grace teaches us.

Titus 2:11-12 "For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men, Teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world."

### 3. Grace enables us to give.

Acts 4:33 "And with great power gave the apostles witness of the resurrection of the Lord Jesus: and great grace was upon them all."

II Corinthians 8:1 "Moreover, brethren, we do you to wit of the grace of God bestowed on the churches of Macedonia."

II Corinthians 8:6-7 "Insomuch that we desired Titus, that as he had begun, so he would also finish in you the same grace also. Therefore, as ye abound in every thing, in faith, and utterance, and knowledge, and in all diligence, and in your love to us, see that ye abound in this grace also."

II Corinthians 8:9 "For ye know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that, though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, that ye through his poverty might be rich."

### 4. Grace saves us.

Acts 15:11 "But we believe that through the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ we shall be saved, even as they."

Ephesians 2:5 "Even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ, (by grace ye are saved;)."

Ephesians 2:8-9 "For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast."

### **5. Grace enables us to believe.**

Acts 18:27 "And when he was disposed to pass into Achaia, the brethren wrote, exhorting the disciples to receive him: who, when he was come, helped them much which had believed through grace."

### **6. Grace builds us up and enables us to receive our inheritance.**

Acts 20:32 "And now, brethren, I commend you to God, and to the word of his grace, which is able to build you up, and to give you an inheritance among all them which are sanctified."

Titus 3:5-7 "Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost; Which he shed on us abundantly through Jesus Christ our Saviour; That being justified by his grace, we should be made heirs according to the hope of eternal life."

### **7. Grace enables us to obey.**

Romans 1:5 "By whom we have received grace and apostleship, for obedience to the faith among all nations, for his name:"

### **8. Grace justifies us.**

Romans 3:24 "Being justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus."

### **9. Grace brings God's blessings.**

Ephesians 1:3 "Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ."

### **10. Grace enables us to receive from God.**

Romans 4:16 "Therefore it is of faith, that it might be by grace; to the end the promise might be sure to all the seed; not to that only which is of the law, but to that also which is of the faith of Abraham; who is the father of us all."

### **11. Grace enables us to reign.**

Romans 5:17 "For if by one man's offence death reigned by one; much more they which receive abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness shall reign in life by one, Jesus Christ.)"

Romans 6:8 "Now if we be dead with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with him".

Romans 11:6 "And if by grace, then is it no more of works: otherwise grace is no more grace. But if it be of works, then is it no more grace: otherwise work is no more work."

## **12. Grace reigns.**

Romans 5:21 "That as sin hath reigned unto death, even so might grace reign through righteousness unto eternal life by Jesus Christ our Lord."

## **13. Grace transforms us.**

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

## **14. Grace enables us to receive ministry gifts.**

Romans 12:6 "Having then gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us, whether prophecy, let us prophesy according to the proportion of faith."

## **15. Grace brings boldness.**

Romans 15:15 "Nevertheless, brethren, I have written the more boldly unto you in some sort, as putting you in mind, because of the grace that is given to me of God. "

## **16. Grace enables us to put Satan under our feet.**

Romans 16:20 "And the God of peace shall bruise Satan under your feet shortly. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you. Amen."

## **17. Grace brings enrichment of utterance and knowledge.**

I Corinthians 1:4-5 "I thank my God always on your behalf, for the grace of God which is given you by Jesus Christ; that in every thing ye are enriched by him, in all utterance, and in all knowledge."

## **18. Grace enables us to build upon Christ.**

I Corinthians 3:10 "According to the grace of God which is given unto me, as a wise masterbuilder, I have laid the foundation, and another buildeth thereon. But let every man take heed how he buildeth thereupon."

## **19. Grace produces good works.**

I Corinthians 15:10 "But by the grace of God I am what I am: and his grace which was bestowed upon me was not in vain; but I laboured more abundantly than they all: yet not I, but the grace of God which was with me."

II Corinthians 6:1 "We then, as workers together with him, beseech you also that ye receive not the grace of God in vain."

### **20. Grace enables us to live a righteous life.**

II Corinthians 1:12 "For our rejoicing is this, the testimony of our conscience, that in simplicity and godly sincerity, not with fleshly wisdom, but by the grace of God, we have had our conversation in the world, and more abundantly to you-ward."

### **21. Grace has made us accepted in Christ.**

Ephesians 1:6 "To the praise of the glory of his grace, wherein he hath made us accepted in the beloved."

### **22. Grace enables us to become strong.**

II Corinthians 12:9-11 "And he said unto me, My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness. Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me. Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in necessities, in persecutions, in distresses for Christ's sake: for when I am weak, then am I strong. I am become a fool in glorying; ye have compelled me: for I ought to have been commended of you: for in nothing am I behind the very chiefest apostles, though I be nothing."

### **23. Grace provides redemption and forgiveness.**

Ephesians 1:7 "In whom we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of his grace."

### **24. Grace enables us to be created unto good works.**

Ephesians 2:7-10 "That in the ages to come he might shew the exceeding riches of his grace in his kindness toward us through Christ Jesus. For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast. For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them."

### **25. Grace enables us to minister.**

I Peter 4:10 "As every man hath received the gift, even so minister the same one to another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God."

Philippians 1:7 "Even as it is meet for me to think this of you all, because I have you in my heart; inasmuch as both in my bonds, and in the defence and confirmation of the gospel, ye all are partakers of my grace."

### **26. Grace provides unsearchable riches.**

Ephesians 3:8 "Unto me, who am less than the least of all saints, is this grace given, that I should preach among the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ."

**27. Grace provides the gifts for the five-fold ministry.**

Ephesians 4:7 "But unto every one of us is given grace according to the measure of the gift of Christ."

**28. Grace brings glorification to the name of Jesus.**

II Thessalonians 1:12 "That the name of our Lord Jesus Christ may be glorified in you, and ye in him, according to the grace of our God and the Lord Jesus Christ."

**29. Grace establishes us in good works.**

II Thessalonians 2:16-17 "Now our Lord Jesus Christ himself, and God, even our Father, which hath loved us, and hath given us everlasting consolation and good hope through grace, Comfort your hearts, and stablish you in every good word and work."

**30. Grace calls us into ministry.**

II Timothy 1:9 "Who hath saved us, and called us with an holy calling, not according to our works, but according to his own purpose and grace, which was given us in Christ Jesus before the world began."

Galatians 1:15 "But when it pleased God, who separated me from my mother's womb, and called me by his grace."

**31. Grace empowers us for ministry.**

II Timothy 2:1 "Thou therefore, my son, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus."

**32. Grace provides us with access to God and gives us the help we need.**

Hebrews 4:16 "Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need."

**33. Grace enables us to serve God.**

Hebrews 12:28 "Wherefore we receiving a kingdom which cannot be moved, let us have grace, whereby we may serve God acceptably with reverence and godly fear."

**34. Grace establishes our hearts.**

Hebrews 13:9 "Be not carried about with divers and strange doctrines. For it is a good thing that the heart be established with grace; not with meats, which have not profited them that have been occupied therein."

**35. Grace makes us perfect, establishes us, strengthens us, and settles us.**

I Peter 5:10 "But the God of all grace, who hath called us unto his eternal glory by Christ Jesus, after that ye have suffered a while, make you perfect, stablish, strengthen, settle you."

**36. Grace gives us a place to stand.**

1 Peter 5:12 "By Silvanus, a faithful brother unto you, as I suppose, I have written briefly, exhorting, and testifying that this is the true grace of God wherein ye stand."

**PLEASE NOTE:****1. We can grow in grace.**

II Peter 3:18 "But grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. To him be glory both now and for ever. Amen."

**2. We can fail the grace of God.**

Hebrews 12:15 "Looking diligently lest any man fail of the grace of God; lest any root of bitterness springing up trouble you, and thereby many be defiled."

**3. We can fall from grace. (fall into work / performance orientation)**

Galatians 5:4 "Christ is become of no effect unto you, whosoever of you are justified by the law; ye are fallen from grace."

**4. We can frustrate the grace of God.**

Galatians 2:21 "I do not frustrate the grace of God: for if righteousness come by the law, then Christ is dead in vain."

**5. We can receive more grace.**

I Peter 5:5 "Likewise, ye younger, submit yourselves unto the elder. Yea, all of you be subject one to another, and be clothed with humility: for God resisteth the proud, and giveth grace to the humble."

James 4:6 "But he giveth more grace. Wherefore he saith, God resisteth the proud, but giveth grace unto the humble."