



# 2 SQUARED DISCIPLESHIP

BOOK I



NOW TEACH THESE TRUTHS TO OTHER TRUSTWORTHY PEOPLE  
WHO WILL BE ABLE TO PASS THEM ON TO OTHERS.  
2 TIMOTHY 2:2

# WELCOME!

Welcome to 2<sup>2</sup> Discipleship. You are about to begin the LIFE Bible study. This study will give you the foundation for how to grow in Christ. Growth in Christ occurs by faith in the grace of God through the Son of God, Jesus Christ.

This book will take you through the topics of Spiritual Growth, The New Covenant, Sin, Your New Identity, Faith, Position and Condition, the Holy Spirit, the Law, The New Way, and the Means of Grace, which include Community, Bible Study, Meditation, Prayer and Suffering.

Along the way you will see questions in *blue print*. Answer these questions as honestly as you can and be ready to share them with your discipleship group.

The goal of 2<sup>2</sup> Discipleship is that you are able to share what you have learned with someone else one day, and in so doing you will be making a disciple as Christ commanded. But discipleship is much more than just knowing truths, it is really about sharing your life with someone. Don't lose sight of that as you complete this study. Let it be a time to learn how to share the truths of the Gospel, but also how to share your heart and soul with others as well. We want to be able to say with Paul,

**“so we cared for you. Because we loved you so much, we were delighted to share with you not only the gospel of God but our lives as well. “ 1 Thessalonians 2:8**

Are you ready to go? Are you ready to make disciples? Are you ready to obey 2 Timothy 2:2?

**“what you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses entrust to faithful men [and women] who will be able to teach others also”**

# 2<sup>2</sup>

## LIFE Lesson 1

# Spiritual Growth

### BIG IDEA:

God wants us to worship Him with all of our lives. That is why He is growing us into the image of Jesus through our union with Jesus— so we can be true worshippers.

### I. WE WERE MADE FOR WORSHIP.

#### A. God made us to image Him.

Genesis 1:26-27. <sup>26</sup> Then God said, “*Let us make man in our image*, after our likeness. And let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over the livestock and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth.”

<sup>27</sup> *So God created man in his own image*, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them.

#### What is Worship?

To worship is to give something weight or worth. Worship is the obligation of God's creation to give Him all honor, praise, adoration, and glory due Him because He is the holy and divine creator and father.

#### B. To image God is to reflect Him in His character and glory.

##### 1. God is relational.

**Because God is a Trinity, He is full of love and admiration. He is a community within Himself. He is the most relational person that exists.**

John 1:1-2. In the beginning was the Word, and *the Word was with God*, and the Word was God. <sup>2</sup> He was in the beginning with God.

##### 2. God is love.

**Because God is a community, He can love. But beyond this He IS love. He is the source of all true love.**

1 John 4:8. Anyone who does not love does not know God, because *God is love*.

##### 3. God is holy.

**God is perfect in all His essence and ways. There is no trace of evil in God. He is wholly separate from sin and darkness.**

1 Peter 1:16. since it is written, “You shall be holy, for *I am holy*.”

#### 4. God is good.

**God's love and holiness combine to make Him fully good. If God is only loving but not holy, or only holy and not loving, He cannot be good.**

God's Love + God's Holiness <hr/> God's Goodness
---

*Psalm 136:1. Give thanks to the LORD, for **he is good**, for his steadfast love endures forever.*

#### 5. God's goodness is His glory.

**The glory of God (His weightiness and worthiness) is expressed by His perfect goodness.**

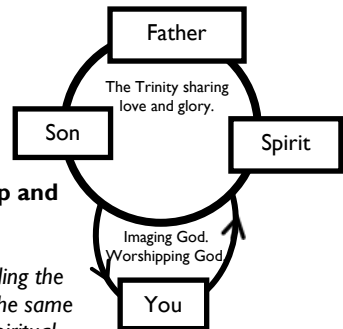
*Exodus 33:18-19. <sup>18</sup> Moses said, "Please **show me your glory**." <sup>19</sup> And [God] said, "I will make all **my goodness** pass before you and will proclaim before you my name 'The Lord.' And I will be gracious to whom I will be gracious, and will show mercy on whom I will show mercy.*

#### C. Spiritual growth is about worship.

**1. God grows us spiritually so that we can image Him as He intended.**

**2. Spiritual growth occurs through our worship and it increases our worship.**

*2 Corinthians 3:18. And we all, with unveiled face, beholding the glory of the Lord [Worship], are being transformed into the same image [Imaging] from one degree of glory to another [Spiritual growth]. For this comes from the Lord who is the Spirit [God does it].*



**Do you believe that worship is your life's purpose? Do you live a life of worship?**

## 2. SPIRITUAL GROWTH IS A PROCESS.

**A. To start, let's look at how the authors of the New Testament (NT) describe spiritual growth.**

*Ephesians 4:11-15 And he gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds and teachers, <sup>12</sup> to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, <sup>13</sup> until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, **to mature manhood**, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ, <sup>14</sup> so that we may **no longer be children**, tossed to and fro by the waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by human cunning, by craftiness in deceitful schemes. <sup>15</sup> Rather, speaking the truth in love, **we are to grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ,***

1 Peter 2:2 *Like newborn infants*, long for the pure spiritual milk, that by it you may *grow up* into salvation—

## What do these verses teach us about spiritual growth?

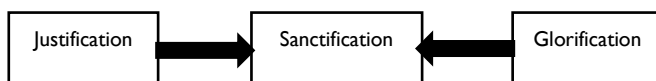
### A. There are 3 stages to spiritual maturity:

1. **JUSTIFICATION**: The single point in time when you trusted Christ for salvation, were permanently forgiven and freed from sin's penalty.

2. **SANCTIFICATION**: The ongoing process that began at justification and ends at glorification. It is the gradual deliverance from sin's power.

3. **GLORIFICATION**: When Jesus returns and delivers you forever from sin's presence. You are with Christ!

### UNDERSTANDING AND TRUSTING IN OUR JUSTIFICATION AND GLORIFICATION CAUSES OUR SANCTIFICATION.



### B. Now let's look at what the Bible says about these 3 stages. Read the scriptures below and in the chart, on p.5, write the phrases that teach Justification, Sanctification, and Glorification.

1. *Philippians 1:6* And I am sure of this, that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ.

2. *Romans 5:1-5* Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>2</sup> Through him we have also obtained access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and we rejoice in hope of the glory of God. <sup>3</sup> Not only that, but we rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, <sup>4</sup> and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, <sup>5</sup> and hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us.

3. *1 John 3:1-3* See what kind of love the Father has given to us, that we should be called children of God; and so we are. The reason why the world does not know us is that it did not know him. <sup>2</sup> Beloved, we are God's children now, and what we will be has not yet appeared; but we know that when he appears we shall be like him, because we shall see him as he is. <sup>3</sup> And everyone who thus hopes in him purifies himself as he is pure.

Scripture	Justification	Sanctification	Glorification
Phrases from Philippians 1:6			
Phrases from Romans 5:1-5			
Phrases from 1 John 3:1-3.			

### 3. WHAT DOES SPIRITUAL GROWTH LOOK LIKE?

#### A. An illustration of spiritual growth.

**I. Jesus spoke of growth in a very positive way. Spiritual growth only occurs in the presence of God— or as Jesus says “abiding in the vine.” Read these verses and answer the questions below.**

John 15:1-12 “I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinedresser. <sup>2</sup> Every branch in me that does not bear fruit he takes away, and every branch that does bear fruit he prunes, that it may bear more fruit. <sup>3</sup> Already you are clean because of the word that I have spoken to you. <sup>4</sup> **Abide in me, and I in you.** As the branch cannot bear fruit by itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in me. <sup>5</sup> I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for **apart from me you can do nothing.** <sup>6</sup> If anyone does not abide in me he is thrown away like a branch and withers; and the branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. <sup>7</sup> If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. <sup>8</sup> **By this my Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit** and so prove to be my disciples. <sup>9</sup> As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. **Abide in my love.** <sup>10</sup> If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love. <sup>11</sup> **These things I have spoken to you, that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full.** <sup>12</sup> “This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you.

**Compare verse 4 and verse 9. Notice how Jesus tells them to “abide in me” and then “abide in my love.” To abide in Christ means to never lose sight of His great love for you. What makes it hard for you to abide in Christ?**

**Read verse 5. It says “apart from me (Jesus) you can do nothing.” How does this relate to “abiding in His love?”**

#### **THE KEY TO SPIRITUAL GROWTH IS A LOVE-TRUST RELATIONSHIP WITH JESUS.**

#### **B. The ultimate goal of our spiritual growth is two-fold:**

##### **1. God receives glory: Read John 15:8.**

**Glorifying God means to honor and treasure God above all else.**

**Glorifying God means to represent Him well to others.**

##### **2. You receive joy: Read John 15:11.**

**This love relationship with Jesus will result in increased joy.**

**How does God receiving glory result in increased joy for us?**

## 4. THE FOUNDATION FOR SPIRITUAL GROWTH.

### THE FOUNDATION OF SPIRITUAL GROWTH IS FAITH IN OUR UNION WITH CHRIST.

#### A. The NT uses two predominant metaphors to describe this union:

##### 1. Adopted-

Romans 8:15 For you did not receive the spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received the *Spirit of adoption as sons*, by whom we cry, "Abba! Father!"

I John 3:1 See what kind of love the Father has given to us, that we should be called *children of God; and so we are*. The reason why the world does not know us is that it did not know him.

God is our \_\_\_\_\_.

##### 2. Betrothed (Married)-

Ephesians 5:25-27 Husbands, love your wives, *as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her*, <sup>26</sup> that he might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word,

Revelation 19:7-8. Let us rejoice and exult and give him the glory, for *the marriage of the Lamb has come, and his Bride has made herself ready*; <sup>8</sup> it was granted her to clothe herself with fine linen, bright and pure"—

God is our \_\_\_\_\_.

#### B. Our union with Jesus is permanent because it is forged by the Holy Spirit.

Ephesians 1:13-14. In him [Jesus] you also, when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and believed in him, *were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit*, <sup>14</sup> *who is the guarantee of our inheritance* until we acquire possession of it, to the praise of his glory.

##### 1. The Holy Spirit is our seal.

Seal= we are identified with Jesus- We are legally His and share His inheritance.

##### 2. The Holy Spirit is our guarantee.

Guarantee= God's Spirit indwells us so that we can know Jesus better and better.

### SPIRITUAL GROWTH OCCURS AS WE TRUST MORE AND MORE IN OUR UNION WITH CHRIST.

What are your initial thoughts about trusting in your union with Christ?



# 2<sup>2</sup> LIFE Lesson 2

## The New Covenant

### BIG IDEA:

God's desire is to share Himself by having a people for Himself. He will be their God, and they will be His people. Throughout history God has entered into covenants with His people, to prove His love and loyalty to them.

### I. BEFORE THE COVENANTS.

#### A. God existed.

*Genesis 1:1. In the beginning, God...*

**Before there were any people, God, the Trinity, was enjoying perfect love and admiration within Himself.**

#### B. Be Fruitful and Multiply.

*Genesis 1:27-28. So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them.<sup>28</sup> And God blessed them. And God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it, and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over every living thing that moves on the earth."*

**God wanted to share the joy of the Trinitarian community with humanity. They were filled with the capacity to love and serve. God wanted Adam and Eve to be fruitful, because He wanted there to be lots of people for Him and us to love and serve.**

#### C. A Garden of Love and Liberty.

*Genesis 2: 16-17. And the Lord God commanded the man, saying, "You may surely eat of every tree of the garden,<sup>17</sup> but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die."*

**The relationship with God in the Garden was one of love and liberty- God loved them enough to give them freedom. God loved Adam and Eve and gave them a perfect place to live with Him forever. But He also loved them enough to give them a choice (liberty). God did not want us to be robots. He wanted to be our God, and for us to desire to be His people.**

### D. A Corrupt Race.

Genesis 3:6-7. So when the woman saw that the tree [of knowledge] was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate, and she also gave some to her husband who was with her, and he ate. <sup>7</sup> Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked. And they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves loincloths.

Romans 5:12. Therefore, just as sin came into the world through one man, and death through sin, and so death spread to all men because all sinned—

**After Adam sinned every person ever born has tried to do life apart from God, believing that identity and pleasure come from within, rather than from God. We want to be able to decide what is “good and evil” for ourselves.**

### E. The Seed.

Genesis 3:15. I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your seed and her seed; he shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise his heel.”

**Immediately after the Fall in Genesis 3, God tells Satan that he will be judged. One day there will be a conflict between the woman’s seed and Satan. The “seed” will crush Satan’s head, while being wounded himself. God doesn’t say who the “seed” is, but throughout the Old Testament his identity becomes clearer and clearer.**

**How is this promise of the woman’s seed in Genesis 3:15 an act of grace (unmerited favor)?**

## 2. THE ABRAHAMIC COVENANT.

### A. God desires a family.

**Go back and read the “Big Idea” at the start of this lesson. God wants a family. He wants to be their God and they will be His people. He wants to share Himself with those who will love Him by faith.**

**1. The Adam and Eve Family did not trust God, and so now the human family is corrupt.**

**2. The story of Noah and the Ark proved that the human family does not love and trust God.**

**3. BUT, The Noah story also shows that God is willing to have a relationship with us through grace, as He did with Noah.**

#### What is a covenant?

A covenant is a relationship that is both deeply personal, and at the same time completely binding and legal.

It is a commitment to love and faithfulness.

Its legal and binding nature, regardless of circumstances, makes it more loving because it is now unconditional.

It is God’s primary relational tool— He is a covenant God. He cannot break His covenants.

## B. The Abrahamic Covenant.

Genesis 12:1-3. Now the Lord said to Abram, “Go from your country and your kindred and your father’s house to the land that I will show you. <sup>2</sup> And I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. <sup>3</sup> I will bless those who bless you, and him who dishonors you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.”

**What were the main promises made by God in this covenant?**

**How does this covenant demonstrate grace?**

**How did this covenant require faith?**

## C. God’s heart is to be our God.

Genesis 17:7-8. And I will establish my covenant between me and you and your offspring after you throughout their generations for an everlasting covenant, to be God to you and to your offspring after you. <sup>8</sup> And I will give to you and to your offspring after you the land of your sojournings, all the land of Canaan, for an everlasting possession, and **I will be their God.**”

**As God repeats the covenant, what commitments does He make to Abraham?**

## D. God’s heart is for us to be His people.

Genesis 12:3b. ...and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.

Genesis 22: 17-18. “I will surely bless you, and I will surely multiply your **seed** as the stars of heaven and as the sand that is on the seashore. And your **seed** shall possess the gate of his enemies, <sup>18</sup> and **in your seed shall all the nations of the earth be blessed**, because you have obeyed my voice.”

**God loves the entire world and wants everyone to be part of His family. God will use the SEED of Abraham to accomplish this. God is using Abraham’s family to regain the entire human family.**

**Think ahead: How will Jesus accomplish what God desires (to be our God, and for us to be His people)?**

**E. God's heart is to give His people a place where they can live together.**

*Genesis 2:8. And the Lord God planted a garden in Eden, in the east, and there he put the man whom he had formed.*

*Genesis 12:1. Now the Lord said to Abram, "Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you.*

**God has always wanted to live with mankind (Gen. 2:8). Through His covenant with Abraham, He will give His people a land where they can live together forever.**

### 3. THE MOSAIC COVENANT.

**A. God desires a family.**

**God's family (Abraham's seed) ended up in slavery in Egypt. When God rescued them from slavery through Moses, He brought them into the wilderness and established them as His family (nation) once again.**

**B. The Mosaic Covenant.**

**The Mosaic Covenant is a covenant between God and the nation of Israel. It is different from the Abrahamic Covenant in that it is a covenant of both works and grace. The Mosaic Covenant contained 613 laws that must be obeyed (works), but it also contained a sacrificial system that allowed for forgiveness when the law was not obeyed (grace).**

#### How was the Mosaic Covenant Different?

The Abrahamic Covenant was an unconditional covenant. It was created and accomplished by God alone. It was not conditioned on Abraham's obedience.

The Mosaic Covenant was a conditional covenant. It was a covenant between God and Israel that was conditioned upon Israel's obedience to the Law.

*Deuteronomy 28:1-2. "And if you faithfully obey the voice of the Lord your God, being careful to do all his commandments that I command you today... <sup>2</sup> all these blessings shall come upon you and overtake you, if you obey the voice of the Lord your God."*

*Deuteronomy 28:15. "But if you will not obey the voice of the Lord your God or be careful to do all his commandments and his statutes that I command you today, then all these curses shall come upon you and overtake you."*

**Does this covenant sound like good news? Why or why not?**

**C. God's heart is to be our God.**

Exodus 6: 7. I will take you to be my people, *and I will be your God*, and you shall know that I am the LORD your God, who has brought you out from under the burdens of the Egyptians.

**D. God's heart is for us to be His people.**

Leviticus 26: 11-13. I will make my dwelling among you, and my soul shall not abhor you. <sup>12</sup> And I will walk among you and will be your God, and *you shall be my people*. <sup>13</sup> I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt,

**1. God wanted the Israelites to be a nation of priests.**

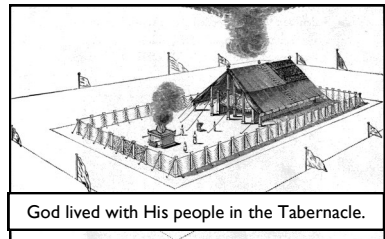
Exodus 19:5-6. Now therefore, if you will indeed obey my voice and keep my covenant, you shall be my treasured possession among all peoples, for all the earth is mine; <sup>6</sup> *and you shall be to me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation.*"

**2. God wanted to use Israel to draw all nations to Himself.**

Isaiah 49:6. [God] says: "It is too light a thing that you should be my servant to raise up the tribes of Jacob and to bring back the preserved of Israel; I will make you as a light *for the nations, that my salvation may reach to the end of the earth.*"

**E. God's heart is to give His people a place where they can live together.**

Exodus 29:45-46. *I will dwell among the people of Israel and will be their God.* <sup>46</sup> And they shall know that I am the Lord their God, who brought them out of the land of Egypt *that I might dwell among them.* I am the Lord their God.



God lived with His people in the Tabernacle.

Israel's story is a sad one. The nation would never fully learn to keep their side of the Mosaic Covenant. They would break God's law, defile His temple, and reject Him as their God. In spite of this, God remained faithful. And he would make a covenant with one family that would produce the Seed, The Messiah, who would save the world.

## 4. THE DAVIDIC COVENANT.

**A. God desires a family.**

God has established His family– the nation of Israel. Now God will make an unconditional covenant with David whereby He will establish David's family as God's family forever.

**The Law.**

The Law that God gave Moses served several purposes:

- 1) It revealed the character of God– He is holy.
- 2) It allowed Israel to experience God's blessings (if they obeyed).
- 3) It revealed their sin (they could not obey).
- 4) It allowed them to receive grace through sacrifice– this of course pictured Christ for them.

**B. The Davidic Covenant.**

2 Samuel 7:8-17. Now, therefore, thus you shall say to my servant David, ‘Thus says the Lord of hosts, I took you from the pasture, from following the sheep, that you should be prince over my people Israel. <sup>9</sup> And I have been with you wherever you went and have cut off all your enemies from before you. And I will make for you a great name, like the name of the great ones of the earth. <sup>10</sup> And I will appoint a place for my people Israel and will plant them, so that they may dwell in their own place and be disturbed no more. And violent men shall afflict them no more, as formerly, <sup>11</sup> from the time that I appointed judges over my people Israel. And I will give you rest from all your enemies. Moreover, the Lord declares to you that the Lord will make you a house. <sup>12</sup> When your days are fulfilled and you lie down with your fathers, I will raise up your seed after you, who shall come from your body, and I will establish his kingdom. <sup>13</sup> He shall build a house for my name, and *I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever.* <sup>14</sup> *I will be to him a father, and he shall be to me a son.* When he commits iniquity, I will discipline him with the rod of men, with the stripes of the sons of men, <sup>15</sup> but my steadfast love will not depart from him, as I took it from Saul, whom I put away from before you. <sup>16</sup> And *your house and your kingdom shall be made sure forever before me. Your throne shall be established forever.*” <sup>17</sup> In accordance with all these words, and in accordance with all this vision, Nathan spoke to David.

**We’ve been saying that God wants to be “their God” and for us to be “His people.” Also, He wants to give us a place to live with Him forever. Where do you see these same thoughts in the Davidic Covenant?**

**5. THE NEW COVENANT.**

**A. God desires a family.**

**All the covenants were destined to fail at bringing a pure relationship between God and His people. God’s holy standard (the Law) could never be met by anyone because of sin. Therefore the Mosaic Covenant bought death and despair. But God’s grace would shine through the Abrahamic and Davidic Covenants– He was not going to give up on us. All these covenants would find fulfillment in Jesus– He would provide a new and better way.**

<b>Covenant</b>	<b>Jesus the fulfillment</b>
<b>Abrahamic</b>	<i>Jesus is the Seed that blesses all nations. He is our inheritance.</i>
<b>Davidic</b>	<i>Jesus, Son of David, will reign as the eternal king, and build God’s household.</i>
<b>Mosaic</b>	<i>Jesus would perfectly keep the Law. And He is the sacrificial lamb who makes perfection available to us.</i>

## B. The New Covenant.

Hebrews 8:6-12. But as it is, Christ has obtained a ministry that is as much more excellent than the old as the covenant he mediates is better, since it is enacted on better promises. <sup>7</sup> For if that first covenant had been faultless, there would have been no occasion to look for a second.

<sup>8</sup> For he finds fault with them when he says: "Behold, the days are coming, declares the Lord, when **I will establish a new covenant with the house of Israel** and with the house of Judah, <sup>9</sup> not like the covenant that I made with their fathers on the day when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt. For they did not continue in my covenant, and so I showed no concern for them, declares the Lord.

<sup>10</sup> For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, declares the Lord: I will put my laws into their minds, and write them on their hearts, and **I will be their God, and they shall be my people.** <sup>11</sup> And they shall not teach, each one his neighbor and each one his brother, saying, 'Know the Lord,' for **they shall all know me**, from the least of them to the greatest.

<sup>12</sup> For I will be merciful toward their iniquities, and **I will remember their sins no more.**"

Hebrews 10:1-18. For since the law has but a shadow of the good things to come instead of the true form of these realities, it can never, by the same sacrifices that are continually offered every year, make perfect those who draw near. <sup>2</sup> Otherwise, would they not have ceased to be offered, since the worshipers, having once been cleansed, would no longer have any consciousness of sins? <sup>3</sup> But in these sacrifices there is a reminder of sins every year. <sup>4</sup> For it is impossible for the blood of bulls and goats to take away sins.

<sup>5</sup> Consequently, when Christ came into the world, he said, "Sacrifices and offerings you have not desired, but a body have you prepared for me;

<sup>6</sup> in burnt offerings and sin offerings you have taken no pleasure.

<sup>7</sup> Then I said, 'Behold, I have come to do your will, O God, as it is written of me in the scroll of the book.'"

<sup>8</sup> When he said above, "You have neither desired nor taken pleasure in sacrifices and offerings and burnt offerings and sin offerings" (these are offered according to the law), <sup>9</sup> then he added, "Behold, I have come to do your will." He does away with the first in order to establish the second. <sup>10</sup> And by that will we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.

<sup>11</sup> And every priest stands daily at his service, offering repeatedly the same sacrifices, which can never take away sins. <sup>12</sup> **But when Christ had offered for all time a single sacrifice for sins, he sat down at the right hand of God,** <sup>13</sup> waiting from that time until his enemies should be made a footstool for his feet. <sup>14</sup> **For by a single offering he has perfected for all time those who are being sanctified.**

<sup>15</sup> And the Holy Spirit also bears witness to us; for after saying,

<sup>16</sup> "This is the covenant that I will make with them after those days, declares the Lord:

**I will put my laws on their hearts, and write them on their minds,"**

<sup>17</sup> then he adds,

**"I will remember their sins and their lawless deeds no more."**

<sup>18</sup> Where there is forgiveness of these, there is no longer any offering for sin.

How is the New Covenant different from the Old Covenant? Use the scriptures on the previous page to help you fill in the chart.

Old Covenant	New Covenant
Continual sacrifices.	
Sins covered for one year.	
Law written on tablets of stone.	
The blood of bulls and goats.	
Mediated by Moses.	

C. God’s heart is to be our God, and for us to be His people.

How does the New Covenant Provide the way for us to have a perfect relationship with God?

D. Christians are under the New Covenant NOT the Old.

1. You are completely forgiven.

Hebrews 8:12. I will remember their sins no more

Hebrews 10:12. But when Christ had offered for all time a single sacrifice for sins, he sat down at the right hand of God

2. You are empowered with a new heart to obey God.

Hebrews 10:16. I will put my laws on their hearts, and write them on their minds

3. You have a personal intimacy with God.

Hebrews 8:10. I will be their God, and they shall be my people

Hebrews 8:11. for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest.

Hebrews 10:14. For by a single offering he has perfected for all time those who are being sanctified.

How do these amazing truths impact your heart and mind?



# 2<sup>2</sup> LIFE Lesson 3

## Understanding Your Sin

### BIG IDEA:

Understanding your sin is an important part of spiritual growth. Even though we have the New Covenant, we still sin because we can resist the grace of God and because we fail to live in faith in our union with Jesus.

### I. SIN IS A FORCE.

**A. Sin is not simply isolated acts of disobedience. The Bible says that SIN is a force that, apart from Christ, we are completely deceived by and enslaved to.**

Genesis 4:6-7 The Lord said to Cain, “Why are you angry, and why has your face fallen?” <sup>7</sup> If you do well, will you not be accepted? And if you do not do well, *sin is crouching at the door. Its desire is for you, but you must rule over it.*”

**How does Genesis describe sin as a force that is out to destroy us?**

Ephesians 2:1-3. And *you were dead in the trespasses and sins* <sup>2</sup> in which you once walked, following the course of this world, following the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work in the sons of disobedience— <sup>3</sup> among whom we all once lived in the passions of our flesh, carrying out the desires of the body and the mind, and *were by nature children of wrath*, like the rest of mankind.

**How does Paul describe our condition under SIN's control?**

Romans 1:24-25. Therefore *God gave them up* in the lusts of their hearts to impurity, to the dishonoring of their bodies among themselves, <sup>25</sup> because *they exchanged the truth about God for a lie and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator*, who is blessed forever! Amen.

**How does Paul describe SIN's deception and control in our lives?**

## 2. SIN AND YOUR HEART.

**A. The Bible rejects the idea that man is inherently good. We are born with the force of **SIN** in our hearts. Sometimes we call this the **SIN NATURE**.**

Romans 5:12 and 19. <sup>12</sup> Therefore, just as *sin came into the world through one man [Adam], and death through sin, and so death spread to all men* because all sinned.

<sup>19</sup> For as *by the one man's disobedience the many were made sinners*, so by the one man's obedience the many will be made righteous.

**How did we get our Sin Nature?**

**B. All sin begins in our **HEART**. The heart is the seat of your desires. All sin begins with either bad desires, or good desires that take control.**

Mark 7:21-23 For from within, *out of the heart* of man, come evil thoughts, sexual immorality, theft, murder, adultery, <sup>22</sup> coveting, wickedness, deceit, sensuality, envy, slander, pride, foolishness.

<sup>23</sup> *All these evil things come from within, and they defile a person."*



**WE CHOOSE WHAT WE BELIEVE IS MOST SATISFYING.**

**C. We did not become sinners because of bad environments or bad circumstances. We are not naturally good and just happen to “slip up” once in awhile. Sin is born into us and produces all kinds of evil within us.**

### Imputation.

In theology the word imputation means that something is credited to someone's account.

The Bible teaches that our sin was imputed to us from Adam. His sin was placed on our account (see Romans 5:12 and 19 above).

The good news is that Christ's righteousness can also be imputed to your account through faith. That is what the New Covenant promises.

## 3. SIN AND YOUR NEW HEART.

**A. When you place your trust in Christ you receive a **NEW HEART**!**

**I. Through Jesus' death on the cross, God made a New Covenant with us, whereby He gives us a new heart and lives inside of us. The Holy Spirit can live inside of us now because we have a new heart.**

2 Corinthians 5:17 Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, *he is a new creation*. The old has passed away; behold, *the new has come*.

Hebrews 8:10-12 For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, declares the Lord: *I will put my laws into their minds, and write them on their hearts, and I will be their God, and they shall be my people.*

<sup>11</sup> And they shall not teach, each one his neighbor and each one his brother, saying, 'Know the Lord,' for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest.

<sup>12</sup> For I will be merciful toward their iniquities, and *I will remember their sins no more.*"

## 2. This is the New Covenant: a new heart that loves God's law, all sins forgiven, perfect relationship with God. WOW!

The Old Covenant Heart	The New Covenant Heart
<p>Jeremiah 17:9-10. The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately sick; who can understand it?</p> <p><sup>10</sup> "I the Lord search the heart and test the mind, to give every man according to his ways, according to the fruit of his deeds."</p> <p>Mark 7:21-23 For from within, out of the heart of man, come evil thoughts, sexual immorality, theft, murder, adultery,</p> <p><sup>22</sup> coveting, wickedness, deceit, sensuality, envy, slander, pride, foolishness.</p> <p><sup>23</sup> All these evil things come from within, and they defile a person."</p>	<p>Jeremiah 31:33. For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, declares the Lord: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts. And I will be their God, and they shall be my people.</p> <p>Ezekiel 11:19. And I will give them one heart, and a new spirit I will put within them. I will remove the heart of stone from their flesh and give them a heart of flesh,</p> <p>2 Cor. 3:3. And you show that you are a letter from Christ delivered by us, written not with ink but with the Spirit of the living God, not on tablets of stone but on tablets of human hearts.</p>

**BECAUSE YOUR HEART IS NEW, IT NO LONGER HAS TO DESIRE SIN.**

**Do you believe that you have a new heart?**

## 4. SO WHY DO WE STILL SIN?

**A. If Christians have a new heart that no longer has to desire sin, then why do we still sin? The Bible's answer to this is the **FLESH**.**

**B. Our **FLESH** (selfishness) wars against the **SPIRIT**. We sin when we fail to let the Spirit's desires rule our hearts and we resist the grace the God is offering.**

### 1. The flesh prevents us from doing what our new heart wants to do.

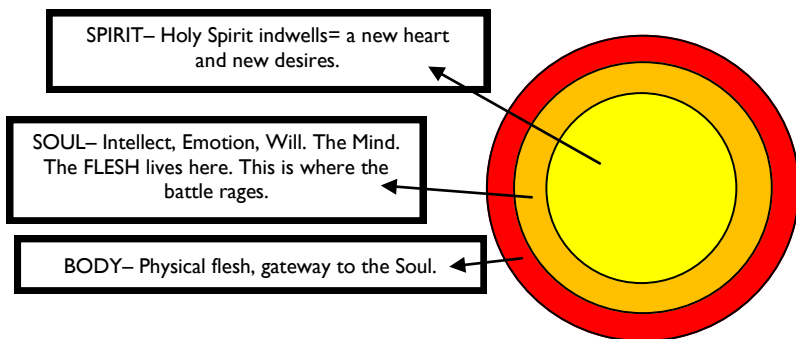
Galatians 5:13-18. For you were called to freedom, brothers. Only do not use your freedom as an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another. <sup>14</sup> For the whole law is fulfilled in one word: "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." <sup>15</sup> But if you bite and devour one another, watch out that you are not consumed by one another. <sup>16</sup> But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh. <sup>17</sup> For the desires of the flesh are against the Spirit, and the desires of the Spirit are against the flesh, for these are opposed to each other, to keep you from doing the things you want to do. <sup>18</sup> But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law.

## 2. Read Romans 7:13-25 and underline the phrases that demonstrate the internal battle over sin that Paul faces.

Romans 7: 14-25. For we know that the law is spiritual, but I am of the flesh, sold under sin. <sup>15</sup> For I do not understand my own actions. For I do not do what I want, but I do the very thing I hate. <sup>16</sup> Now if I do what I do not want, I agree with the law, that it is good. <sup>17</sup> So now it is no longer I who do it, but sin that dwells within me. <sup>18</sup> For I know that nothing good dwells in me, that is, in my flesh. For I have the desire to do what is right, but not the ability to carry it out. <sup>19</sup> For I do not do the good I want, but the evil I do not want is what I keep on doing. <sup>20</sup> Now if I do what I do not want, it is no longer I who do it, but sin that dwells within me.

**In what ways have you personally felt this battle?**

### C. A Picture of You: Spirit, Soul, Body.



## 5. SIN IS IDOLATRY.

**A. Idolatry is at the heart of all sin. Everyone worships idols. Your upbringing, society, and personality determine what idols you worship, not IF you worship idols.**

**Contemporary Idols: circle the ones with which you have struggled.**

Sex	Comfort	Relationships	Marriage	Family	Money
Race	School	Career	Achievement	Drugs/Alcohol	Possessions
Service	Romance	Approval	Financial Security	Food	
	Attractiveness	Political Views	Other _____		

**AN IDOL IS ANYTHING YOU'VE ELEVATED ABOVE GOD.**

**B. Idols are how we achieve **GLORY** apart from God.**

**1. Because of sin you are not living up to the glory for which God created you: **INTIMACY** with Him and **PURPOSE** in life.**

*Romans 3:23. for **all have sinned** and **fall short of the glory** of God,*

**2. Idolatry results from exchanging God's glory for something else.**

*Romans 1:22-23. Claiming to be wise, they became fools,<sup>23</sup> and **exchanged the glory of the immortal God for images** resembling mortal man and birds and animals and creeping things. (Notice how sin is described as idolatry.)*

**C. Idols are good things that become ultimate things.**

**1. The Bible uses the Greek word *epithumia* to describe our idols or desires (The KJV Bible uses the word lust). *Epithumia* occurs when we take something good that God has made, and turn it into our ultimate goal or happiness. We might call *epithumia* an **"OVER DESIRE."****

**2. Look at the list of idols again on page 19. Notice many of these things are good things– gifts from God. As Romans 1 describes, we worship the creation over the Creator.**

**3. How do **"OVER DESIRES"** lead to sin (idolatry) within our hearts? Think through these questions:**

**If I had an "over desire" for romance, what sin might it lead to?**

Desire for Romance	→	
-----------------------	---	--

**If I had an "over desire" for career success, what sin might it lead to?**

Desire for Success	→	
-----------------------	---	--

**What if I had an "over desire" for approval from a loved one?**

Desire for Approval	→	
------------------------	---	--

**Can you identify an "over desire" in your life?**

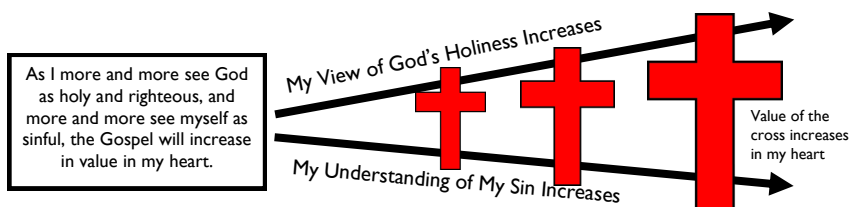
## 6. UNDERSTANDING YOUR SIN.

**A. To understand your sin, you must understand that, because of the **FLESH** (indwelling selfishness), you will continue to sin for the rest of your life.**

**B. You must understand that you are **DEAD TO SIN** (more to come on this).**

*Rom. 6:11 So you also must consider yourselves **dead to sin** and alive to God in Christ Jesus.*

**C. Realize that the more you behold God's holiness, the more you understand your sinfulness, and the more you will understand Grace.**



**D. **DON'T FOCUS ON YOUR SIN.** Identify your idols, but destroy them by focusing on the person and work of Christ (the gospel).**

**E. Avoid these two extremes:**

**1. Taking sin too lightly–** having a light view of sin leads to self deception, self righteousness, and an inadequate appreciation for God's grace.

**2. Allowing sin to cause despair–** God will expose your sin in His timing. You cooperate with him by letting the Word of God expose your inner thoughts and intentions (Heb. 4:12), and by receiving input from other Christian Friends (Heb. 3:13).

**Which of these two extremes do you tend towards?**

*"I am not what I ought to be, I am not what I want to be, I am not what I hope to be in another world, but still I am not what I once used to be, and by the grace of God I am what I am." - John Newton*

# 2<sup>2</sup> LIFE Lesson 4

## Grace and Your New Identity

### BIG IDEA:

Grace and our new identity are the foundation and the power for all growth in Christ. We are no longer slaves to sin, but are children of God, freed to live Christ's life of love and holiness.

### I. THE IMPORTANCE OF YOUR NEW IDENTITY.

**A. Who are you?** When someone asks you this question, what comes to mind? Parent? Student? Lawyer? Plumber? Son? Daughter? Minister?

**Who does God say you are?**

2 Corinthians 5:17. Therefore, *if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation*. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come.

The basis of my new identity is:



The result of my new identity is:

**B. Why is understanding your new identity so important? Because:**

Who I am .....Precedes.....What I do

Identity.....Precedes.....Behavior

Position.....Precedes.....Condition

**Review Lesson 3: Why do people sin (think about imputation)?**

**If that's true, then what would give a person the power to stop sinning?**

2. GRACE AND IDENTITY MEETS YOUR NEEDS.

Your new identity is “child of God” and “co-heir with Christ.” This means every need and desire are met in Him. In the chart below, study the **CORE NEEDS** column. These are things that every person desires. Fill in the **GRACE** column by reading the scriptures and writing in what our new identity is in Christ.

CORE NEEDS	GRACE: What is your new identity in Christ?
Love and Acceptance	Eph. 1:4-6
Forgiveness	Eph. 1:7, Col. 2:13-14
Purpose	Eph. 1:8-10, 2:10
Security	Eph. 1:11,14
Power	Eph. 1:19-21, 2:6
Freedom from Sin’s control	Rom. 6:6, Col. 2:11,12

3. GRACE AND IDENTITY GIVE YOU FREEDOM FROM SIN.

A. There are two approaches to dealing with sin.

1. Self Effort (Legalism).

Without Christ, this is your only option: saving yourself through your own efforts. Unfortunately, many Christians still try to grow this way.

Self Effort says: “You know it’s wrong, so just stop sinning.”





## 2. Grace and Faith

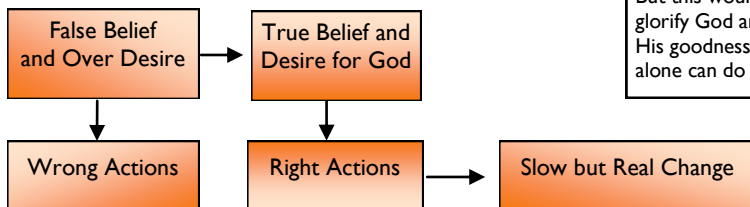
**With Christ we have a new identity. This new identity is based on GRACE. Our new identity gives us everything we need.**

*Ephesians 1:3. Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places,*

*2 Peter 1:3. His divine power has granted to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of him who called us to his own glory and excellence*

**If we have all that we need IN CHRIST, then we don't need SIN.**

**The Bible tells us to find the heart desire behind what we do. Then, Grace shows us that we already have that desire met In Christ.**



### Grace and Relating to God.

Grace is God's unmerited favor. It cannot be earned or deserved. It is:

**God's  
Riches  
At  
Christ's  
Expense**

God has always desired to relate to us through grace. In fact it is the only way to relate to God.

Religion tries to relate to God through good works or by earning God's favor.

But this would never glorify God and reveal His goodness. Grace alone can do this.

**Self Effort= Do In Order to Be      Grace= Be In Order to Do.**

**How would you summarize the difference between transformation by Self Effort and transformation by Grace?**

**Study the chart on the next page again.**

**Notice that our Core Needs can drive us towards sin or towards grace and our new identity.**

**Review your answers for the Grace column on page 23. Think through how your new identity can free you from the power of sin.**

SIN: Emotions and Behaviors that come from not applying my new identity	CORE NEEDS	GRACE: What is your new Identity in Christ?
I manipulate in order to get love. I idolize a relationship. substituting sex for love, etc..	<b>Love and Acceptance</b>	Eph. 1:4-6 In Christ you are holy, blameless, chosen, loved, and adopted. How does this free you from sin's power?
I may try to earn forgiveness by being good. Guilt comes in when I forget my forgiveness.	<b>Forgiveness</b>	Eph. 1:7, Col. 2:13-14 In Christ you have been forgiven of all your sins— past, present and future. How does this free you from sin's power?
I seek purpose by what I do or produce, rather than by what I am in Christ. I get discouraged or proud depending on how much I succeed.	<b>Purpose</b>	Eph. 1:8-10, 2:10 In Christ, you now have the purpose of seeing everything brought under the authority of Christ, this happens by our good works. How does this free you from sin's power?
I make earthly treasures or relationships my security. I worry when things don't go my way. My security may be found in religious traditions.	<b>Security</b>	Eph. 1:11, 14 In Christ, you are given a guaranteed inheritance, sealed with the Holy Spirit. How does this free you from sin's power?
I seek power by hurting or manipulating people. I try to control situations rather than trust God.	<b>Power</b>	Eph. 1:19-21, 2:6 In Christ, you have the same power inside of you that rose Christ from the dead. You are seated above all powers in the universe. How does this free you from sin's power?
I feel defeated by sin— that it is impossible to overcome a habitual sin. I try to overcome sin by trying harder or by will power	<b>Freedom from Sin's control</b>	Rom. 6:6, Col. 2:11, 12 In Christ, you are dead to sin and the sin nature has been put to death. How does that free you from sin's power?

# 2<sup>2</sup> LIFE Lesson 5

## Living By Faith

### BIG IDEA:

Living by faith is how we appropriate God's grace and our new identity. Faith keeps us dependent on the life of Christ and actively receiving grace for each moment of our life.

### I. FAITH IS DEPENDENT AND ACTIVE.

**A. Biblical faith is believing that God is who He says He is, and that He will do what He says he will do.**

**B. Faith is a personal trust in God, that does God's will. Therefore...**

**C. Faith is both **DEPENDENT** and **ACTIVE** (it is believing and acting).**

Mark 2:1-5, 11-12. And when he returned to Capernaum after some days, it was reported that he was at home. <sup>2</sup> And many were gathered together, so that there was no more room, not even at the door. And he was preaching the word to them. <sup>3</sup> And they came, bringing to him a paralytic carried by four men. <sup>4</sup> And when they could not get near him because of the crowd, they removed the roof above him, and when they had made an opening, they let down the bed on which the paralytic lay. <sup>5</sup> And *when Jesus saw their faith, he said to the paralytic, "Son, your sins are forgiven."*

<sup>11</sup> "I say to you, rise, pick up your bed, and go home." <sup>12</sup> And he rose and immediately picked up his bed and went out before them all, so that they were all amazed and glorified God, saying, "We never saw anything like this!"

**How was the paralyzed man DEPENDENT on Jesus?**

**What ACTION did the paralyzed man have to take?**

**Why does faith require both dependence and action?**

#### Abraham's Faith.

Abraham's faith shows us the connection between dependence and action.

Genesis 15:6.

And [Abraham] believed the Lord, and he counted it to him as righteousness.

God repeated the covenant to Abraham and Abraham's faith was rooted in dependence upon God to keep the covenant.

James 2:21-23. Was not Abraham our father justified by works when he offered up his son Isaac on the altar? <sup>22</sup> You see that faith was active along with his works, and faith was completed by his works; <sup>23</sup> and the Scripture was fulfilled that says, "Abraham believed God, and it was counted to him as righteousness"—and he was called a friend of God.

Abraham's faith was expressed in action.

## 2. FAITH IS NECESSARY FOR JUSTIFICATION AND SANCTIFICATION.

**A. You are **JUSTIFIED** by grace through faith.**

Ephesians 2:8. For *by grace you have been saved through faith.*

**But faith in what?**

Romans 3:21-26. But now the righteousness of God has been manifested apart from the law, although the Law and the Prophets bear witness to it—<sup>22</sup> the righteousness of God *through faith in Jesus Christ for all who believe.* For there is no distinction: <sup>23</sup> for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, <sup>24</sup> and are justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, <sup>25</sup> whom God put forward as a propitiation by his blood, *to be received by faith.* This was to show God's righteousness, because in his divine forbearance he had passed over former sins. <sup>26</sup> It was to show his righteousness at the present time, *so that he might be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus.*

**What are the truths we must believe to be saved?**

**Think about when you were saved (justified). In what ways did your personal salvation experience demonstrate FAITH?**

**B. And you are **SANCTIFIED** by grace through faith.**

**1. Paul says, “just as you received Christ” (Justification) “so walk in Him” (sanctification).**

**WE GROW DAILY BY THE SAME FAITH IN THE SAME CHRIST (HIS PERSON AND WORK) THAT SAVED US.**

Colossians 2:6-7a. Therefore, as you received Christ Jesus the Lord, *so walk in him,* <sup>7</sup> rooted and built up in him and established *in the faith,*

**2. The same faith that justified Paul became the faith by which he lived.**

Galatians 2:20. I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And *the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God,* who loved me and gave himself for me.

**3. Now Paul is challenging their **FAITH**. If you were saved by faith why would you try to live by the **FLESH** (works of the law)?**

Galatians 3:3. Are you so foolish? *Having begun by the Spirit [faith], are you now being perfected by the flesh?*

**4. Think about your own walk with Christ (sanctification). Here too your faith must be **DEPENDENT**– you can't grow by self effort.**

**But, also, your faith must be **ACTIVE**– you must appropriate (use) God's power as you "Walk by the Spirit."**

**Do you think about your faith as both dependent and active?**

### 3. LIVING BY FAITH.

**A. Grace gives us our new identity in Christ. We live by faith in this new identity.**

*Galatians 2:15-21. We ourselves are Jews by birth and not Gentile sinners; <sup>16</sup> yet we know that a person is not justified by works of the law but through faith in Jesus Christ, so we also have believed in Christ Jesus, in order to be justified by faith in Christ and not by works of the law, because by works of the law no one will be justified.*

*<sup>17</sup> But if, in our endeavor to be justified in Christ, we too were found to be sinners, is Christ then a servant of sin? Certainly not! <sup>18</sup> For if I rebuild what I tore down, I prove myself to be a transgressor. <sup>19</sup> For through the law I died to the law, so that I might live to God. <sup>20</sup> I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me. <sup>21</sup> I do not nullify the grace of God, for if righteousness were through the law, then Christ died for no purpose.*

**B. Faith never focuses on itself, it is focused on the object of our faith– Jesus himself.**

*Hebrews 12:2. looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith*

**C. Faith that is focused on Christ alone is called "Walking by the Spirit."**

*Galatians 3:2-6. Let me ask you only this: Did you receive the Spirit by works of the law or by hearing with faith?*

**Walking by the Spirit happens when you 1) Have the mind of the Spirit, and 2) Keep in step with the Spirit.**

**I. Having the mind of the Spirit:**

*Romans 8:4-6...in order that the righteous requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not according to the flesh but according to the Spirit. <sup>5</sup> For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit set their minds on the things of the Spirit. <sup>6</sup> For to set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace.*

## 2. Keep in Step with the Spirit

Galatians 5:16-25. But I say, **walk by the Spirit**, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh. <sup>17</sup> For **the desires of the flesh are against the Spirit, and the desires of the Spirit are against the flesh**, for these are opposed to each other, to keep you from doing the things you want to do. <sup>18</sup> But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law. <sup>19</sup> Now the works of the flesh are evident: sexual immorality, impurity, sensuality, <sup>20</sup> idolatry, sorcery, enmity, strife, jealousy, fits of anger, rivalries, dissensions, divisions, <sup>21</sup> envy, drunkenness, orgies, and things like these. I warn you, as I warned you before, that those who do such things will not inherit the kingdom of God. <sup>22</sup> But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, <sup>23</sup> gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law. <sup>24</sup> And those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. <sup>25</sup> **If we live by the Spirit, let us also keep in step with the Spirit.**

WALKING BY THE SPIRIT	
1. SET MIND ON THE SPIRIT (Rom. 8)	2. IN STEP WITH THE SPIRIT (Gal. 5)
The "Dependence" side of faith— receiving God's grace. We can set our minds on the Spirit, or on the Flesh.	The "Action" side of faith— giving God's grace away. The Spirit receives grace, while the Flesh resists grace- Faith is yielding to the Spirit.
Seeks and stays focused on God's love.	Obeys God's direction into love.
Primarily through Spiritual disciplines: reading and meditating, prayer, praise, community, corporate worship and preaching.	Primarily through ministry of love: service, prayer for others, being an example, making disciples, mentoring.

**D. Christians who live by faith (walking in the Spirit) are confident in God's love for them. They experience God's love, power, forgiveness and all spiritual blessings consistently.**

**How would you explain faith to someone?**

**So how do we experience God's grace? By faith! Believing that He has already given it in the form of our union with Christ through the Gospel.**

**How do we live by faith? Keep reading.**

### Faith Is and Is Not.

Faith is rooted in the Word of God.

Faith is not rooted in experiences, impressions or feelings.

Faith is dependence upon what God has done for us.

Faith is not what makes God do things for us.

Faith is focused on the Lord Jesus.

Faith is not focused on faith.

Faith is receiving grace.

Faith is not resisting grace.

Faith is allowing yourself to be loved, though unworthy.

Faith is not earning God's love through your own worthiness.

## 4. LIVING BY FAITH IN OUR UNION WITH CHRIST.

The key to living by faith, is to apply the truths of Jesus' life (Incarnation, Perfect Life and Suffering, Death, Resurrection, Ascension) to our lives; to see our lives unified or abiding in His very life. We've got to keep going back to these truths or we won't make any progress in the Christian life. It will be a "Christ-less Christianity" that depends on Christian principles or Christian experiences for growth, rather than on Jesus himself.

Let's look at the life of Jesus applying His life to our lives.



### 1. The Incarnation of Christ.

God understands our problems. He has been tempted just like us. He has felt pain, agony, rejection, heart break, loss, hunger, sorrow, joy, relief, anger, love. Jesus was willing to go to great lengths for this love he has for us.

### 2. The Perfect Life and Suffering of Christ.

We don't strive for perfection, we receive it as a gift— Christ was perfect for us. We should not expect a "better life" but instead we should rest in the perfection of Jesus and embrace his suffering. As he suffered, we will suffer. We can stop covering up our shame and embrace Jesus' righteousness.

### 3. The Death of Christ.

We are forgiven of every sin by Christ's death for us. And by our death with Jesus we are freed from the desire to keep sinning. We are no longer slaves to sin. Our own death on the cross and our daily death to the deeds of the flesh are what bring real resurrection and glorification.

### 4. The Resurrection of Christ.

The power of sin is broken by our new life in Christ. His life is now ours through faith. We are completely loved and accepted by God. Now the power of all idols can be broken by this resurrection power. Beyond this, we also have received the power to love and live for him and by him in this world.

### 5. The Glorification of Christ.

Our life is not reduced to this life. There is much more to come. And God is looking forward to us being fully in His presence. In the meantime, Jesus and the Spirit are praying for us and pouring His character into us, preparing us for the day of our glorification with him. We are seated with Christ in heavenly places— now! Not just someday. This gives us the greatest of hopes for the future. And immense joy in this life!

## 5. APPROPRIATING GRACE THROUGH FAITH.

Discuss this chart together. We have talked through our Core Needs and how we can have them met by either turning towards sin or grace. Now take it a step further and think through how we can appropriate that grace through faith (the mind of the Spirit and the steps of the Spirit).

SIN	CORE NEED	GRACE	MIND OF THE SPIRIT – DEPENDENCE	IN STEP WITH THE SPIRIT – ACTION
Jealousy, sex, manipulating, fear, rescuing, serving only to be loved.	<b>LOVE</b>	I am chosen by God, loved by God, adopted by God (Eph. 1:3-6).	I believe that God loves me. I accept His love for me.	I choose to love and serve others.
Judging other's sin, false good deeds done to make you feel good. Result- Hypocrisy, phoniness.	<b>PURPOSE</b>	God has revealed His will to me (the supremacy of Christ). I am God's masterpiece (Eph. 2:10).	I believe I am re-created for good works (Eph. 2:10). I am called to make disciples.	I live out my purpose to worship and show off God to others through good works and testimony.
Anger, selfish ambition. Seeking power from position while avoiding "sinners." Pride, self righteousness.	<b>POWER</b>	I have resurrection power in me (Eph. 1:8-20). I have been strengthened by Christ.	I believe my power comes from Christ who gives me strength.	I choose to serve others and forsake sin. I get involved in ministry even when I feel weak.
Willpower. I force myself to stop sinning- but heart not changed. Result- Pride, impulsivity, no joy.	<b>CONTROL</b>	Sin in me is condemned. I have the mind of Christ. All things work for good = conformed into Christ.	I believe that I have all I need to live a godly life (2 Pt. 1:3).	I choose to live in self control, denying selfish desires. I take risks knowing that God is in control
Discord, envy, greed, tradition. Stoicism ("I'm OK"). Result- apathy or anxiety.	<b>COMFORT</b>	We are sealed by the HS. We have hope through the Spirit who intercedes for us (Rm 8).	I have hope in the resurrection and future inheritance of Christ and with Christ.	I allow myself to be comforted by the Spirit, not my status or human relationships alone.
Self seeking, disrespect, finding identity in my deeds. Result- Self absorbed, superiority or inferiority.	<b>SIGNIFICANCE</b>	I am in Christ and have access to the Father. I am being conformed into the image of Christ.	I believe that God is accomplishing my sanctification. I am valuable as His child.	I choose to get involved in ministry- I use my gifts to serve the Body.
Selfish ambition, praying for blessing not. Blesser. Result- hopelessness and despair.	<b>SECURITY</b>	My inheritance is in Christ and marked by the HS (Eph. 1:13-14).	I believe that I have all I need in this life and the next. I am content.	I choose to work for heavenly treasure not earthly goods. I use the gifts from God to help others.
Bitterness, envy. Good deeds done out of "I'm better than you" or "I can earn my salvation" mentality. Result- Guilt, envy, never joyful.	<b>FOR-GIVENESS</b>	In Christ we have forgiveness, peace, no condemnation.	I know that I am forgiven and believe that since I have all I need, I no longer need others to suffer for their wrongs.	I choose to forgive others and have compassion on those who have wronged me.



# 2<sup>2</sup> LIFE Lesson 6

## Position and Condition

### BIG IDEA:

Our position in Christ (our new identity) is as safe and secure as Jesus' position in God. Our condition is a progressive transformation by faith in our position of grace.

### I. OUR POSITION v. OUR CONDITION.

#### A. Our position in Christ.

**When you receive Christ's life, your position changes from guilty to innocent. Your standing before God is forever perfect. The trajectory of your life has been altered for eternity and you are deemed a new creation in Christ. All spiritual life and growth is based upon our position in Christ. Jesus is the source of our position before God. Because our source (Jesus) is perfect, our position is perfect.**

**Consider these scriptures that demonstrate our position in Christ as perfect before God:**

*Ephesians 1:4-6. even as he chose us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before him. In love <sup>5</sup> he predestined us for adoption as sons through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of his will, <sup>6</sup> to the praise of his glorious grace, with which he has blessed us in the Beloved.*

*Romans 5:1. Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.*

*Colossians 2:9-10. For in him the whole fullness of deity dwells bodily, <sup>10</sup> and you have been filled in him*

*Galatians 3:26-27. for in Christ Jesus you are all sons of God, through faith. <sup>27</sup> For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ.*

*Romans 8:1-2. There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. <sup>2</sup> For the law of the Spirit of life has set you free in Christ Jesus from the law of sin and death.*

*John 8:36. So if the Son sets you free, you are free indeed.*

*2 Corinthians 5:17. Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come.*

**B. Our condition day by day.**

**After receiving Christ, our position before God changes. We are both fully sanctified and yet being sanctified by the Holy Spirit. We have salvation; now we must work out our salvation.**

*Philippians 2:12-13. work out your own salvation with fear and trembling, <sup>13</sup> for it is God who works in you, both to will and to work for his good pleasure.*

*1 Peter 1:16. since it is written, "You shall be holy, for I am holy."*

*1 Timothy 6:12. Fight the good fight of the faith.*

## 2. INDICATIVES AND IMPERATIVES.

**We can also understand how our position relates to our condition by looking at the pattern of indicatives and imperatives found in the Bible.**

**A. INDICATIVES–** Truths about what God has done for us in Christ. These are promises to be believed. They allow us to **DEPEND** on God. They tell us our **POSITION** in Christ.

**B. IMPERATIVES–** What God calls on us to do by faith. These are commands to be obeyed that allow us to put faith into **ACTION**. They become our **CONDITION**.

**Remember, commands are always based upon God's provision for obeying the command: Indicatives always proceed imperatives**

**How do God's indicatives and imperatives connect to grace and faith? How do they cause us to understand and appropriate God's grace, and increase our faith?**

**C. Practice: For each scripture circle the indicatives (truths) and underline the imperatives (commands).**

**Example:** Eph. 4:32 Be kind to one another, tender-hearted, forgiving each other, just as God in Christ has forgiven you.

1. 1 Jn 4:11 Beloved, if God so loved us we also ought to love one another.

2. Eph. 5:1-2 Be imitators of God as beloved children; and walk in love, just as Christ also loved you and gave himself for us.

3. Phil. 2:12,13 Work out your salvation with fear and trembling; for it is God who is at work in you, both to will and to work for His good pleasure.

4. Rom. 12:1 "Therefore, I urge you, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies a living and holy sacrifice, acceptable to God"

### 3. APPROPRIATING YOUR NEW POSITIONAL IDENTITY: KNOW. CONSIDER. PRESENT.

Appropriating our new identity consists of three sequential steps outlined in Romans 6. These steps are foundational to spiritual growth. **Note:** the order here is important.

#### A. **KNOW.**

Romans 6:6. *We know that our old self was crucified with him* in order that the body of sin might be brought to nothing, so that we would no longer be enslaved to sin.

“Our old self was crucified with him”— When Jesus died you died.

“That the body of sin might be brought to nothing”— this means our sin nature is dead.

“We would no longer be enslaved to sin”— Sin no longer has any authority or power over us. It doesn’t have to control us, and it cannot condemn us.

1. To **KNOW** means learning what the Bible says about your new identity and reflecting on it often. This knowledge is important because what we believe about our identity determines every choice we make.

2. Many Christians would say they are forgiven but there is still no change in their lives. If we don’t know that we are free from sin’s control we will continue to live under its demands. This knowledge is based on a fact: Jesus died and rose again. The old you died with Christ and the new you was raised with Christ— this a fact that you must know before you can be free. (Review p.30)

Example: The Emancipation Proclamation became law in January of 1863. The legal identity of southern black slaves changed. Their identity as “property” was “killed.” Their previous owners still existed, but their authority over them was removed. However, if the ex-slave did not know about his freedom, he would continue to live as a slave.

#### B. **CONSIDER.**

Romans 6:11. So you also must *consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus*.

“Consider yourself dead to sin, but alive to God in Christ Jesus”— choosing to affirm what God says about your identity in spite of what others and your own thoughts and feelings say about you.

Consider= *logizomai*. This is an accounting term (see the “Imputation” box on p.17). Your sin debt is paid.

1. If a large amount of money is added to your bank account, it is important to add it to the ledger and operate from this new bottom line, regardless of what your feelings, memories, or others might say.

2. We too must choose by faith to affirm this reality—we are dead to sin! This truth meets many of our Core Needs (p.13). But we have to choose to believe them. Our ledger of sins is blank. God does not ever add to this ledger again. He operates with us as if we are righteous and debt free. We must do the same. That is what it means to

### CONSIDER.

How tragic was it for thousands of slaves who, even when they heard about the Emancipation Proclamation, they failed to live as though they were free. They still believed that they were slaves, because this is what their ex-owners and their current condition told them.

3. Many Christians do the same as the ex-slaves. We fail to live and make daily choices from our position of being dead to sin. We must let God expose false identity beliefs inside of us. We must help our spiritual friends to identify these lies. We must see that we now can change because we are free from sin.

### C. PRESENT.

Romans 6:13-14. Do not present your members to sin as instruments for unrighteousness, *but present yourselves to God* as those who have been brought from death to life, *and your members [body] to God as instruments for righteousness.* <sup>14</sup> For sin will have no dominion over you, since you are not under law but under grace.

“Do not present your members to sin”- first we must turn from sin or “put off” sin.

“But present yourself to God”- next present your body to be used by God.

### Notice this pattern in Ephesians 4:28 and 2 Timothy 2:22

Ephesians 4:28. Let the thief no longer steal *[do not present your members to sin]*, but rather let him labor *[present yourself to God]*, doing honest work with his own hands, so that he may have something to share with anyone in need.

2 Timothy 2:22. So flee youthful passions *[do not present your members to sin]* and pursue righteousness, faith, love, and peace, *[present yourself to God]* along with those who call on the Lord from a pure heart.

So which slaves experienced freedom? Those who knew about the Emancipation Proclamation and chose to consider it true, in spite of their ex-master and their memories and fears, and who walked off the plantation, trusting the power of the government to actualize their freedom.

## 4. PRACTICING KNOW- CONSIDER- PRESENT.

### A. Examples

1. You are angry at a person for not paying enough attention to you.

**KNOW–** At church you learn that God meets all of your love needs.

**CONSIDER–** You choose to affirm that God will provide love and acceptance for you and stop expecting others to do it.

**PRESENT–** You stop lashing out at the person and choose to freely give to that person instead.

2. You are depressed because others seem to succeed while you have been failing.

**KNOW–** You read in the Bible that God has gifted everyone for a role in the Body of Christ.

**CONSIDER–** You agree that God has gifted others in one way and you in another way. You trust God to show you how you can serve His body.

**PRESENT–** Thank God for others' gifts, compliment them, look for opportunities to serve.

### B. Your Turn

Name an area of recurring sin in your own life: \_\_\_\_\_

1. What false identity beliefs are driving this sin? What am I failing to believe?

2. What New Identity truths contradict my false beliefs?

3. How must I consider myself dead to sin and alive to God in this area?

4. How can I present my body to God in this area?

## 5. POSITION FIRST, THEN CONDITION.

Because spiritual growth is like a seed, our condition is gradually changing. This can be frustrating because we are still sinning, and Christ's life seems elusive. Most Christians focus on their condition rather than their position. That is not faith.

<b>Your Position...</b>	<b>Your Condition...</b>
Never changes.	Always changing.
You have a new nature.	You are free– to serve God or to serve the Flesh.
No longer under condemnation of sin.	Your flesh still battles against sin.
You have a new desire to love and obey God.	You experience Godly sorrow over sin.
You are fully sanctified (1 Cor. 1:2; 1:30; Col. 2:10; Heb. 10:10).	You are being sanctified (1 Th. 4:3; 2 Th. 2:13; John 17:17; Heb. 10:14).
God's love for you cannot change.	Your love for God is deepening daily.
You are crucified with Christ	Yet you live by faith.
Abiding in the Vine.	The fruit of the branch.
The Holy Spirit reminds you of your position.	The Devil reminds you of your condition.
Righteousness imputed to us.	You put on the breastplate of righteousness.
You are perfected by Christ.	You are being perfected by Christ.
You rest in God's finished work.	You strive to do Christ's good works.
You are in Christ and Christ is in you.	You are being transformed into Christ's image.

**from p.4- UNDERSTANDING AND TRUSTING IN OUR JUSTIFICATION AND GLORIFICATION (POSITION) CAUSES OUR SANCTIFICATION (CONDITION).**

<b>Focusing on your Condition first...</b>	<b>Focusing on your Position first...</b>
Will not change your position.	Will change your condition.
Results in pride or discouragement.	Results in gratitude and humility.
Your failures will destroy you.	You realize God uses failure to transform you.
Desperation leads to self effort– faith in my life.	Desperation leads to faith in Christ's life.
You try harder and harder to "please God."	You learn to rest in Christ.
You make countless resolutions and vows– growth is focused on "rededication" and experiences.	You trust solely in your co-crucifixion with Christ. Growth is focused on faith in Christ's life and work.
Focuses on being like Christ.	Focuses on Christ.
Prays for victory, peace, power, and blessing.	Believes you already have victory, peace, power, and blessing.
If "doing well," may be unaware of sin and the flesh. Feeling good about efforts.	Has an ever increasing awareness of God's holiness, your own sin, and need for grace.
Seeks to cover up sin and weakness.	Although painful, desires for God to bring out the worst in you.
Trying to die daily to sin.	Believes the old man has died once (like Christ).
Disciplines used to achieve love and grace.	Disciplines used to receive love and grace.

**Which of the thoughts in these charts stands out to you? Why?**

# 2<sup>2</sup> LIFE Lesson 7

## The Holy Spirit

### BIG IDEA:

Spiritual growth can only be accomplished by the Holy Spirit as He ministers the life of Jesus to us by grace.

### 1. WHO IS THE HOLY SPIRIT?

A. The Holy Spirit is a **PERSON** (not a force).

1. He is intelligent (1 Cor. 2:10)

2. He is volitional/ He chooses (1 Cor. 12:11)

3. He is emotional (Eph. 4:30)

B. He is fully **GOD**; He is part of the **TRINITY**.

1. He is grouped with the Father and the Son (Mt. 28:19, 2 Cor. 13:14)

2. He has divine attributes (1 Cor. 2:10, Ps. 139:7)

3. He is equated with God (Acts 5:3-4, 2 Cor. 3:17)

**Why is it important to know that the Holy Spirit is a person?**

### 2. THE HOLY SPIRIT AND BELIEVERS.

A. Under the Old Covenant.

1. During OT times the Holy Spirit “came upon” people to empower them for a specific purpose (see Judges 14:6, Ex. 31:3, 1 Sam 16:13).

2. Before Jesus, the Holy Spirit’s empowerment was temporary rather than permanent. OT figures could lose the presence of the Holy Spirit.

*Psalm 51:11. Cast me not away from your presence, and **take not your Holy Spirit from me.***

**3. The OT Tabernacle (the tent where God was worshipped) showed God's desire to live among His people, but the animal sacrifices were needed just for the people to get close to God. They would need a substitute. Today God's presence (the Holy Spirit) lives within Christians.**

**B. Under the New Covenant.**

**1. The Holy Spirit indwells ALL Christians.**

*John 14:17. ...the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, for he dwells with you and will be in you.*

*1 Corinthians 3:16 Do you not know that you are God's temple and that God's Spirit dwells in you?*

*Romans 8:9. You, however, are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if in fact the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him.*

*John 14:16. And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Helper, to be with you forever,*

**Think about the New Covenant (review p.15). What makes it possible for God, the Holy Spirit, to indwell us?**

HS and OT Believers	HS and NT Believers
Temporary	Permanent
Given to Some	Given to All
Was "With" or "Upon"	Indwells

**3. THE MINISTRY OF THE HOLY SPIRIT.**

**THE ULTIMATE MINISTRY OF THE HOLY SPIRIT IN THE LIFE OF BELIEVERS IS TO CONFORM US TO THE IMAGE OF JESUS CHRIST.**

**This means actual change in knowledge, character, and behavior.**

**A. The Holy Spirit is the Spirit of Christ.**

*2 Corinthians 3:18. And we all, with unveiled face, beholding the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another. For this comes from the Lord who is the Spirit.*

*Romans 8:9-10. You, however, are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if in fact the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him. <sup>10</sup> But if Christ is in you, although the body is dead because of sin, the Spirit is life because of righteousness.*

**The Spirit of Christ**

In the OT the Holy Spirit was called "The Spirit of God." In the NT, Paul calls the Holy Spirit "The Spirit of Christ."

This can be tricky. Jesus is not the HS, and the HS is not Jesus. But the Spirit's purpose is to minister Christ and his life to those who receive him by faith.



## B. The Holy Spirit transforms us into Christ's image.

2 Corinthians 3:18. And we all, with unveiled face, beholding the glory of the Lord, are being **transformed into the same image** from one degree of glory to another. For this comes from the Lord who is the Spirit.

The Holy Spirit is the Spirit of Christ. His only motivation is to glorify Jesus, never himself. The Holy Spirit never gives power through faith in himself. Rather, power comes from our realization of our need for Christ and his cross. Growth occurs only through the application of Christ's life to ours. His 1) Incarnation, 2) Perfect life and suffering, 3) Death, 4) Resurrection, 5) Glorification. The Holy Spirit is ministering the death and life of Christ to us. This comes through the power of desperation, hunger, and weakness.



## C. The Holy Spirit transforms us through beholding the glory of Jesus.

2 Corinthians 3:18. And we all, with unveiled face, **beholding the glory of the Lord**, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another. For this comes from the Lord who is the Spirit.

1. Beholding= to gaze at longingly, to reflect upon. We change by reflecting upon, contemplating, and then longing for Jesus.

2. We do not grow by obeying biblical principles or by having spiritual experiences. We grow by worshipping (beholding) Christ and by living by faith in our union with his life (review p.30).

**The glory of the Lord is primarily seen in the cross. How can we behold the glory of the Lord today?**

## D. The Holy Spirit transforms us into Christ from glory to glory.

2 Corinthians 3:18. And we all, with unveiled face, beholding the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image **from one degree of glory to another**. For this comes from the Lord who is the Spirit.

1. Our transformation into Christ's image is a gradual process.

2. "From glory to glory": As we incarnate, suffer, put to death our flesh, and live from resurrection power, we will experience and reflect the glory of Jesus Christ more and more (from glory to glory), like a flower opening up in the spring time.

**Why is it important to remember that transformation by the Spirit is a process?**

## E. The Experience of the Spirit

**1. The liberating power of the Spirit that brings Christ-like character, makes us finally feel like ourselves. We experience life the way it was supposed to be experienced. We can finally CHOOSE TO LOVE God and others. Why? Because we are freed from trying to earn God's approval and all the guilt that goes with it.**

**Where have you seen the transforming power of the Spirit in your life free you from striving, and free you to live as yourself?**

## 4. MY RELATIONSHIP WITH THE SPIRIT.

**A. A Healthy relationship with the Spirit is called "Walking with the Spirit" and it involves two things: Having the Mind of the Spirit and Keeping in Step with the Spirit. (Review Lesson 5)**

**1. The Mind of the Spirit. This is having a mindset of DEPENDENCE ON CHRIST through the truths of the Gospel.**

*Romans 8:5-8. For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit set their minds on the things of the Spirit. <sup>6</sup> For to set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace. <sup>7</sup> For the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God, for it does not submit to God's law; indeed, it cannot. <sup>8</sup> Those who are in the flesh cannot please God.*

**2. The Steps of the Spirit. This is the ACTIVE OBEDIENCE TO CHRIST that results from having the Mind of the Spirit.**

*Galatians 5:16-25. But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh. <sup>17</sup> For the desires of the flesh are against the Spirit, and the desires of the Spirit are against the flesh, for these are opposed to each other, to keep you from doing the things you want to do. <sup>18</sup> But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law. <sup>19</sup> Now the works of the flesh are evident: sexual immorality, impurity, sensuality, <sup>20</sup> idolatry, sorcery, enmity, strife, jealousy, fits of anger, rivalries, dissensions, divisions, <sup>21</sup> envy, drunkenness, orgies, and things like these. I warn you, as I warned you before, that those who do such things will not inherit the kingdom of God. <sup>22</sup> But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, <sup>23</sup> gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law. <sup>24</sup> And those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. <sup>25</sup> If we live by the Spirit, let us also keep in step with the Spirit.*

**\*Note: Together these are the result of FAITH IN YOUR UNION WITH CHRIST.**

**B. A healthy relationship with the Spirit also means avoiding two dangers: “Quenching the Spirit” and being “Super-spiritual.”**

**1. Quenching the Spirit.** This happens when we resist the grace that He is giving us through Christ. We then fail to keep our eyes fixed on the work of Christ (the Gospel).

*1 Thessalonians 5:19. Do not quench the Spirit.*

Think through how each of these can “Quench the Spirit”:

Legalism/Moralism-

Tradition-

Avoiding Risks-

Lack of Love for others-

**2. Being Super-Spiritual.** This happens when we emphasize the supernatural work of the Spirit over the FRUIT of the Spirit that comes from the life of Christ.

*1 Corinthians 13:1-3. If I speak in the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. <sup>2</sup> And if I have prophetic powers, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but have not love, I am nothing. <sup>3</sup> If I give away all I have, and if I deliver up my body to be burned, but have not love, I gain nothing.*

**Examples:**

- a. Believe everyone must have the same spiritual gifts or experience.
- b. Believe that Christians won’t ever have times of spiritual “dryness.”
- c. Believe that the growth comes from spiritual experiences.

Have you experienced those who are “super spiritual” yet seem to lack the fruit of love? Has this ever happened to you?

The greatest “spiritual experience” is to let yourself be loved by God through Christ, and then to love others. In what ways might other “Spiritual experiences” get in the way of this true spiritual experience? (Review 1 Cor. 13:1-3 above).

## 5. THE FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT.

**Re-read Galatians 5:16-25 (p.41). Spiritual Fruit is the natural result of faith in our union with Christ.**

**A. All of the fruit combined are the revealed character of Christ.**

*Galatians 5:22-23. But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, <sup>23</sup> gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law.*

\*To understand these character traits better, see the appendix at the end of this lesson.

**1. Becoming like Christ will always result in the transformation of character. We will love like Christ and live like Christ as we trust in our union with his life more and more.**

**2. The PROOF of Walking with the Holy Spirit (living by faith in your new identity) is Spiritual Fruit! It is NOT spiritual gifts or spiritual experiences.**

**In what ways have you seen spiritual fruit growing in your life?**

### The Unity of the Fruit

Paul uses the singular word for fruit in Galatians 5. This means that all the character traits listed here are connected— they grow together.

For example: You may have joy, but not courage (faithfulness). This shows that your joy is just your personality, not the Spirit. Or you may be gentle but not have integrity (goodness). Or if you are peaceful but not kind, then you may be mistaking your character for Christ's fullness.

**B. Spiritual Fruit is cultivated by faith in Christ's life and work.**

*Galatians 5:24-25. <sup>24</sup> And those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. <sup>25</sup> If we live by the Spirit, let us also keep in step with the Spirit.*

**1. You must KNOW THAT YOU BELONG to Christ.**

*Galatians 5:24-25. <sup>24</sup> And those who belong to Christ Jesus...*

**2. You must CRUCIFY THE FLESH with its passions and desires.**

*...have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires*

*Col. 3:5. Put to death therefore what is earthly in you: sexual immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry.*

**3. You must KEEP IN STEP with the Spirit.**

*If we live by the Spirit, let us also keep in step with the Spirit*

**How does beholding the glory of Christ (2 Corinthians 3:18) allow us to 1) Know that we belong to Christ, 2) Crucify the flesh, and 3) Keep in step with the Spirit?**

## 6. THE GIFTS OF THE SPIRIT

### A. God gives us each spiritual gifts.

*1 Corinthians 12:7. To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit.*

### A SPIRITUAL GIFT IS AN ABILITY GIVEN BY GOD TO TRANSFORM THE CHURCH INTO CHRIST'S IMAGE.

### B. What are the Spiritual Gifts?

In scripture we can see the spiritual gifts from Christ corresponding to the threefold ministry of Christ.

Prophet Gifts	Priest Gifts	King Gifts
Speaking	Serving	Leading
Eph. 4: Prophets, Evangelism, Pastors, Teachers, 1 Cor. 12: Prophecy, Discerning spirits, Speaking in tongues, Interpreting tongues, Rom. 12: Prophecy, Teaching 1 Pt. 4: Speaking	1 Cor. 12: Healing, Helps, Rom. 12: Serving, Mercy, Encouraging, Giving. 1 Pt. 4: Hospitality, Serving	1 Cor. 12: Wisdom, Knowledge, Faith, Ad- ministration. Rom. 12: Leadership

#### Warnings About Gifts

1. Don't fret about discovering your gift—Strive for LOVE!
2. Don't mistake your own selfish desires for God's gifts.
3. Remember: every gift is also a duty for all Christians. For example: You can't fail to show mercy and then claim "I don't have that gift."
4. Don't expect everyone to have the same gifts you have. The gifts are designed to cause tension in the church—this is a good thing. For example: the gift of faith might clash with the gift of serving. Humility and unity will come as we trust God to use both.

### C. What is the purpose of Spiritual Gifts?

#### 1. The purpose of the church in general is maturity in Christ; therefore, this is also the purpose of the gifts.

*Ephesians 4:11-13 And he gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds and teachers, <sup>12</sup> to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, <sup>13</sup> until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ,*

#### 2. The purpose of gifts is the common good.

*1 Corinthians 12:7. To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good.*

#### 3. The purpose of gifts is to serve one another.

*1 Peter 4:10. As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace.*

#### Have you discovered your spiritual gift?

**Ask: What gifts do I gravitate toward? What ministry am I good at? Which do I enjoy? Ask the Church community—what gifts do others affirm in me?**

**APPENDIX: THE WORK OF THE SPIRIT**

<b>The Spirit's Work</b>	<b>Scripture</b>
Before salvation the Spirit CONVICTS.	<i>John 16:8 And when he comes, he will convict the world concerning sin and righteousness and judgment:</i>
At justification the Spirit REGENERATES.	<i>Titus 3:5 he saved us... by the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit,</i>
At justification the Spirit INDWELLS.	<i>Romans 8:11 he who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through his Spirit who dwells in you.</i>
At justification the Spirit BAPTIZES.	<i>1 Corinthians 12:13 For in one Spirit we were all baptized into one body</i>
At justification the Spirit SEALS.	<i>Ephesians 1:13 In him you also, when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and believed in him, were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit,</i>
During sanctification the Spirit is our HELPER.	<i>John 14:16 And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Helper, to be with you forever,</i>
During sanctification the Spirit ASSURES us of our salvation.	<i>Romans 8:15-16 you have received the Spirit of adoption as sons, by whom we cry, "Abba! Father!" <sup>16</sup> The Spirit himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God,</i>
During sanctification the Spirit ILLUMINATES us.	<i>1 Corinthians 2:12 Now we have received not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, that we might understand the things freely given us by God.</i>
During sanctification the Spirit GUIDES us.	<i>Galatians 5:18 But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law.</i>
During sanctification the Spirit EMPOWERS us for character transformation.	<i>Galatians 5:22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, <sup>23</sup> gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law.</i>
During sanctification, the Spirit COMFORTS us.	<i>Romans 5:3-5 Not only that, but we rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, <sup>4</sup> and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, <sup>5</sup> and hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us.</i>
During sanctification the Spirit helps us by INTERCEDING FOR US.	<i>Romans 8:26-28 Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness. For we do not know what to pray for as we ought, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words. <sup>27</sup> And he who searches hearts knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God. <sup>28</sup> And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose.</i>

## **APPENDIX: THE FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT**

### **1. Agape – love**

Definition – To serve a person for their good and intrinsic value, not for what the person brings you.

Opposite – Fear: self-protection and abusing people.

Counterfeit – Selfish affection. Rescuing someone but really rescuing self. Attracted not to person, but to how this person's love makes you feel about yourself.

### **2. Chara – joy**

Definition – Delight in God and his salvation for sheer beauty and worth of who He is.

Opposite – Hopelessness, despair.

Counterfeit – Elation that comes with blessings not the Blesser! Mood swings based on circumstances.

### **3. Irene – peace**

Definition – Confidence and rest in the wisdom and sovereignty of God more than your own

Opposite – Anxiety and worry

Counterfeit – Indifference, apathy, not caring about something. “I don’t care.”

### **4. Makrothumia – patience**

Definition – Ability to take trouble (from others or life) without blowing. To suffer joyfully.

Opposite – Resentment toward God and others.

Counterfeit – Cynicism. Self-righteousness. “This is too small to be bothered about.”

### **5. Chrestotes – kindness**

Definition – Practical kindness with vulnerability out of deep inner security.

Opposite – Envy. Unable to rejoice in other's joy

Counterfeit – Manipulative good deeds. “Right hand knowing what left hand is doing.” Self-congratulation and self-righteousness.

### **6. Agathosune – goodness (integrity)**

Definition – Honesty, transparency. Being the same in one situation as another.

Opposite – Phoniness; hypocrisy.

Counterfeit – Truth without love. “Getting it off the chest” for your sake.

### **7. Pistis – faithfulness**

Definition – Loyalty. Courage. To be principle-driven, committed, utterly reliable. True to one's word.

Opposite – Opportunist. Fair-weather friend.

Counterfeit – Love without truth. Being loyal when you should be willing to confront or challenge.

### **8. Prautas – gentleness (humility)**

Definition – Self-forgetfulness.

Opposite – Superiority: self-absorbed self-aggrandizement.

Counterfeit – Inferiority: self-absorbed, self-consciousness.

### **9. Egkrateia – self-control**

Definition – Ability to choose the important over the urgent thing.

Opposite – A driven, impulsive, uncontrolled person.

Counterfeit – Willpower through pride or through more “functional” idols.

# 2<sup>2</sup> LIFE Lesson 8

## The Law

### BIG IDEA:

The Law reveals God's heart, but it cannot justify us or sanctify us. As Christians we must resist trying to use law as a means of spiritual growth.

### 1. GOD AND 2 LAWS.

**A. God created the world to operate under 2 laws (principles):**

**1. The Law of Love– We were made to give of ourselves to others self - sacrificially and to care for others unconditionally.**

**God is love. He operates from the law of love.**

**2. The Law of Liberty– We must have freedom to truly know God and be known, to love and to serve.**

**God is completely free. He operates from the law of liberty.**

**Both of these laws reflect the nature of God himself. He IS love and freedom.**

**Can you recall from the Garden of Eden how the Law of Love and the Law of Liberty were in effect? (Review p.8)**

#### God and Freedom

God is completely free. He does whatever he pleases.

*Ps. 115:3. Our God is in the heavens; he does all that he pleases.*

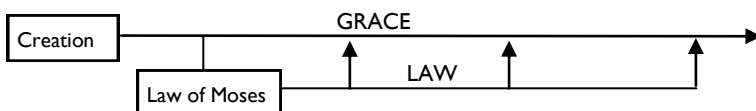
God's freedom, however does not mean that God can do anything. God cannot sin (James 1:13). God cannot lie (Titus 1:2).

God's freedom is limited by His character– His nature.

We must understand our own freedom in this same way. Our freedom is limited by our nature.

### 2. BIG "L" LAW AND LITTLE "I" LAW.

**A. God gave us the "Big L" LAW (Law of Moses) to show us that we cannot earn our way to God. The Law points us back to grace.**





**B. Little “I” law** refers to any moral standard that we place ourselves under, in order to feel justified or valuable. Our conscience can create many little “I” laws.

*Romans 2:15. They show that the work of the law is written on their hearts, while **their conscience also bears witness**, and their conflicting thoughts accuse or even excuse them*

**In what ways do Christians try to obey the “Big L” Law, and many “Little I” laws?**

### 3. THE OT LAW IS STILL USEFUL FOR NON-CHRISTIANS TO REVEAL SIN.

**A. The Law reveals sin.**

**1. The Law gives knowledge of sin, but can never cure sin.**

*Romans 3:20. For by works of the law no human being will be justified in his sight, since **through the law comes knowledge of sin**.*

**2. The Law was a guardian until Christ came.**

*Galatians 3:24. So then, **the law was our guardian until Christ came**, in order that we might be justified by faith.*

**The guardian was a strict household slave that made sure the children did everything they were supposed to do. Once children became adults, they were free from this treatment. In the same way, once we are saved, we do not need the Law as our guardian.**

**3. If you break one point of the Law you are guilty of breaking it ALL!**

*James 2:10. For whoever keeps the whole law but **fails in one point** has become accountable for all of it.*

**4. Jesus used the Law to show people their SIN, especially the self-righteous people (Pharisees).**

*Matthew 5:20. For I tell you, unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.*

**B. The Law is for those who are not saved.**

*I Timothy 1:5-11. **The aim of our charge is love that issues from a pure heart and a good conscience and a sincere faith.** <sup>6</sup> Certain persons, by swerving from these, have wandered away into vain discussion, <sup>7</sup> **desiring to be teachers of the law, without understanding** either what they are saying or the things about which they make confident assertions.*

<sup>8</sup> Now *we know that the law is good, if one uses it lawfully,* <sup>9</sup> understanding this, that *the law is not laid down for the just but for the lawless* and disobedient, for the ungodly and sinners, for the unholy and profane, for those who strike their fathers and mothers, for murderers, <sup>10</sup> the sexually immoral, men who practice homosexuality, enslavers, liars, perjurers, and whatever else is contrary to sound doctrine, <sup>11</sup> in accordance with the gospel of the glory of the blessed God with which I have been entrusted.

**What does Paul say he wants for all believers (5)? Notice love and liberty in this verse.**

**What were people trying to become instead (6-7)?**

**Who is the Law for today (8-11)?**

## 4. CHRISTIANS ARE UNDER GRACE NOT LAW.

**A. The Law cannot Justify us.**

**1. As Israel's substitute, Jesus fulfilled the **LAW** by keeping it.**

**He did not come to abolish the Law, but to obey it. The **LAW IS STILL GOD'S STANDARD**. Someone has to obey it– either you, or a substitute. Jesus is our substitute!**

Matthew 5:17. “Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them *but to fulfill them.*”

Romans 8:3-4. For God has done what the law, weakened by the flesh, could not do. By sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh and for sin, he condemned sin in the flesh, <sup>4</sup> in order *that the righteous requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us*, who walk not according to the flesh but according to the Spirit.

**The Law shadowed Christ– but He is the substance, not the shadow.**

Colossians 2:16-17. Therefore let no one pass judgment on you in questions of food and drink, or with regard to a festival or a new moon or a Sabbath. <sup>17</sup> *These are a shadow of the things to come, but the substance belongs to Christ.*

**2. Because Jesus our substitute obeyed the Law, it can not condemn us. He, though innocent, took on the condemning curse of the Law.**

Rom. 8:1. There is therefore now *no condemnation* for those who are in Christ Jesus.

Gal. 3:13. Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law by *becoming a curse for us.*

### 3. We are justified by faith, not the Law.

Galatians 2:16. so we also have believed in Christ Jesus, in order to be justified by faith in Christ and not by works of the law, because **by works of the law no one will be justified.**

Romans 3:21-22. But now the righteousness of God has been manifested **apart from the law ...<sup>22</sup> the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all who believe.**

**What are you trusting in for your salvation? Your ability to keep God's law, or faith in Christ's work of keeping the law?**

### B. The Law cannot sanctify us.

**1. We do not grow spiritually by keeping the Law. Christians often try to please God by works rather than by faith in His grace.**

Romans 6:14. **you are not under law but under grace.**

**2. We are dead to the Law.**

Romans 7:6. But now **we are released from the law, having died to that which held us captive,** so that we serve in the new way of the Spirit...

**3. We are ministers of the New Covenant of life, not the Law that brings death.**

2 Corinthians 3:4-11. Such is the confidence that we have through Christ toward God. <sup>5</sup> Not that we are sufficient in ourselves to claim anything as coming from us, but our sufficiency is from God, <sup>6</sup> who has made us sufficient **to be ministers of a new covenant, not of the letter but of the Spirit. For the letter kills, but the Spirit gives life.** <sup>7</sup> Now if the ministry of death, carved in letters on stone, came with such glory that the Israelites could not gaze at Moses' face because of its glory, which was being brought to an end, <sup>8</sup> will not the ministry of the Spirit have even more glory? <sup>9</sup> For if there was glory in the ministry of condemnation, the ministry of righteousness must far exceed it in glory. <sup>10</sup> Indeed, in this case, what once had glory has come to have no glory at all, because of the glory that surpasses it. <sup>11</sup> For if what was being brought to an end came with glory, much more will what is permanent have glory.

### C. The Law reveals our sin on a deeper level.

Romans 7:7-13. **What then shall we say? That the law is sin? By no means!** Yet if it had not been for the law, I would not have known sin. For I would not have known what it is to covet if the law had not said, "You shall not covet." <sup>8</sup> But sin, seizing an opportunity through the commandment, produced in me all kinds of covetousness. For apart from the law, sin lies dead. <sup>9</sup> I was once alive apart from the law, but **when the commandment came, sin came alive** and I died. <sup>10</sup> The very commandment that promised life proved to be death to me. <sup>11</sup> For sin, seizing an opportunity through the commandment, deceived me and through it killed me. <sup>12</sup> So the law is holy, and the commandment is holy and righteous and good. <sup>13</sup> Did that which is good, then, bring death to me? By no means! **It was sin, producing death in me through what is good [the Law], in order that sin might be shown to be sin,** and through the commandment might become sinful beyond measure.

## Is the Law sinful? How is it related to your sin?

### 2. The Law reveals our dependency.

Romans 7:14-15; 21-25. For we know that the law is spiritual, but *I am of the flesh*, sold under sin. <sup>15</sup> For I do not understand my own actions. For *I do not do what I want, but I do the very thing I hate.*

<sup>21</sup> So I find it to be a law that when I want to do right, evil lies close at hand. <sup>22</sup> For *I delight in the law of God, in my inner being,* <sup>23</sup> but I see in my members another law waging war against the law of my mind and making me captive to the law of sin that dwells in my members. <sup>24</sup> *Wretched man that I am!* Who will deliver me from this body of death? <sup>25</sup> Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord! So then, I myself serve the law of God with my mind, but with my flesh I serve the law of sin.

**Have you ever felt a struggle similar to Paul's- between what you want to do and what you actually do?**

**Notice Paul's despair in verse 24. This is essential. IT IS DEPENDENCY THAT CAUSES GROWTH. Have you ever felt this kind of despair over your sin?**

### 3. The Law stirs up the Flesh and battles the Spirit inside of us.

Galatians 5:16-25. But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh. <sup>17</sup> For *the desires of the flesh are against the Spirit, and the desires of the Spirit are against the flesh*, for these are opposed to each other, to keep you from doing the things you want to do. <sup>18</sup> *But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law.* <sup>19</sup> Now the works of the flesh are evident: sexual immorality, impurity, sensuality, <sup>20</sup> idolatry, sorcery, enmity, strife, jealousy, fits of anger, rivalries, dissensions, divisions, <sup>21</sup> envy, drunkenness, orgies, and things like these. I warn you, as I warned you before, that those who do such things will not inherit the kingdom of God.

<sup>22</sup> But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, <sup>23</sup> gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law. <sup>24</sup> And those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires.

<sup>25</sup> If we live by the Spirit, let us also keep in step with the Spirit.

**There is a conflict inside of you between the Flesh and the Spirit. In v. 18- Paul says those led by the Spirit are not under the Law. The LAW is what feeds the FLESH! How?**

**1). Either you fail at keeping the Law, quit, and become immoral. Now you start doing the things in verses 18-21 such as sexual immorality, impurity, drunkenness, orgies, etc..**

**2). OR you try harder and harder to obey the Law and actually succeed. Now you are a moralist and start doing the things in verses 18-21 such as strife, anger, rivalry, dissension, division, and envy.**

**Have you seen either of these 2 scenarios play out in your own life?**

## 5. BEING FREE FROM THE LAW IS NOT A LICENSE TO SIN.

*Galatians 5:13. For you were called to freedom, brothers. Only **do not use your freedom as an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another.***

### A. We are called to progress in Christ-like character.

*1 Timothy 6:11 **Pursue righteousness**, godliness, faith, love, steadfastness, gentleness.*

*2 Timothy 2:22 So **flee youthful passions and pursue righteousness**, faith, love, and peace, along with those who call on the Lord from a pure heart.*

*1 Timothy 4:12 Let no one despise you for your youth, but **set the believers an example** in speech, in conduct, in love, in faith, in purity.*

### B. The Christian life is 100% God and 100% Me.

**1. The Christian life is all about what God has done for you, is doing for you, and will do for you.**

**2. But this does not mean that I do nothing. I work with God by receiving grace while not resisting grace in order to manifest the life of CHRIST IN ME.**

**The paradox: It takes effort to not live from effort. This is what the Bible calls “Working to Rest.”**

*Hebrews 4:10-11 ...for **whoever has entered God's rest** [justification] has also rested from his works as God did from his. 11 **Let us therefore strive to enter that rest** [sanctification],*

**3. We work hard to stay at rest. To keep TRUSTING rather than TRYING.**

**The pursuit of righteousness is not empowered by the Law, but by the Spirit. He pours the love of God into our hearts which in turn drives our pursuit for God and His righteousness in order that we might know Him better and be more and more satisfied with Him.**

**Do you find yourself trusting more than you're trying?**

*“Sanctification is something we are called to work on in our daily lives, but we can do that only with the help of the Holy Spirit at work in us; we do not become better and more skillful people in our handling of some quantity of righteousness or grace that has been given to us. In the end when we talk about an increase of these things in the life of the believer, what we are really talking about is a deepening of our love for God. His love for us cannot increase because it is total already but our love for him can and does mature as we go on in the Christian life.” -Gerald Bray*

6. CHRISTIANS ARE UNDER THE LAW OF CHRIST.

Galatians 6:2. Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ.

Romans 8:2. For the law of the Spirit of life has set you free in Christ Jesus from the law of sin and death.

A. Christians are no longer under the OT Law, but we are under the Law of Christ or the Law of the Spirit.

This is not less than God's moral standard, it is a higher standard beyond the OT Law.

The OT Law	The Law of Christ
Love God with all your heart.	The Love of God is poured into our hearts (Rom. 5:5).
Love Neighbor as yourself.	Love as Christ has loved you (John 13:34; Eph. 5:2), and love your enemies (Matt. 5:44, Rom. 12:20).
Don't murder.	Don't even hate (Matt. 5:22).
Don't commit adultery.	Don't even lust (Matt. 5:28).
Don't steal.	Work with your hands (Eph. 4:28).
Don't lie.	Speak the truth (Eph. 4:25).
Don't covet.	Be content (Heb. 13:5).

B. But the Law of Christ is not just a moral code to be obeyed– IT IS A LIFE TO BE LIVED, a life of love.

I. The Law of Christ is still love God and love others, but from freedom (your own desire to do so– written on your heart).

Galatians 5:13-14. For you were called to freedom, brothers. Only do not use your freedom as an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another. <sup>14</sup> For the whole law is fulfilled in one word: "You shall love your neighbor as yourself."

Galatians 6:2. Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ.

2. Christ empowers us to live the Law of Christ.

Romans 8:1-4. There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. 2 For the law of the Spirit of life has set you free in Christ Jesus from the law of sin and death. 3 For God has done what the law, weakened by the flesh, could not do. By sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh and for sin, he condemned sin in the flesh, 4 in order that the righteous requirement of the law [Love God and love neighbor] might be fulfilled in us, who walk not according to the flesh but according to the Spirit.

Christ's life in us desires to love, now the law of love is fulfilled from the inside out.

Summarize how the Law of Christ is different from the OT Law.

**APPENDIX: UNDER LAW OR UNDER GRACE**

<b>UNDER LAW</b>	<b>UNDER GRACE</b>
I must obey the law— law as obligation	The law describes God and how to love.
I am saved and can keep the law	I am saved and only Christ in me can keep the law.
Others that are better than me make me look bad to God.	Others are a means of getting and giving God's love. I don't compare myself to them.
Little understanding of the Holy Spirit.	I increasingly rely on the Holy Spirit for power, motivation, and guidance.
Will power is the key to spiritual growth.	Reliance on the Spirit is the key to growth— no quick fixes or dramatic experiences expected.
Spiritual disciplines get me more of God's blessings.	Spiritual disciplines grow me deeper into grace
Constantly thinking— what am I allowed to do?	Constantly thinking— how can I desire God more and love people more?
Trials are God's anger at me— produce guilt or anger.	Trials are God's loving way to produce righteousness in my life and conform me to Christ.
Surprised by failures. Failure leads to rationalization.	Not surprised by failures. Failure leads to repentance.
Success leads to boasting and intolerance of others.	Success leads to humble gratitude and empathy with others who are struggling.
External conformity leads to hypocrisy, cynicism, and self righteousness.	Internal change leads to increased desire for God, humility, confidence, love, and victory over sin

# 2<sup>2</sup> LIFE Lesson 9

## The New Way

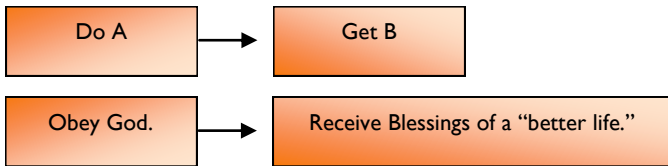
### BIG IDEA:

Rather than law, the new way of the Spirit is one where we grow up into Christ through understanding and appropriating grace and our new identity in Christ.

### I. THE OLD WAY OF LINEARITY.\*

#### A. The Law of Linearity.

1. The Law of Linearity says that “if I do A I get B.”



2. The Law of linearity is rooted in the OT Law: if you obey you will be blessed. If you disobey you will be cursed.

3. The Law of Linearity is rooted in the Tree of Knowledge– we want to figure out how to do life on our own.

4. The Law of Linearity is rooted in partial truth. Much of life does work in a linear way. Hard work does bring success. Being friendly does earn you friends. Working on your marriage can make it better.

#### B. The failure of the Old Way.

1. Living by the Law of Linearity is a way to control our own lives: Decide what you want, and then figure out how to get it. Obeying God to receive His “better life of blessing” is simply a way of doing life without God. The power and control is in yourself, not Christ.

2. Living by the Law of Linearity means valuing a better life more than you value God.

**Where have you seen yourself living from the Law of Linearity?**

\*Many of the thoughts in this lesson are adapted from Larry Crabb's book *The Pressure's Off*.





### C. The deception of the Old Way.

1. The Old Way of linearity does not produce repentance or faith.

2. The Old Way of linearity produces either self loathing or self holiness.

3. The Old Way fails to show us that trying to use God to make this life work is sinful and repulsive to God.

4. The Old Way can appear righteous, but it produces the idolatry of placing anything above knowing and trusting God.

5. The Old Way makes “blessing” look better than intimacy.

6. The Old Way makes us believe that what God has promised for us in Heaven is what we should be enjoying now— the perfect life. This makes us like the Israelites who longed for Egypt while in the wilderness, rather than longing for God's presence and future glory in the Promised Land.

7. The Old Way leaves us seeing sin as reasonable when the Law of Linearity doesn't work out.

8. The Old Way fails to show us that what we need and desire most is God.

9. The Old Way is pressure filled...but in the New Way the pressure is off.

*“The spiritual journey is not about living as we should in order to get what we want. It's not a linear path. It is about growing down into the brokenness of self despair and deepening our awareness of how poorly we love compared to the Trinity. It's not about working hard to get it right so we can present ourselves to God and receive the blessings we desire. It is about coming before him as we are, honestly, pretending about nothing, becoming increasingly convinced that we can't get it right though we try as hard as we can, then listening for the whisper of the Spirit, “Welcome! You're home. You're loved. You'll be empowered to speak with your unique voice as you hear the Voice of God singing over you with great love.” - Larry Crabb*

## 2. THE NEW WAY OF THE SPIRIT.

### A. Only the New Way of the Spirit can bring real spiritual change.

Romans 7:6. But now we are released from the law, having died to that which held us captive, so that **we serve in the new way of the Spirit** and not in the old way of the written code.

Romans 8:5-8, 13-17. <sup>5</sup> For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but **those who live according to the Spirit set their minds on the things of the Spirit.** <sup>6</sup> For to set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace. <sup>7</sup> For the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God, for it does not submit to God's law; indeed, it cannot. <sup>8</sup> Those who are in the flesh cannot please God.

<sup>13</sup> For if you live according to the flesh you will die, but **if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live.** <sup>14</sup> For all who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God. <sup>15</sup> For you did not receive the spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received the Spirit of adoption as sons, by whom we cry, "Abba! Father!"

<sup>16</sup> **The Spirit himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God,** <sup>17</sup> and if children, then heirs—heirs of God and **fellow heirs with Christ**, provided we suffer with him in order that we may also be glorified with him.

**What two mindsets does Paul say we can have? How could these be related to the Old Way and the New Way?**

### B. The New Way is firmly rooted in a desire to know God.

Psalms 42: 1-2. As a deer pants for flowing streams, so pants my soul for you, O God.

<sup>2</sup> **My soul thirsts for God**, for the living God. When shall I come and appear before God?

#### 1. We know and enjoy God through the Spirit and Christ.

2 Corinthians 4:7-12; 16-18. But we have this treasure in jars of clay, to show that the surpassing power belongs to God and not to us. <sup>8</sup> We are afflicted in every way, but not crushed; perplexed, but not driven to despair; <sup>9</sup> persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed; <sup>10</sup> always carrying in the body the death of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be manifested in our bodies. <sup>11</sup> For we who live are always being given over to death for Jesus' sake, so that the life of Jesus also may be manifested in our mortal flesh. <sup>12</sup> So death is at work in us, but life in you.

<sup>16</sup> **So we do not lose heart. Though our outer self is wasting away, our inner self is being renewed day by day.** <sup>17</sup> For this light momentary affliction is preparing for us an eternal weight of glory beyond all comparison, <sup>18</sup> as we look not to the things that are seen but to the things that are unseen. For the things that are seen are transient, but the things that are unseen are eternal.

**What seems to be driving Paul's life? Is it the desire for a better life? What does He desire?**

### **C. Moving forward in the New Way of the Spirit.**

#### **1. Repent of your idolatry.**

Philippians 3:7. But *whatever gain I had, I counted as loss* for the sake of Christ.

**Can you recognize that your desire for anything less than God is idolatry?**

#### **2. Come to God as you are.**

Philippians 3:13-14. Brothers, I do not consider that I have made it my own. But one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, <sup>14</sup> *I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.*

James 4:7-8. Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. <sup>8</sup> Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you.

**Can you recognize your brokenness and come to God in authenticity?**

#### **3. Recognize that every situation offers you a choice: either having a life you can control, or knowing God.**

Philippians 3:8-10. Indeed, *I count everything as loss* because of the surpassing worth of *knowing Christ Jesus my Lord*. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things and count them as rubbish, in order *that I may gain Christ* <sup>9</sup> and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God that depends on faith— <sup>10</sup> *that I may know him* and the power of his resurrection, and may share his sufferings, becoming like him in his death,

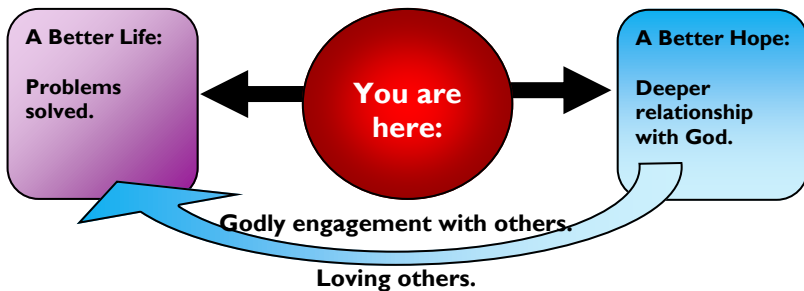
**Can you choose to abandon your life to the truth that God is in control and knowing Him is the greatest joy in life?**

#### **4. Receive the grace of God through Christ.**

Philippians 3: 12; 20-21. Not that I have already obtained this or am already perfect, but I press on to make it my own, *because Christ Jesus has made me his own.*

<sup>20</sup> But our citizenship is in heaven, and from it we await a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, <sup>21</sup> who will transform our lowly body to be like his glorious body, by the power that enables him even to subject all things to himself.

**Can you move forward in confidence and faith knowing that God's grace through Christ's life will free you and sustain you, while meeting your greatest CORE NEED: a relationship with God?**



### 3. THE NEW WAY OF THE SPIRIT AND THE LAW OF CHRIST.

The New Way of the Spirit doesn't mean that we are no longer under any law and that there is no more linearity. We are under the Law of Christ and we live in a new linearity that declares that if we draw near to God, He will draw near to us, and if we sow to the Spirit, we will reap to the Spirit.

*Galatians 6:2. Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ.*

*Galatians 6:7-8. Do not be deceived: God is not mocked, for whatever one sows, that will he also reap. <sup>8</sup> For the one who sows to his own flesh will from the flesh reap corruption, but the one who sows to the Spirit will from the Spirit reap eternal life.*

**A. When we live and love from the Spirit and Christ's life in us, we are fulfilling both the OT Law and the Law of Christ.**

*Galatians 5:13-14. For you were called to freedom, brothers. Only do not use your freedom as an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another. For the whole law is fulfilled in one word: "You shall love your neighbor as yourself."*

*Romans 13:10. Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore love is the fulfilling of the law.*

*Galatians 5:22. The fruit of the Spirit is love...*

*Romans 5:5. God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us.*

**B. When we live and love from the New Way of the Spirit we are glorifying God and worshipping God (see p.2-3).**

**How does the Law of Christ differ from the OT Law?**

# 2<sup>2</sup> LIFE Lesson 10

## Grace Through Community

### BIG IDEA:

We can only relate to God through grace. The Means of Grace allow us to Know and Consider God's grace through Christ while Presenting ourselves to Christ. Community is one of the best ways to grow in grace.

### I. INTRODUCTION TO THE MEANS OF GRACE.

**A. The Means of Grace (MOG) are God's prescribed ways of growing by His grace through Jesus Christ. They include things like: Community, studying, meditating on, and praying scripture, and God's discipline (and much more).**

**1. Do not view the MOG as a way to earn salvation, God's blessing or His approval or the approval of others. If you see them this way, you are still under Law not Grace. The MOG only cause us to appropriate grace if they are done by faith in what Christ has already done.**

**2. The MOG should be seen as "I Get To's" not "I Have To's."**

**B. We need to practice the MOG consistently.**

**1. Because the Spirit battles with the Flesh we won't always feel like practicing the MOG. This is why they must become spiritual disciplines.**

**2. When you feel spiritually weak, it is probably because these MOG have been absent from your life.**

**C. We need a balanced diet of all the MOG. (See Acts 2:42).**

**D. The MOG are how we Have the MIND OF THE SPIRIT and KEEP IN STEP WITH THE SPIRIT. They are how we experience grace and share grace with others.**

**E. Participation in the MOG should be both spontaneous and planned, and both private and corporate.**

**What means of grace do you currently practice?**

## 2. COMMUNITY: THE FIRST MOG.

Most discipleship plans start with an admonition to have a “quiet time” of prayer and Bible reading. However the first MOG or spiritual discipline that should be encouraged is community. Here’s Why:

**A. It’s Practical:** You observe mature Christians in community. You see and hear how they pray, study, serve, and follow Christ.

**B. It’s a Witness:** healthy community is the strongest witness for Christ. We have something to invite people to “Come and See.”

**C. It’s Theological:** We are created in the image of a communal God, and we are invited into fellowship with the Trinity. We are wired for community and cannot grow without it. Relationships are how God restores His image in us.

## 3. HOW DOES COMMUNITY CAUSE US TO GROW IN GRACE?

**A. Community allows us to test the Gospel in our own lives.**

*Galatians 5:26. Let us not become conceited, provoking one another, envying one another.*

**1. Paul tells us not to be conceited. The person that is filled with Christ and His grace will not be conceited. Here’s why:**

**a. Conceited=** this word means to be empty of glory. Christians are not empty, but full of God’s glory and grace by the Spirit of Christ. The empty person must find their own glory.

**The results:**

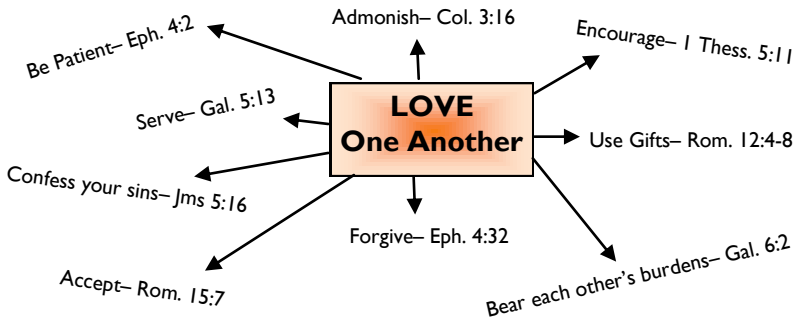
**b. Provoking=** This person seeks to be filled with glory by provoking others. They feel superior to others and pick fights, gossip, and stir up trouble in order to feel good.

**c. Envy=** This person seeks to be filled with glory by desiring someone else’s life. They feel inferior to others and become sideline Christians.

**2. Only GRACE can prevent conceit from destroying community.** Being in community is hard. It is easy to fall into comparison, conceit, inferiority, superiority, hurt feelings, and judgmentalism.

**How does Grace allow us to pursue community even when it is hard?**

**B. Community allows us to share grace with each other, as we practice the ONE ANOTHER statements of the NT.**



## 2. Self Evaluation Questions:

Looking at the above aspects of Loving One Another...

- Are you in a community where you receive these things?
- Are you in a community where you give these things?
- Do you receive encouragement and admonition from others?
- Do you regularly contribute encouragement, admonition, etc.?
- Are you in community enough to need forgiveness? Patience?
- Are you in community enough that you need to give forgiveness?
- Do you have a network of Christian relationships while at the same time one or two very close spiritual friends?
- Do you have a close group of spiritual friends that you can confess sins to?

**C. Community allows us to receive and share grace as we practice our spiritual gifts.**

## 1. We have each been given gifts for the building up of the church.

Romans 12:4-8. For as in one body we have many members, and the members do not all have the same function, <sup>5</sup> so we, though many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another. <sup>6</sup> *Having gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, let us use them:* if prophecy, in proportion to our faith; <sup>7</sup> if service, in our serving; the one who teaches, in his teaching; <sup>8</sup> the one who exhorts, in his exhortation; the one who contributes, in generosity; the one who leads, with zeal; the one who does acts of mercy, with cheerfulness.

**Are you gaining clarity on your gift/role in the church?**

### D. Community allows us to share grace as we meet needs and serve each other.

Acts 2:44-45. And all who believed were together and had all things in common. <sup>45</sup> And they were selling their possessions and belongings and distributing the proceeds to all, as any had need.

John 13:14-17. [After washing the disciples feet Jesus said] "If I then, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, **you also ought to wash one another's feet.** <sup>15</sup> For I have given you an example, that **you also should do just as I have done to you.**

<sup>16</sup> Truly, truly, I say to you, a servant is not greater than his master, nor is a messenger greater than the one who sent him. <sup>17</sup> If you know these things, blessed are you if you do them.

**When have you felt the grace of God while serving others?**

### E. Community allows us to speak the truth to one another and thus grow in grace into the fullness of Christ.

Ephesians 4:15-16. Rather, speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, <sup>16</sup> from whom the whole body, joined and held together by every joint with which it is equipped, when each part is working properly, makes the body grow so that it builds itself up in love.

**Are you in a spiritual friendship where you can speak the truth in love? Do you have someone who can speak the truth in love to you? Why is that so important?**

#### Foot Washing

Jesus washed the disciples feet and taught them to do this for one another.

What does foot washing actually teach us to do within community?

An obvious answer is serving. Jesus served the disciples when he washed their feet. This required great humility.

But foot washing was also about cleansing. Jesus was teaching the disciples about the important community practice of confession and forgiveness.

One of the greatest things we can do for each other is confess and offer forgiveness. Forgiveness is how we offer the grace of God to each other. And confession is how we receive the grace of God from each other.

## 4. THE JOY OF COMMUNITY.

### A. We must embrace the promise that real Christian community leads to real JOY!

John 15:11-12. These things I have spoken to you, **that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full.** <sup>12</sup> "This is my commandment, that **you love one another** as I have loved you.



**B. Which of these is a way you have experienced real joy through community?**

**1. The joy of experiencing God's help and encouragement through your brothers and sisters.**

*Ecclesiastes 4:10. For if they fall, one will lift up his fellow. But woe to him who is alone when he falls and has not another to lift him up!*

**Can you think of an example of this in your own life?**

**2. The joy and freedom of giving God's love to others (rather than seeking joy from circumstances).**

*Acts 20:35. In all things I have shown you that by working hard in this way we must help the weak and remember the words of the Lord Jesus, how he himself said, 'It is more blessed to give than to receive.'*

**Have you experienced the joy of giving to others?**

**3. The joy of deep and lasting spiritual friendships.**

*1 Samuel 18:3. Then Jonathan made a covenant with David, because he loved him as his own soul.*

**Do you have a deep spiritual friendship with anyone?**

**4. The joy of seeing spiritual children flourish and mature.**

*1 Thessalonians 2:19. For what is our hope or joy or crown of boasting before our Lord Jesus at his coming? Is it not you?*

**Can you boast about how God is changing someone that you disciple?**

**5. The joy of being part of a team and fulfilling your role in the church.**

*Ephesians 4:16. from whom the whole body, joined and held together by every joint with which it is equipped, when each part is working properly, makes the body grow so that it builds itself up in love.*

**Do you feel as though you are fulfilling your role in the church?**

**What step can you take this week toward deeper community?**

**Appendix: Attitudes that impede healthy spiritual community.**

Attitude	Solution
Individualism– I must be free from others.	Healthy individuality– 1 Cor. 12:15-19, Rom 12:3-5.
Spiritual Pride– I don't need others to teach me how to follow God.	Humility and self distrust.– Heb. 3:12-13.
Relational idolatry– my boyfriend/girlfriend comes first.	Community involvement as the key framework for romantic relationships.
Materialism and entertainment– my schoolwork, TV shows, softball league, career come first.	Building Christ's church and kingdom and making this your real joy.
Super spirituality– All I need is Jesus.	Spiritual priorities and Godly wise counsel.
Tribalism– Family before church.	Realize community involvement is necessary for a healthy family.
Moral impurity.	Walking in the light– 1 Jn. 1:7.
Shyness/introversion- "I'm not a people person", "I do better spiritually alone."	Embracing others-centered love as the universal feature of spiritual growth– Gal 5:13.
Dependence on Information technology or social media for connecting.	Face to face involvement with other Christians– 1 Thess. 2:17-3:11.

# 2<sup>2</sup> LIFE Lesson 11

## Grace Through Communion With God

### BIG IDEA:

God wants to be our God, and for us to be His people– He wants to live with us forever. Communion is how we participate in life with God. Primarily communion with God happens through scripture, meditation, and prayer.

### I. WHAT IS COMMUNION WITH GOD?

**A. Communion is God communicating to us and us responding. It is how we abide in Christ and behold His glory.**

God comes to us in love and grace and we respond to Him with great pleasure. His communion is our joy– His presence is our joy.

*Psalm 16:11. You make known to me the path of life; in your presence there is fullness of joy; at your right hand are pleasures forevermore.*

**B. Communion with God glorifies God.**

We glorify and worship God by communing with Him. God made us to live in communion with Him.

**C. Our communion with God is based on our union with Christ.**

*Hebrews 10:19-22. Therefore, brothers, since we have confidence to enter the holy places by the blood of Jesus,<sup>20</sup> by the new and living way that he opened for us through the curtain, that is, through his flesh,<sup>21</sup> and since we have a great priest over the house of God,<sup>22</sup> let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, with our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water.*

**D. Our union with Christ never grows or shrinks (POSITION), but our communion with God can grow and shrink (CONDITION).**

**E. Communion is about enjoying the benefits of my union with Christ.**

- Do not reduce communion down to a set of principles or practices.
- Do not equate communion with emotional experiences.
- Do not let communion with God become a legalistic list of methods.

Communion with God is seeing the love, grace and holiness of God, savoring it, and letting it soak into my life as I trust in Christ's life.

Throughout scripture and history we can see that the primary means of grace for communion with God are scripture, meditation, and prayer.

## 2. APPROPRIATING GRACE BY COMMUNION WITH GOD THROUGH SCRIPTURE.

**A. God's Word causes us to grow in grace as we remember that JESUS IS THE WORD OF GOD.**

1. Jesus is the reason for all of life. Jesus came to personify grace and truth and to show the glory of God.

*John 1:14. And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.*

**B. God's Word causes us to grow in grace as we see all of scripture pointing to Christ and His grace.**

1. Our goal is to learn Christ, not the Bible. An increased knowledge of Christ will bring an increased understanding and application of grace.

*2 Peter 3:18. But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To him be the glory both now and to the day of eternity. Amen.*

**C. God's Word causes us to grow in grace as we read the Bible through the lens of Grace.**

1. Read the Bible as God's love letter to you.

2. Let the Bible open your understanding to the Grace that you already have.

*Ephesians 1:3. Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places,*

**D. God's Word causes us to grow in grace as we share it with others and act upon what we learn from God's Word.**

1. Obey, teach, and sing God's Word— As you obey what you study in the Bible, it will have a positive grace giving effect on those around you as you teach it and sing it to others.

*Colossians 3:16. Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God.*

**Re-read Col. 3:16. What are practical ways we can share God's Word through teaching, admonishing, and singing?**

## 2. APPROPRIATING GRACE BY COMMUNION WITH GOD THROUGH MEDITATION.

### A. What is biblical meditation?

**1. Biblical meditation is NOT emptying the mind, or an act of contemplation aimed at getting beyond rational thought to the place of awareness of God.**

**2. Biblical meditation IS filling the mind with God's Word and letting it fill your heart until your whole life is affected by God's love, grace, and holiness.**

*Psalm 103:1-2. Bless the Lord, **O my soul**, and all that is within me, bless his holy name! 2 Bless the Lord, **O my soul**, and **forget not all his benefits**,*

**Notice David is moving the truths of God into his soul. He is preaching them to himself through meditation.**

**3. Biblical meditation is keeping the truths of the Word of God in front of you throughout the day— bringing them to mind, so as to let them engage your heart and change your affections.**

*Psalm 16:8. I have set the Lord always before me; because he is at my right hand, I shall not be shaken.*

*Psalm 63:5-6. My soul will be satisfied as with fat and rich food, and my mouth will praise you with joyful lips, <sup>6</sup> when I remember you upon my bed, and meditate on you in the watches of the night;*

### B. How Biblical Meditation causes us to grow in grace.

**1. As we meditate on scripture, we understand God's grace to us through the life and love of Christ.**

*Meditate on Ephesians 3:17-19. so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith—that you, being rooted and grounded in love, <sup>18</sup> may have strength to comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth and length and height and depth, <sup>19</sup> and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.*

**2. As you meditate on the scripture, you will experience the grace of God through a changed life.**

*Meditate on 2 Peter 1:4- by which he has granted to us his precious and very great promises, so that through them you may become partakers of the divine nature, having escaped from the corruption that is in the world because of sinful desire.*

### Quiet Time

Traditionally Christians have been taught to have a daily quiet time or devotion with God. This is a great way to commune with God, but for many Christians it is a frustrating discipline.

When quiet time is Bible study alone, we can gain a lot of knowledge without it affecting our lives. When it is prayer alone (with little Bible study), our prayer time can become self centered— focused on our own interpretations of life and the Bible.

Meditation on scripture can be the bridge between Bible study and prayer that lets your communion with God be both “in Spirit and in truth.”

Meditation allows you to take a passage that you studied and move it from your head to your heart. Now your prayers will flow from the Word of God to the heart of God. You will desire what He desires— ie: You will ask in Jesus' Name.

*Mediate on 2 Corinthians 3:18- And we all, with unveiled face, beholding the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another. For this comes from the Lord who is the Spirit.*

### **3. As you meditate on scripture, you will find rest in the finished work of Jesus and his grace.**

*Meditate on Philippians 4:7- And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.*

### **4. As you meditate on scripture, you will learn how to display God's grace to others through love and service.**

*Mediate on Philippians 4:8-9- Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. <sup>9</sup> What you have learned and received and heard and seen in me—**practice these things**, and the God of peace will be with you.*

**Do you meditate on scripture? What fills your mind throughout the day?**

#### **Quality Time or Quantity Time**

Some would say that God wants quality time not quantity time. But the truth is God wants both.

God lives inside of the Christian. He desires all of your time. He wants you to be in communion with Him constantly, as a lifestyle, or as a natural impulse.

He also wants His time with you to be quality time— full of grace and truth. Going deeper together. Exploring our hearts and desires with Him.

In reality, quality time can only happen with quantity time.

## **3. APPROPRIATING GRACE BY COMMUNION WITH GOD THROUGH PRAYER.**

**A. Scripture is God giving His grace and truth to us. Meditation is you and God working that grace and truth into your heart, mind, and soul. And prayer is you speaking that grace and truth back to God through adoration, repentance, supplication, thanksgiving, and commitment.**

**B. How prayer causes us to grow in grace.**

**1. Each time we pray boldly in faith, we are experiencing grace.**

*Hebrews 10:19-22. Therefore, brothers, since **we have confidence to enter the holy places by the blood of Jesus**, <sup>20</sup> by the new and living way that he opened for us through the curtain, that is, through his flesh, <sup>21</sup> and since we have a great priest over the house of God, <sup>22</sup> **let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith**, with our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water.*

**How does faith relate to boldness in prayer?**

**Would meditating on Hebrews 10:19-22 allow you to go to God more boldly?**

**\*Remember: Your faith does not convince God to do something. Having more faith or less faith does not determine God's response. Faith is trusting what God has already said.**

## 2. Prayer causes us to grow in grace because it deepens our personal relationship with our Abba (Father).

Romans 8:15, 26-27. For you did not receive the spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but **you have received the Spirit of adoption as sons, by whom we cry, "Abba! Father!"** Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness. For we do not know what to pray for as we ought, but **the Spirit himself intercedes for us** with groanings too deep for words.<sup>27</sup> And he who searches hearts knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.

**Are you able to see God as a good Father when you pray? Why or why not?**

**Remember that the Spirit is praying for you too! That's grace!**

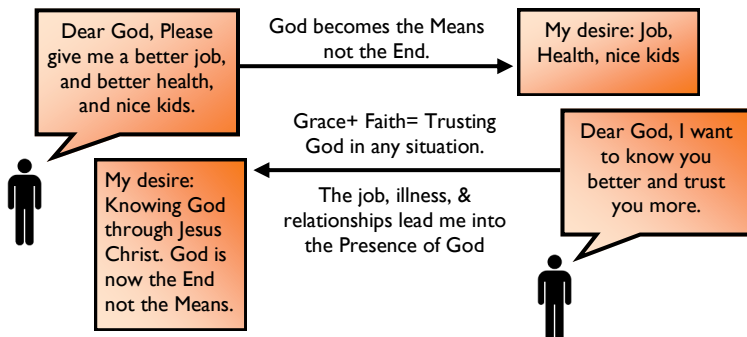
## 3. Prayer causes us to grow in grace as we experience the presence of God through prayer.

Hebrews 4:14-16. Since then we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession.<sup>15</sup> For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin.<sup>16</sup> **Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.**

## 4. Prayer causes us to grow in our appreciation of grace as we see prayers being answered.

Luke 11:11-13. What father among you, if his son asks for a fish, will instead of a fish give him a serpent;<sup>12</sup> or if he asks for an egg, will give him a scorpion?<sup>13</sup> **If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will the heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!"**

**Warning: Don't let prayer turn God into just a "Means to an End."**



Review Lesson 9.

## 5. Prayer causes us to grow in grace as we share grace by praying for others.

*Colossians 1:9. And so, from the day we heard, we have not ceased to pray for you, asking that you may be filled with the knowledge of his will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding,*

*Colossians 4:12. Epaphras, who is one of you, a servant of Christ Jesus, greets you, always struggling on your behalf in his prayers, that you may stand mature and fully assured in all the will of God.*

**Who do you pray for? Do you struggle with God in prayer for others?**

**Note:** In both of the above verses it speaks of praying for the knowledge or assurance of the will of God. What is God's will? His will is that you would be transformed into the image of Christ through grace and faith. This is what Paul calls "maturity" in Col. 4:12.

## 4. PRACTICING COMMUNION WITH GOD THROUGH SCRIPTURE, MEDITATION, AND PRAYER.

**A. Our communion with God should be rational and spiritual.**

**1. Rational– filling the mind with God's truth, arguing things out with God, reasoning with your heart.**

*Psalms 42: 5-6. Why are you cast down, O my soul, and why are you in turmoil within me? Hope in God; for I shall again praise him, my salvation <sup>6</sup> and my God. My soul is cast down within me; therefore I remember you.*

**2. Spiritual– seeking the transformation of the heart, experiencing the beauty and glory of God in His presence, gaining the heart of God.**

*Psalms 27:4. One thing have I asked of the Lord, that will I seek after: that I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life, to gaze upon the beauty of the Lord and to meditate in his temple.*

**B. How to practice communion with God: Here are simple steps for a time of daily communion with God.**

### 1. Scripture

**a. Take a passage of scripture read it a few times.**

### Hearing Jesus

Many Christians today are looking for a special experience of hearing personally from Jesus. But for people whose lives are united to Christ's life, hearing from Jesus is not a "special experience." It does not require any super spiritual act on our part. It doesn't come from emptying our minds, or having a deeper faith, or from sitting in silence.

"Christ lives in me."  
"To live is Christ."  
"He who is joined to the Lord is one spirit with him."

Through our union with Christ, God's law is written on our hearts. He has shared His heart with your heart. You have the desires, the mind, the affections, the consciousness of Jesus inside of you. Jesus speaks to us through our mind, our desire, our will, and our affections. These are renewed by the Word of God and the Spirit of God as He applies Christ's life to our lives (see p.30).

The tricky part is that sometimes our fleshly desires, and mindsets get in the way of Christ's. Discerning between the two is the key– more on that in Book 2.



**b. Answer these questions:**

- What does it say about **God/Christ**?
- What does it say about **me/mankind**?
- What truths about **SIN, GRACE, FAITH** are in the passage?

**2. Meditation.****a. Mediate on the truth of the passage. Answer these questions:**

- What is the most compelling truth in the passage?
- How would you be different if this truth was alive in your innermost being?
- Why is God showing you these truths today? (Application)

**3. Prayer.**

**a. Adoration**– What did I learn that I can praise God for?

**b. Confession**– How do the truths I've learned reveal and drive out idols, false beliefs, sinful behaviors or emotions? Confess these to God.

**c. Thanksgiving**– How can I see and thank Jesus for being the ultimate revelation of the truths I have learned (letter a), and my Savior from the sin I confessed (letter b)?

**d. Supplication**– Cry out to God to renew your mind by His grace and your faith in the work and life of Jesus.

**C. Practice:** Choose one of the passages below and work through the steps 1,2, and 3 above.

**1. Scripture:** Choose Psalm 1, Psalm 23, or Psalm 32. Read it 3-4 times

**a. What does it say about God/Christ?**

**b. What does it say about me/mankind?**

**c. What truths about SIN, GRACE, FAITH are in the passage?**

**2. Meditation:** Bring the passage to mind as you consider these questions.

**a. What is the most compelling truth in the passage?**

**b. How would you be different if this truth was alive in your innermost being?**

**c. Why is God showing you these truths today? (Application)**

**3. Prayer:** Follow the **ACTS** guide above.

## **Appendix: Having a Balanced Prayer Life**

### **1. Prayer should be both spontaneous and planned.**

**Spontaneous:** *Nehemiah 2:4. Then the king said to me, "What are you requesting?" So I prayed to the God of heaven.*

**Planned:** *Daniel 6:10 "three times a day he got down on his knees..."*

**Do you have times of both spontaneous and planned prayer? How can you improve in this area?**

### **2. Prayer should be both private and corporate.**

**Private:** *Matthew 6:6 "when you pray go into your room"*

**Corporate:** *Acts 2:42 "they devoted themselves to ...prayer"*

**Do you pray alone and also with others? How can you improve in this area?**

### **3. Prayer should be both receiving grace and asking for grace.**

**Receiving:** *Philippians 4:4 "Rejoice in the Lord always" (for His grace).*

**Giving:** *James 5:16 "pray for one another"*

**Do your prayers include both rejoicing and petition for others? How can you improve in this area?**

### **4. Prayer should be both talking to God and listening to God.**

**Talking:** *Philippians 4:6 "let your requests be made known to God."*

**Listening:** *John 10:4 "the sheep follow him because they know His voice."*

*Rev. 3:20 "if anyone hears my voice...I will come in"*

**How does a Christian listen to God?**

**Appendix: Dealing with common prayer problems****1. “I feel bad about how much I neglect prayer.”**

**Remember:** It is the blood of Jesus that allows you to go before God, not your own level of discipline. By God’s grace you are never distant from God.

**2. “I get so distracted during prayer.”**

**Remember:** Sometimes prayer will be work– not always a dramatic experience.

**Tips:** Prioritize quality over quantity. Use notes or a journal. Pray out loud or walk and pray.

**3. “I don’t know where to begin.”**

**Remember:** We can talk to God about anything that is in our heart. Also the Holy Spirit is praying for us when we don’t know exactly what to say.

Begin with scripture and God’s glory.

**4. “God doesn’t answer my prayers.”**

**Reasons for unanswered prayer:**

**A. An unanswered prayer may simply be out of God’s plan.**

**Example:** “God, please make Bill repent and get saved.” The Bible never says that God will force someone to get saved. Rather, pray for Bill to be convicted of sin and forced to make a choice.

**Example:** “God, please heal Aunt Judy.” Faith will not make God heal some one unless this is what is best. Only God knows this. Rather, pray that God’s will be done. Pray like the Leper: “If you are willing I know you can heal.” (Luke 5:12).

**B. God may have answered your request, just not how or when you expected.**

**Example:** “God, remove the anger I have for my spouse.” God may be working on deeper issues in your heart, such as trusting Him. His timing is perfect.

**C. Your request may be legitimate but asked with wrong motives.**

**Example:** “God, bring my wayward child back to you.” OR “God, increase this ministry.” Both of these requests might be asked with selfish motives.

**D. You may be asking for something that God has already done.**

**Example:** “God, break the power of lust in my life.” God has already done this by the power of the gospel. You need simply to **KNOW, RECKON, and PRESENT.**

# 2<sup>2</sup> LIFE Lesson 12

## Grace Through Suffering

### BIG IDEA:

Maybe more than anything else, God uses our suffering to bring spiritual growth and maturity in Christ. We experience God's grace through our suffering because we know that it proves that we are God's children.

### I. CAUSES OF SUFFERING.

**A. Some suffering is caused by your own personal sin/ bad decisions.**

**1. Ex: David's sin weakened him.**

*Psalm 32:3-4. For when I kept silent, my bones wasted away through my groaning all day long. <sup>4</sup> For **day and night your hand was heavy upon me**; my strength was dried up as by the heat of summer.*

**B. Some suffering is simply the result of living in a fallen world.**

**1. Even the righteous have trouble.**

*Psalm 34:17. When **the righteous cry for help**, the Lord hears and delivers them out of all their troubles.*

**2. Important: Not all suffering is caused by your personal sin.**

**C. Some suffering comes when I am serving God.**

**1. Sometimes we may suffer for doing good.**

*1 Peter 2:20-21. For what credit is it if, when you sin and are beaten for it, you endure? **But if when you do good and suffer for it you endure, this is a gracious thing in the sight of God.** <sup>21</sup> For to this you have been called, because **Christ also suffered for you**, leaving you an example, so that you might follow in his steps.*

**D. God uses ALL suffering as a means to bring glory to Himself.**

**1. The blind man displayed God's glory.**

### 2 Wrong Views of Suffering

*John 9:1-3. As he passed by, he [Jesus] saw a man blind from birth. <sup>2</sup> And his disciples asked him, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?" <sup>3</sup> Jesus answered, "It was not that this man sinned, or his parents, but that the works of God might be displayed in him."*

**Religion:** Suffering is always the result of personal sin.

No— Our suffering is not always directly linked to a sin.

**Relativism:** Suffering has no meaning, everything is random.

No— God redeems all suffering for His glory.

The man born blind was not being punished for sin. He was blind so that God would be glorified through him.

## 2. HOW DOES SUFFERING CAUSE US TO GROW IN GRACE?

**A. Suffering causes us to grow in grace as we realize that we are never condemned for our sins.**

**1. Propitiation= God's wrath was satisfied with the sacrifice of Jesus.**

*1 John 2:2. He [Jesus] is the propitiation [the satisfaction] for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the sins of the whole world.*

**God's wrath is satisfied: how does this impact your view of punishment from God?**

**B. Suffering causes us to grow in grace as we know that all suffering is redeemed and turned into good.**

**1. God uses all things for the good of character transformation.**

*Romans 8:28. ...for those who love God all things work together for good,*

*Romans 5:3-4. Not only that, but we rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, <sup>4</sup> and endurance produces character, and character produces hope,*

**Can you think of a time of suffering in your life that you have seen God use for good?**

**2. Suffering in this life produces glory in the next.**

*2 Corinthians 4:7-10; 16- 18. But we have this treasure in jars of clay [our bodies], to show that the surpassing power belongs to God and not to us. <sup>8</sup> We are afflicted in every way, but not crushed; perplexed, but not driven to despair; <sup>9</sup> persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed; <sup>10</sup> always carrying in the body the death of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be manifested in our bodies.*

*<sup>16</sup> So we do not lose heart. Though our outer self is wasting away, our inner self is being renewed day by day. <sup>17</sup> For this light momentary affliction is preparing for us an eternal weight of glory beyond all comparison, <sup>18</sup> as we look not to the things that are seen but to the things that are unseen. For the things that are seen are transient, but the things that are unseen are eternal.*

**What suffering have you been through that you can't wait to see redeemed in the next life?**

**3. Suffering proves our faith, and that faith is honored by Jesus.**

*1 Peter 1:6-7. In this you rejoice, though now for a little while, if necessary, you have been grieved by various trials, <sup>7</sup> so that the tested genuineness of your faith...may be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ.*

Think about Jesus praising you for your faith. **WOW.**

**C. Suffering causes us to grow in grace because we gain a deeper knowledge of Christ through **UNDESERVED SUFFERING**.**

**I. Everything is “rubbish” compared to knowing Christ through suffering.**

Philippians 3:7-14. But whatever gain I had, I counted as loss for the sake of Christ. <sup>8</sup> Indeed, I count everything as loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. *For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things and count them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ* <sup>9</sup> and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God that depends on faith— <sup>10</sup> *that I may know him and the power of his resurrection, and may share his sufferings, becoming like him in his death,* <sup>11</sup> *that by any means possible I may attain the resurrection from the dead.*

<sup>12</sup> *Not that I have already obtained this or am already perfect, but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own.* <sup>13</sup> Brothers, I do not consider that I have made it my own. But one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, <sup>14</sup> *I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.*

**2. Paul’s “Thorn in the Flesh” caused him to know God’s grace and the power of Christ more deeply.**

2 Corinthians 12:7-10. So to keep me from becoming conceited because of the surpassing greatness of the revelations, a thorn was given me in the flesh, a messenger of Satan to harass me, to keep me from becoming conceited. <sup>8</sup> *Three times I pleaded with the Lord about this, that it should leave me.* <sup>9</sup> *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 of my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may rest upon me.* <sup>10</sup> *For the sake of Christ, then, I am content with weaknesses, insults, hardships, persecutions, and calamities. For when I am weak, then I am strong.*

**Our suffering allows us to experience what Paul and Christ experienced— the GRACE of God.**

**Jesus prayed for the wrath of God to be taken from him. God responded with grace as an angel ministered to Jesus, and ultimately as He was raised from the dead. Suffering causes us to rely on the grace of resurrection power more and more.**

Luke 22:41-43. And he [Jesus] withdrew from them about a stone’s throw, and knelt down and prayed, <sup>42</sup> saying, “Father, if you are willing, *remove this cup [the wrath of God] from me.* Nevertheless, not my will, but yours, be done.” <sup>43</sup> *And there appeared to him an angel from heaven, strengthening him.*

**Have you experienced the deeper knowledge of Jesus and his love that comes through your suffering?**

**D. Suffering causes us to grow in grace because it confirms that we are sons of God. This is **DESERVED SUFFERING**.**

**1. When we experience hardships, God is disciplining (training) us like a Father does a son. It is always for our good.**

Hebrews 12:4-11. In your struggle against sin you have not yet resisted to the point of shedding your blood. <sup>5</sup> And have you forgotten the exhortation that addresses you as sons?

*“My son, do not regard lightly the discipline of the Lord,  
nor be weary when reproved by him.*

*<sup>6</sup> For the Lord disciplines the one he loves,  
and chastises every son whom he receives.”*

*<sup>7</sup> It is for discipline that you have to endure. God is treating you as sons. For what son is there whom his father does not discipline? <sup>8</sup> If you are left without discipline, in which all have participated, then you are illegitimate children and not sons. <sup>9</sup> Besides this, we have had earthly fathers who disciplined us and we respected them. Shall we not much more be subject to the Father of spirits and live? <sup>10</sup> For they disciplined us for a short time as it seemed best to them, but **he disciplines us for our good**, that we may share his holiness. <sup>11</sup> For the moment all discipline seems painful rather than pleasant, but later it yields the peaceful fruit of righteousness to those who have been trained by it.*

**Have you been able to see your hardships as God's loving discipline?**

**E. Suffering causes us to grow in grace, because God uses it to make us more fruitful in ministry.**

**1. God comforts us in our sorrows so that we can comfort others.**

2 Corinthians 1:3-11. Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and God of all comfort, <sup>4</sup> *who comforts us in all our affliction, so that we may be able to comfort those who are in any affliction, with the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God.* <sup>5</sup> For as we share abundantly in Christ's sufferings, so through Christ we share abundantly in comfort too. <sup>6</sup> *If we are afflicted, it is for your comfort and salvation; and if we are comforted, it is for your comfort, which you experience when you patiently endure the same sufferings that we suffer.* <sup>7</sup> Our hope for you is unshaken, for we know that as you share in our sufferings, you will also share in our comfort.

<sup>8</sup> For we do not want you to be unaware, brothers, of the affliction we experienced in Asia. For we were so utterly burdened beyond our strength that we despaired of life itself. <sup>9</sup> *Indeed, we felt that we had received the sentence of death. But that was to make us rely not on ourselves but on God who raises the dead.* <sup>10</sup> He delivered us from such a deadly peril, and he will deliver us. *On him we have set our hope* that he will deliver us again. <sup>11</sup> You also must help us by prayer, so that many will give thanks on our behalf for the blessing granted us through the prayers of many.

**2. Suffering causes us to rely on God and renew our hope in God.**

**Have you experienced the joy of being able to use your hardships to comfort and encourage someone else?**

### 3. FAITH IN THE MIDST OF SUFFERING.

How do I live by faith (Walk with the Spirit) in the middle of my suffering? I must **KNOW**, **RECKON**, and **PRESENT** (Review p.34-35).

#### A. **KNOW**

1. I must know that God is good. All of His disciplines are for my good.

Romans 8:28. And we know that *for those who love God all things work together for good*, for those who are called according to his purpose.

2. I must know that I exist for God's glory. All of His disciplines bring glory to Himself.

3. I must know that God is sovereign and wise. He works through all things.

Which of the 3 statements above stands out to you?

#### B. **CONSIDER** (Count, Reckon, Apply)

1. Considering means I will expect suffering.

1 Peter 4:12. Beloved, *do not be surprised at the fiery trial when it comes upon you* to test you, as though something strange were happening to you.

2. Considering means I will focus on God's promises in the midst of suffering, looking at what is not seen rather than at what is seen.

2 Corinthians 4:17-18 <sup>17</sup>For this light momentary affliction is preparing for us an *eternal weight of glory* beyond all comparison, <sup>18</sup>as we look not to the things that are seen but to the things that are unseen.

3. Considering means I will keep my eyes on Jesus through the trial.

Hebrews 12:1-2. ...let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, <sup>2</sup> *looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith...*

4. Considering means I will trust that God is transforming me into the image of Jesus through suffering.

Hebrews 12:10. For they disciplined us for a short time as it seemed best to them, but he disciplines us for our good, *that we may share his holiness.*



## 5. Considering means I will ask God to show me what He wants me to learn through the discipline.

James 1:2-4. Count it all joy, my brothers, when you meet trials of various kinds, <sup>3</sup> for you know that *the testing of your faith produces steadfastness.* <sup>4</sup> *And let steadfastness have its full effect, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing.*

<sup>5</sup> If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask God, who gives generously...

**Which of the 5 statements above stands out to you?**

## C. PRESENT

### 1. Presenting means I will entrust my soul to God and do good.

1 Peter 4:9. Therefore let those who suffer according to God's will *entrust their souls to a faithful Creator while doing good.*

### 2. Presenting means using my suffering to comfort others.

2 Corinthians 1:3-11. Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and God of all comfort, <sup>4</sup> who comforts us in all our affliction, *so that we may be able to comfort those who are in any affliction*, with the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God.

### 3. Presenting means rejoicing during my suffering.

James 1:2-4. *Count it all joy*, my brothers, when you meet trials of various kinds

### 4. Presenting means reaching out to other Christians for encouragement and help, and to help them in times of suffering.

Galatians 6:2. *Bear one another's burdens*, and so fulfill the law of Christ.

Hebrews 3:13 But *exhort one another every day*, as long as it is called "today," *that none of you may be hardened by the deceitfulness of sin.*

James 5:16. Therefore, *confess your sins to one another and pray for one another*, that you may be healed.

### 5. Presenting means offering yourself to God as a living sacrifice.

Romans 12:1-2. I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, *to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God*, which is your spiritual worship. <sup>2</sup> Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.

**Which of the above 5 statements above stands out to you?**

**List any final thoughts or questions you have upon completing the LIFE study.**

## **CONGRATULATIONS!**

*You have completed the LIFE study. You have worked really hard and hopefully learned much. But the reality is the best way to learn the truths of the Gospel is to teach them to someone else.*

*That's why this is called "2 Squared." Our prayer is that you would use this study to disciple someone else. Have you been praying for who that person would be? Do you have someone in mind?*

*There are many resources you can use to disciple someone. This book is just one of them. Discipleship can be done in many different ways too. Some more formal, and some very informal. If you need help getting started just let us know and ask for help.*

*You can email Pastor Brady at [bwolcott@gbcbowie.org](mailto:bwolcott@gbcbowie.org)*

*We will be praying with you that you will take the time to invest in someone else's life. We want to stand by you to equip you to do this as well— that is the point of this book.*

*May God grant you the great joy that comes through obeying the Great Commission. May you be able to say about someone at the throne of Christ:*

*For what is our hope or joy or crown of boasting before our Lord Jesus at his coming? Is it not you? For you are our glory and joy. 1 Thessalonians 2:19-20*

*Grace and Peace,*

*The GBC Pastoral Team*