

THE “GOOD SEED” GOSPEL LIFE

(Empowering people to live “anew from faith” in the Gospel)

‘For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes, for the Jew first and also for the Greek. For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith to faith; as it is written, “The just (righteous) shall live by faith” (Romans 1:16-17)



(From a mustard seed to a tree of abundant life)

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“serving in love, sharing the Gospel and discipling”

This summary table below presents a series of heart events that the “Living Word”, the Gospel leads God’s people to be empowered by and to live “anew by faith”, from faith to faith. These heart events have been provided in the Gospel teaching of the Apostle Paul found in the Book of Romans as follows:

“The Turning of hearts back to God through the Gospel...”

Heart Event	Description	Refer To
Jesus supernaturally implants His “Gospel Seed” into God’s children	Jesus brings the “Kingdom of Heaven” to earth	Introduction
The Gospel revealing one’s true identity	It sets one apart in God’s “Living Word”	Section 1. Romans 1:1-17
People seeking their own false identities	False identities are made in sin and unrighteousness	Section 2. Romans 1:18-32
God alone is the only qualified “Judge of Righteousness”	People aren’t the judges no matter their level of faithfulness	Section 3. Romans 2:1-29
People living separated from God by their sin	Sin separates them from a righteous God	Section 4. Romans 3:1-31
God providing salvation through faith	Faith in Christ saves God’s people	Section 5. Romans 4:1-25
Receiving hope, love and peace in the Son’s life	The Holy Spirit pours out the Son’s life	Section 6. Romans 5:1-11
The new destiny through the sinless man’s obedience	The second Adam overcame the sin of the first Adam	Section 7. Romans 5:12-21
Death to sin and newness of life	Not a slave to sin but a vessel for grace	Section 8. Romans 6:1-23
Holy union with God’s righteousness and love	Living married to righteousness and love	Section 9. Romans 7:1-12
The Letter of the Law is powerless against sin	The flesh alone is weak against sin’s power	Section 10. Romans 7:13-25
The Spirit of the law is freeing and fruitful	God’s indwelling love and power leads one to live victoriously	Section 11. Romans 8:1-11
Transforming hearts through adoption	Hearts are transformed through adoption into Sonship	Section 12. Romans 8:12-30
Letting the love of God have full access	Nothing overcomes God’s love in Christ	Section 13. Romans 8:31-39
Carrying the Gospel Seed of Christ	From the beginning God’s children carried His promise	Section 14. Romans 9
Sowing the seed of Christ righteousness	The righteousness of Christ calls all to repent	Section 15. Romans 10
Growing in the Gospel and letting its light shine from within	Transformed to shine the Gospel light into darkness	Section 16. Romans 12
Being representatives of the coming Kingdom of God	God’s “righteousness, peace and joy (Kingdom)” coming through His people	Conclusion

“to be empowered and to empower others.”

God speaks and breathes life into humanity through the Gospel Truth (“Living Word of Christ”) and His Spirit. The Gospel causes those who receive its “Truth and Spirit” to “be empowered and to empower others”, to live anew in God’s “righteousness and radical love”. Through the Gospel, God is building His Eternal Temple composed of living stones, Christ followers and the capstone (King Jesus) as God’s Kingdom reign comes to earth.

“This is the word of the Lord to Zerubbabel: ‘Not by might nor by power, but by My Spirit,’ Says the Lord of hosts. ‘Who are you, O great mountain? Before Zerubbabel you shall become a plain! And he shall bring forth the capstone with shouts of “Grace, grace to it!” (Zech. 4:6-7)

Introduction - Jesus Implanting His Gospel Life

Training Focus:

1. Brief testimony about what brought me to Jesus and His “new life” through the Gospel.
2. What has led me to share this teaching?
 - > To continue the journey to understanding the fullness of the Gospel of Jesus Christ, the treasure of Scripture which leads its followers to walk in the Lord’s “light, love and life”;
 - > To enlighten, encourage and empower others to walk in the footsteps of Christ and NOT to limp to the finish line;
 - > To challenge us ALL to arise every morning to God’s “Spirit and Truth”.
 - > To exhort God’s people of faith to “live anew” in lives like a TV that has been changed from displaying life in “black and white” to displaying life in Technicolor.
 - > To see the world through the prism (or glasses) of “The Christ and God’s Kingdom”.
 - > To know and trust in the One, “True God” who implants “new life” in His children and joins them to His perfect love and faithfulness to His holy “words and deeds”.

“Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new. (2nd Cor. 5:17)”

Using the term “gospel”? When the term “gospel” is used it specifies a message exchanged as being true and implicitly believed (something that shouldn’t be questioned). It’s a message one can trust and live by. The difference between how the world defines gospels to live by and the church approaches the “Gospel of Jesus Christ” is that God’s Gospel about His Son has guaranteed its validity through His Son’s life and His resurrection from death to prove its supreme message regarding eternal life.

The messages the world calls gospel and believes are in flux, ever-changing as is creation. The Gospel the body of Christ believes in NEVER changes because it is alive in the Risen Christ forever.

God’s “Word and Spirit” is the source for the “Gospel of Jesus Christ”. When we encounter the God of Creation, God sources our eternal lives in the God who cares for lives that transcend (go beyond) the physical nature of life found in the cosmos. This is why our God’s major concern is for the heart and soul of humanity. He is harvesting eternal souls from creation.

Goals for This Teaching on the Gospel of Jesus Christ:

- 1) To emphasize God’s faithfulness in drawing hearts to His “Life-giving Word” through the Gospel and to increase one’s intimate knowledge of the work of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit (John 17:3);
- 2) To primarily approach this Gospel teaching of God through the teaching recorded for us in the Book of Romans;
- 3) To unpack further how God’s grace joined with faith, first demonstrated in perfection by Christ, and then in perfection by trusting Jesus alone produces a people “empowered by the Gospel message and equipped to live anew by faith empowering others”;
- 4) To impart God’s “Spirit and Truth” in a manner that leads others to be encouraged in their faith journey of receiving the fullness of the Gospel message, its righteousness.
- 5) To equip followers of Christ to become better conduits for God’s grace and to empower others to live from its message as their lives reflect Christ;
- 6) Finally, to NOT simply share knowledge for one’s mind like some well-cooked theology recipe but rather to reveal the “new life” of faith, how the Spirit of God flows through His Kingdom from heaven to earth and joins His children with Him in accomplishing His will being done 😊

Symbols for Groupings of points in Each Section

The following three symbols are used to indicate the beginning of a subsection that is addressing one of the three major emphasizes in this training:



Points that highlight where God's "people of the Gospel" stand as they trust in the "light, love and life" of Jesus Christ. The main point of each section of Romans is to draw the reader deeper and deeper into the "Living Word", Christ the Redeemer!



Position In Christ

Points that highlight fruitfulness through seeing oneself positioned in Christ to be a Nehemiah in the faith. Nehemiah had a tool in one hand and a weapon in the other. "People of the Gospel" use physical tools to construct physical walls and networks to serve/love God's children. "People of the Gospel" use the spiritual weapon of "The Spirit of Truth" to lift up the name of Jesus and God's Kingdom (The King & His Domain/Authority) over the unfruitful positions of spiritual darkness.



Fog of War

Points that highlight the ongoing battle that is occurring over the territory both God's Kingdom and the enemy of the truth clash over. These battles occur where God is bringing total freedom from sin through His Grace and Kingdom come to those who stand in Christ; they trust in their position in Christ that faith has awarded them as they await His return.

1. The Gospel Revealing One's True Identity (Romans 1:1-17)

Section Focus:

>>> Beginning in Romans chapter 1, we see the writer through the Spirit declare that God's children stand firm by faith in Christ, their new identity born of faith in Christ and His "Living Word".



The Apostle Paul personally declares this about his new identity in Romans 1:1, "Paul, a bondservant of Jesus Christ, called to be an apostle, separated to the gospel of God".

Why does Paul call himself a bondservant of Jesus Christ?

Through faith he has become a person yoked to a life of service to "Christ and The Gospel Truth".

Paul's faith has bound him to "live and serve" the 'Risen Christ';
to share his "new life" by being forever:

a) thankful for being rescued from the "fog of war", "sin and death";



b) trusting in the "light, love and life" of Jesus Christ;



c) positioned to lead through the "truth and love" of God revealed through the Gospel.



Note: The image of One's true identity is formed from the "body and blood" of Jesus Christ;

The Book of Romans speaks to these three areas of the Christian life for "His people of the Gospel" throughout its teaching and the faith that identifies them as "new creations" formed in Christ.



What inward work occurs as one embraces the Gospel life of Christ and the Spirit's ongoing formational work of forging one's true identity in Christ?

1. One seeks after God's Divine purpose for their life as a servant/leader.
2. One lets God's Divine purpose set them apart via the "Gospel of Righteousness in Christ".
3. One understands that they have been called to a life of faith for Romans 1:17 emphasizes that "*The just (righteous) shall live by faith.*"
4. Each day by faith one dresses themselves, as they put on the righteousness of Christ.
5. Each day by faith one gives their body and mind to follow the righteousness (obedience) of Christ.
6. Each day by faith one lives like a good son (daughter) who seeks to honor their "Heavenly Father".

Section Conclusion:

>>> Through the “Spirit and Truth” of the Gospel, one becomes a bondservant to God’s gift of eternal life received through its power and promise (message). The power and promise that this world offers is inferior to the ‘Gospel Life’ which dramatically changes one’s present and future from the inside out.

‘For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes, for the Jew first and also for the Greek. For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith to faith; as it is written, “The just shall live by faith.” (Romans 1:16-17)’

2. People Seeking Their Own False Identities (way) (Romans 1:18-32)

Section Focus:

>>> Without being born of God's righteousness that comes through "faith in Christ", humanity finds itself bound to many false identities. These false identities are like masks that people wear to hide their unbelief in the "Maker of All" and His Holy Way. These false identities when displayed under the 'Gospel Light' are outward markers for the depravity of sin (unbelief) deeply rooted within the human heart.

>>> This second half of Romans 1, very visibly contrasts between those who follow Jesus and walk in the 'Gospel Light' WITH those who have rejected the Lord's righteousness and walk in darkness. The next two sections contrast the lifestyles of these two: a) one group identified by faith in the righteousness of Christ and b) the other group identified by many false identities identified by unbelief.



Position In Christ

Three important biblical truths about one's true image that ALL false identities contradict:

- 1) Humanity was created to be made in the identity, the likeness of God. (*Gen. 1:26*) *Then God said, "Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness..."* God has provided a likeness greater than one's earthly parents, God's likeness points to Himself, the true source of holy life.
- 2) Humanity was created to take hold of and demonstrate the invisible attributes of God. (*Rom. 1:19*) *"what may be known of God is manifest in them, for God has shown it to them."* God has provided a reservoir, one's "soul and body" to be a vessel for His very best visible to others.
- 3) Humanity was created to bring God glory as His holy "order and power (Kingdom)" flowed into and through their lives of faith in Him and His "Living Word".

Rom. 1:20 "For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even His eternal power and Godhead". Therefore, the physical creation is a "type and shadow", "expression of life" which points to the God of Spirit and His reign above both the physical and spiritual realm.



Fog of War

Deception by the adversary, unbelief and the depravity of sin (the "fog of war") is experienced by ALL living in this fallen world. Those who reject God take on false identities caused by:

- 1) Unbelief that leads them into God's judgment as they try to replace God's "order and power (Kingdom of Righteousness)" with their own.
- 2) Unbelief that leads them to create false narratives (gospels) to follow and causes them to be molded by sin rather than Grace. Their unbelief brings God's judgment upon themselves as they ignore the formational power of God's "Spirit and Truth" and its ability to make one eternally new.
- 3) Unbelief leads them to reject the righteousness (justice) of God found only in God's "Spirit and Truth". It places one on an endless quest of re-inventing themselves as they surrender their lives to many varieties of: godless, unrighteous, and sinful whims of the heart.

- 4) Unbelief leads them to become captives of their foolish thinking and spiritual strongholds as one's worship of the God of the Bible is exchanged for following their depraved minds and the lusts of their bodies.
- 5) Unbelief leads them away from being vessels of God's very best. Rather, their bodies and souls become vessels for all kinds of unnatural things as they try to make themselves a self-contained vessel of everything the world has to offer.
- 6) Unbelief produces "thoughts, words and deeds" that stand in opposition to "the Gospel of Christ" and God's Kingdom come.
- 7) Unbelief leads them to justify in their minds their unrighteousness and seek the approval of others as they walk in it. It proliferates evil as they call "bad good and good bad".



Only the one, true identity of trusting in the "Living Word" of God (Christ) can stand eternally against God's judgment of sin. God's Word declares that:

- 1) The "glory of God" is proclaimed through His creation of the universe and its glorious heavenly lights seen at night. The "glory of God" is proclaimed through the beauty and complexity of life in this world.
- 2) The glory of God is proclaimed through the ongoing discovery of the complexity of God's design for the human "body and soul".
- 3) The glory of God is proclaimed through God's Kingdom come through His redeeming love, compassion imparted to humanity in the bodily form of His Son and His life-giving "Spirit of Truth", Holy Word made flesh, manifested in both the spiritual and physical realm.

Section Conclusion:

>>> Seeking one's own "way and glory" as the greatest purpose for life is both a very destructive and unsatisfying path.

>>> By the grace of God, many are turning to God's "Gospel Truth" as they stop seeking their own way of unrighteousness and its false identities. These harmful/sinful ways that lead to destruction will be removed by God because God loves humanity. All who deny God's Truth will face God's judgement.

"For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who suppress the truth in unrighteousness, because what may be known of God is manifest in them, for God has shown it to them (Romans 1:18-19)".

3. God alone is the only qualified “Judge of Righteousness” (Romans 2:1-29)

Section Focus:

>>> In life, we often are moved in our hearts to judge others. Whether it's to satisfy our need to look better than or have control over others, whatever the reason our judgments are sinful to God.

>>> God is calling His people to focus on Him and His Kingdom work of bringing His righteousness (image of Christ) to bear through His grace upon people and the world. Pride can cause people to step between God and people as they judge others NOT worthy of God's grace. Judging others can bring condemnation to oneself as one's “words and deeds” are judged in return by God as hypocrisy.

>>> God alone is the “Judge of Righteousness”. His judgments come from His foreknowledge and holiness. They are always truthful and account for everything that needs to be considered in one's life. He knows the hearts of people, the full account of each life and the outcome. *“Therefore you are inexcusable, O man, whoever you are who judge, for in whatever you judge another you condemn yourself; for you who judge practice the same things. (Rom. 2:1)”*



Fog of War

Why is the pursuit of self-righteousness whether its driven by religion or not inferior to God's work of righteousness?

1. ALL people are born with a conscience that provides a basic filter for knowing the difference between “right and wrong”, “good and bad” which they use to discern what is upright through their “thoughts, words and deeds”.
2. Beyond one's conscience, God has given His people of faith the written Law to inform them of His good and pleasing will, what is “right and wrong” for humanity. His Law informs one's conscience of exactly what pleases God (His holiness and love) through its commandments. His Law by itself doesn't empower people to perfectly obey Him in “thought, word and deed”, His commandments. It does provide the path to remain free from the consequences of sin.
3. Beyond one's conscience, people who don't know or follow God's Word have created their own “laws and codes” to live by. They recognize that some form of justice between people must prevail so that lawlessness (sins and its powers) can't destroy the community that they live together in. These systems of justice they create are inferior to God's Justice because in ignorance they promote self-righteousness.
4. The pursuit of self-righteousness is put to death when one hears the “Gospel of Righteousness” and submits one's heart to be “changed and covered”, transformed by the Holy Spirit into the holy image of God's righteousness.



How does the “Spirit of the Law” identify God's righteous people who live by faith?

“For he is not a Jew who is one outwardly, nor is circumcision that which is outward in the flesh; but he is a Jew who is one inwardly; and circumcision is that of the heart, in the Spirit, not in the letter; whose praise is not from men but from God. (Rom. 2:28-29)”

1. The heart within is spiritually circumcised by the righteousness of God so that the “truth and love” of Christ (God’s righteousness) might dwell within a person.
2. God’s “measure of righteousness” becomes greater than one’s conscience; one’s code for life, and one’s ability to perfectly practice religion.
3. Through the inward work of the Spirit, God the “Judge of righteousness” moves a person to humble themselves and to be a host for His righteousness. His righteousness doesn’t control or manipulate people but rather leads people to His abundant life.



Position In Christ

How does God’s righteousness bring the King’s domain (justice) to earth?

1. It brings forth upright “thoughts, words and deeds” flowing via God’s “Spirit and Truth” into and through the hearts of His children.
2. It brings about a consistent morally upright state of heart (witness) which promotes human dignity to its rightful highest place as God’s justice abounds.
3. It brings about a daily desire in the hearts of God’s people to listen for the voice of God’s Son speaking life into humanity (Romans 10:6, John 10:27).
4. It brings glory to God as people of the Gospel rely upon God’s “Spirit and Truth”, NOT their abilities and judgments to do the heavy lifting of bringing heaven to earth.
5. Being like Jesus through the “gift of righteousness” lifts up the visible template of what a righteous life looks like, God’s Son walking on earth full of “grace and truth”:
 - a. Jesus did what was right in the Father’s sight, even in private because of His constant awareness of the presence of God and His “Most High Standard of Righteousness”;
 - b. Jesus valued “God’s Righteousness” above privately in His heart above all things even His physical safety. He was consistently identified by God’s Way, not by the world’s way of sin;
 - c. Jesus shined the “Gospel Light” in public with godly “thoughts, words and deeds” as He represented “God’s Righteousness” selflessly;
 - d. Jesus joined others in worshipping and representing the “Judge of Righteousness” in public to demonstrate and witness God’s Kingdom coming to earth.

Section Conclusion:

>>> The life of faith is one in which we seek to honor God through His inward work (Good Seed) in our lives. God’s judgment of what is pleasing to Him unites people of faith around His “Spirit and Truth”.

>>> Therefore, we honor God when we let Him alone be the judge of ALL. God through His “Spirit and Truth” does the convicting and changing work that reaps an eternal harvest. We alone have been chosen and ordained to be His witnesses NOT to be distributing final judgments.

“For he is not a Jew who is one outwardly, nor is circumcision that which is outward in the flesh; but he is a Jew who is one inwardly; and circumcision is that of the heart, in the Spirit, not in the letter; whose praise is not from men but from God. (Romans 2:28-29)”

4. People living separated from God by sin (Romans 3:1-31)

Section Focus:

>>> When humanity (Adam and Eve) fell into sin in the Garden of Eden, they fell into the bondage of being separated from God because sin had taken a hold of their hearts.

>>> God is eternally righteous and loving in every way. God's character will never be yoked to sin. Without the intercession of Christ humanity remains separated from God because of the nature of sin.

"There is none righteous, no, not one. (Romans 3:10)"

"For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God. (Romans 3:23)"

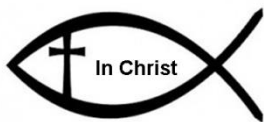


Fog of War

How does one's sin fall short of the glory of God?

1. Sin leads to any "thought, word or deed" that is in violation of God's "righteous and loving", life-giving will. His will is for ALL to live with Him in perfect harmony (peace and justice). Romans 3:10 and Romans 3:23 emphasize the fallen state of humanity, from Adam its been left alone in its sin.

2. *Is there any hope that anyone can possess and live a perfectly righteous life when they are bound to sin?* Without God's intercession NO ONE on earth can escape the clutches of sin. They are condemned to live forever separated from God.



How does God intercede for humanity via His love to free them from their sin?

1. God formed covenants with His people over time based upon them trusting in His righteousness and love. The people offered sacrifices to God during their struggles with sin under these covenants. Eventually, God gave His people access to His eternal righteousness and love through faith in the Perfect/New Covenant (Grace of God). The perfect flesh of His sinless Son, Jesus and precious life-giving blood came into the world as the "one for all" sin sacrifice for humanity.

2. *What are some of the ways God interceded for humanity as they waited for the Covenant in Christ?* God both interceded and prepared the people to receive Jesus through the following covenants:

The covenant God made to Noah and the sign of the rainbow;

The covenant God made with Abraham and the sign of a child being born in old age;

The covenant of the Law and the sign of moving God's people into the Promised Land.

3. Through God's covenants, He interceded for humanity and established a community of believers who would one day receive His permanent, unbreakable promise of righteousness (the life of Jesus) living in their hearts. All previous covenants were place holders, like a nanny who temporarily watches over a child while their parents are away. A nanny never replaces the parent. These previous covenants didn't replace the people's need for their lives to be completely changed from the inside out by the Messiah as their sin was washed away. The sign God gave for the New Covenant to the people was the Resurrection of Christ. Humanity through faith now receives access to God's "righteousness and love" and eternal live with God.

4. Jesus, the perfect “righteousness and love” of God in human form (the Second Adam) came to us and gave His life to pay our sin debt. “Sin and death” required retribution but the “Good News” is that Jesus satisfied this debt after living the life that God’s “Holy Word” requires for ALL humanity.



Position In Christ

How is God joining His people with His eternal “New Covenant of Righteousness”?

1. God has made His righteousness visible and available through His Word becoming flesh. Through the supernatural, miraculous birth of Christ God brought His “New Covenant of Righteousness” into the world so it could be birthed into and written upon the hearts of His children.

2. The “Just live by faith” as they turn by faith to Jesus and away from their sin. Through “grace by faith” one accepts Jesus into their hearts as they are joined to God’s New Covenant. This is the only way that humanity can be set apart from sin and enjoy eternal fellowship with God in righteousness.

3. Due to the depravity and power of sin, there is no other way to bypass the judgment of the “Judge of Righteousness”. All other attempts by individuals to redeem themselves are futile to God because ALL have fallen short of His glory through their inferior works to be right with God.

Section Conclusion:

>>> Humanity’s circumstance of being held captive by one’s sin nature is deadly serious. It’s something that can’t be overcome through one’s works or sacrifices.

>>> Just as the first Adam came to pass on abundant life, Jesus the second Adam has come to pass on abundant life. The difference is the life of Christ brings the power of God’s eternal holiness through His sinless sacrifice to humanity while the first Adam can only offer the power of sin which leads to eternal death.

>>> Therefore, “faith in Christ” is the only way for humanity to overcome its sin problem and be yoked to God’s “righteousness and love” forever!

“But now the righteousness of God apart from the law is revealed, being witnessed by the Law and the Prophets, even the righteousness of God, through faith in Jesus Christ, to all and on all who believe. (Romans 3:21-22)”

NOTE: THIS BIBLICAL CONCEPT OF LIVING BY FAITH AND NOT WORKS WILL BE FURTHER UNPACKED IN THE REMAINDER OF THE LESSONS. IT IS THE FOUNDATION FOR THE LIFESTYLE OF CHRISTIANS.

5. God Providing Salvation Through Faith (Romans 4:1-25)

Section Focus:

>>> When sin entered humanity, the God-established relationship/fellowship of trust was broken between God and humanity. God has always been trustworthy. However, humanity in the Garden of Eden was deceived into distrusting and disobeying God's "Word of Life", His love and truth.

>> From that very first sin, humanity discovered that they had entered into the "fog of war", an existence (land) cursed with "sin and death". Adam which means "from the dirt" through the curse of sin was leading people to return "to the dirt" rather than eternally rule over it with God.



Fog of War

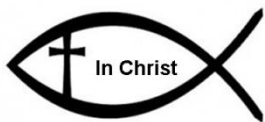
Why humanity can NEVER save itself from sin?

1. Humanity had entered a downward slide they could NOT pull out of via their own corrective "words and deeds" because of the holiness of God. There is a saying "oil and water" don't mix. Similarly, the sinful lives of humanity which lead to death cannot be joined to the holiness of God which leads to eternally life without a supernatural agent that removes all of humanity's sin first.

2. Therefore, this is the problem that faced humanity as Adam and Eve fell into sin. God must be faithful to His Word. *"Yet he does not leave the guilty unpunished; he punishes the children and their children for the sin of the parents to the third and fourth generation. (Exodus 34:7)"* Sin must be removed completely, not ignored.

3. Meanwhile the God of grace had to make a way for humanity to step out of sin, *"The Lord, the Lord, the compassionate and gracious God, slow to anger, abounding in love and faithfulness, maintaining love to thousands, and forgiving wickedness, rebellion and sin. (Exodus 34:6)"* God remained faithful to His character (Word) while providing a way out for those living in the "fog of war". Only holiness on humanity's side through God's grace in the form of His sinless Son, agent sent to remove sin could restore the connection between humanity and their eternal God.

4. Faith in Jesus (God's agent of redemption) restores fellowship with God because Jesus never tasted sin. God through His mercy, "forgiveness and righteousness" and one's faith in Christ places His holiness into one's heart. Faith in the perfection of Christ, the Word made flesh now leads humanity out of the "fog of war (sin)" and back to eternal paradise, the way lost by Adam in the Garden of Eden.



How do we see God working to redeem humanity after its fall into sin in Scripture?

1. Abraham, a patriarch of faith who was called to lead a community of faith on earth, trusted in the "Word of the Lord". He heard God's voice and left Haran to follow God's Word. Abraham lived as a man who trusted God's Word. His faith (trust) in God made him righteous in God's sight. Therefore, God made him the following three-fold promise of redemption for His people:

1. I will make you into a great nation;
2. I will bless you and make you famous;
3. I will bless those who bless you and curse those who treat you with contempt...
All families will be blessed through you. (Gen. 12:1-3)

'For what does the Scripture say? "Abraham believed God, and it was accounted to him for righteousness." Now to him who works, the wages are not counted as grace but as debt. But to him who does not work but believes on Him who justifies the ungodly, his faith is accounted for righteousness. (Romans 4:3-5)'

2. Humanity was learning through Abraham to return to the place where they trusted in the Word of the Lord. Jesus would come to them as the Word made flesh, the perfect life that stands above the patriarchs of faith like Abraham as He came to be both the "author and finisher" of humanity's call to walk by faith in holiness with God, *"as it is written, "I have made you a father of many nations" in the presence of Him whom he believed—God, who gives life to the dead and calls those things which do not exist as though they did (Romans 4:17);"*

Section Conclusion:

>>> The faithfulness of Abraham and other believers who followed him in the Bible demonstrated the pattern for believers to trust in God's Word.

>>> Believing in the Word made flesh, God's Son is the pattern that the "body of Christ" walks in as they co-labor with God's will, His Kingdom come in "Spirit and Truth" to the world.

>>> The journey of faith continues from those first chosen to today's chosen to be joined into the "body of Christ" as they trust in the manifestation of God's three-fold promise to Abraham.

6. Receiving Hope, Love and Peace in the Son's life (Romans 5:1-11)

Section Focus:

>>> The Lord has come so that His Gospel life might be planted in every heart along with His eternal "hope, love and peace". These come to humanity through His sinless life and payment for ALL sin on the cross.

>>> "Living Hope", "Living Love" and "Living Peace" takes residence in one's heart as they trust in the Lord Jesus and His finished work on the cross.

"Now hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out in our hearts by the Holy Spirit who was given to us...God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. (Romans 5:5,8)"



How does experiencing LIVING "hope, love and peace" differ from "just practicing religion"?

1. What is the difference between a person who walks in and with God's living "hope, love and peace" inside them compared to a person who views religion as only following a set of rules?

A. Characteristics of Living Hope, Love and Peace:

- 1) "Living Hope" revolves (centers) one's life around being in an unbreakable life-giving relationship (having regular fellowship) with the Son's life.
- 2) "Living Hope" changes one's heart to experience daily "heart and mind" interactions with "Christ and His Kingdom" based upon God's "Truth, Righteousness, Love and Glory".
- 3) "Living Hope" brings the peace that goes beyond understanding into the circumstances of God's children despite their feelings or difficult situations.
- 4) "Living Hope" connects people to God's overflowing well of love so they can speak God's "abundant life" over ALL they encounter.
- 5) It keeps them resting in God and able to sleep at night when things are difficult and stressful.

B. Characteristics of Practicing Religion:

- 1) These sporadic times occur when one is being led by guilt to acknowledge God.
- 2) Their hope is based upon how one's actions can draw God into their lives rather than God's underserved merit, favor or presence always available.
- 3) Their peace is experienced based upon how their works measure up against their unrighteous "words and deeds".
- 4) When they go to bed at night before they go to sleep instead of counting sheep, they count the reasons why God should love them. They don't understand or believe in faithful work of God's perfect and unconditional love for His children.



Position In Christ

How does the Christian lifestyle of standing by faith on God's LIVING "Hope, Love and Peace" glorify God?

1. Certainly, there are aspects of "practicing religion" as one lives to bring glory to God and live the Christian faith. After all, true religion is an outward witness of God's existence within His children. A child of God will attend worship services, read their Bible and pray. A child of God will participate in charity service events.

2. However, there is a greater spiritual level of connection to God that His children operate from. Living "Hope, love and peace" in the Gospel message moves one to operate as Jesus did on earth. He described this level of operating with the following words, *"Most assuredly, I say to you, the Son can do nothing of Himself, but what He sees the Father do; for whatever He does, the Son also does in like manner. For the Father loves the Son, and shows Him all things that He Himself does (John 5:19-20)"*

3. To the world, one's Christian lifestyle should lead others to see the involvement of God's "presence and power" in the midst of their circumstances. It leads believers to give a witness about God's presence through His "Kingdom of Heaven" being near as they live to bring glory to God's dominion in "Spirit and Truth (Living Word)".

Section Conclusion:

>>> Many religions do similar things like Christians such as "gathering together" and charitable works but what's at the heart of Christianity (The life of Christ) stands alone.

>>> God's Kingdom is being established through the "new hearts" that they children of God have received which manifest the LIVING "Hope, Love and Peace" found in the Son's life. We must go beyond our futile attempts to please God only by following rules to the place where one's faith reflects the One who "died so that we might live" attached to God's vibrant life.

7. The New Destiny in One Man's Obedience (Romans 5:12-21)

Section Focus:

>>> The Scripture emphasizes the holiness of God and that He desires His people of faith to be an upright people in "thoughts, words and deeds".

>>> God's grace leads His people to their new destiny, to live free of sin's clutches and judgment. God's Word maps the course for walking in the eternal destiny that His Son makes available to ALL.



Why is the Christ the only One who can save us and lead us?

The first Adam (from the earth) and his descendants:

- 1) The first man Adam that God created, disobeyed God.
- 2) This started an unending cycle of sin that humanity was powerless to break.
"Therefore, just as through one man sin entered the world, and death through sin, and thus death spread to all men, because all sinned. (Romans 5:12)"

The second Adam (sent from heaven) and His descendants:

- 1) The second Adam, Christ came down from heaven by the power of the Holy Spirit through the virgin Mary to break the cycle of sin started by the sin of the first Adam.
- 2) The perfect obedience to God of Jesus while He walked on earth culminating with His sacrifice, on the cross broke the stronghold of sin which the first Adam brought into this world.
- 3) Through God's covenant of grace by faith, descendants of Christ were are re-born "to be" a people who follow Jesus in "Spirit and Truth" to their new destiny in the Son of God.

"But the free gift is not like the offense. For if by the one man's offense many died, much more the grace of God and the gift by the grace of the one Man, Jesus Christ, abounded to many. And the gift is not like that which came through the one who sinned. For the judgment which came from one offense resulted in condemnation, but the free gift which came from many offenses resulted in justification. (Romans 5:15-16)"



Position In Christ

What does obedience, trusting in the life of Christ look like?

1. In the Old Testament we have many stories of God's faithful who trusted in His holiness such as: Abraham and King David. Their trust in God kept them in covenant with God despite their enemies. The Old Testament "people of faith" looked towards God's redeeming love and power which would change their lives and remove ALL their enemies.

2. In the New Testament we have the stories of trusting in Jesus and following Him in the Gospels, Acts and the Epistles. These "New Covenant" people of faith have become vessels for God's righteousness. They walk in the redeeming "love and power" of the Son's finished work on the cross. They become children of God sent to ALL nations with the ministry (to bring heaven to earth) and Spirit of God's Son.

3. This greater faith is represented by a people who live and die carrying the “Living Hope” of being set apart from sin to witness God’s Kingdom come. They believe in Christ and God’s Kingdom which has changed their lifestyles, their “thoughts, words and deeds”. Their obedience follows the course of their new hearts and awaits the day of final judgment when the resurrection of God’s beloved will come.

4. As they live, they are identified by the following central trait which the world will witness...they call upon the Lord regularly and often.

“And it shall come to pass that whoever calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved. (Acts 2:21)”

Section Conclusion:

>>> God’s people of His new destiny in Christ call upon Him, hear Him and follow Him. They are born of Christ from heaven in “Spirit and Truth” as they turn away from their sin and trust Him to lead them away from sin into eternal life.

>>> They call to Him to teach them as they study God’s Word and He disciplines them through the Spirit within them.

>>> They call to Him for direction as they travel the highways and byways of life.

>>> They declare God’s grace as ALL sufficient despite life’s difficulties. They follow the “Way of Love” which Christ modelled for them as they live anew by faith. This is the course for ALL of God’s children today, tomorrow and forever as Jesus is the same “yesterday, today and forever”.

8. Death to Sin and Newness of Life (Romans 6:1-23)

Section Focus:

>>>Through the sinless life of Christ, God overcomes the hold of “sin and death”; the sin nature which is one’s master without Christ. Faith in the life of Christ brings death to sin through the shed blood of Jesus for the payment of sin on the cross.

>>>As the life of Christ indwells a believer by faith, their new master becomes ‘freedom in Christ’. This change becomes evident as has received the “newness of life”. God’s “newness of life” within them, highlights the truth that God’s “Living Word” now indwells them through the Spirit of Christ. It leads them away from sin and to be witnesses for the Gospel. *“You are My witnesses,” says the Lord, “And My servant whom I have chosen, that you may know and believe Me (Isaiah 43:10)”*



How is God conquering “sin and death” and establishing “new Life” in a believer?

1. God has provided a New Covenant of Grace for receiving the forgiveness of sin and freedom from its wages, eternal death. New birth has come from above so that one can be joined with the sinless “life, death (sacrifice) and Spirit” of Christ.
2. The Gospel is preached, and God’s Word does NOT return void as the “newness of life” is received as one places their faith in the Lord’s sacrifice for ALL sin to be forgiven.
3. The Lord intervenes supernaturally and personally as He draws each new believer to Himself. Then, one’s baptism becomes more than a religious ritual as one receives the Lord’s “death and life” through the baptismal waters and the Holy Spirit.
4. Faith in the sinless life of Christ leads all who believe to repent (turn from a sin-filled lifestyle); to be baptized into the Lord’s “death and life” and to receive the Holy Spirit (Acts 2:38) The “new life” that comes through the Holy Spirit leads children of God to live set apart from the slavery of being imprisoned by servitude to oneself and sin.

“Therefore, we were buried with Him through baptism into death, that just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life. For if we have been united together in the likeness of His death, certainly we also shall be in the likeness of His resurrection, knowing this, that our old man was crucified with Him, that the body of sin might be [a]done away with, that we should no longer be slaves of sin. (Romans 6:4-5)”



Position In Christ

What if I should fall, stumble/sin in my walk with God in His newness of life?

1. In this life under God’s Covenant of Grace, ONLY faith in the finished work of Christ sets a believer apart from sin and places them on God’s “Most Highway”. *“For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord. (Romans 6:23)”*

2. In this life, we abound in the redeeming blood of Jesus and its power. *“(1st John 1:7) But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin.”*

3. In this life, our confession of sin and turning to God in faith unleashes God’s power of forgiveness to mold us into the image of Christ. *“(1st John 1:9) If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.”*

4. In this life, the Lord leads His redeemed to stand upon His gift of grace as His children have received a new heart of faith to live under/for grace and NOT under/for sin. *“But God be thanked that though you were slaves of sin, yet you obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine to which you were [e]delivered. And having been set free from sin, you became slaves of righteousness. (Romans 6:17-18)”*

5. In this life, we rest in the finished work of Christ as one overcomes the deception and sin which comes one way. As we rest in the knowledge and power of God’s grace, we witness the power of sin fading into the past and the fear of death having NO hold on the lives of God’s redeemed.

Section Conclusion:

>>>The Apostle Paul shared this with the Galatians in another epistle about the far superior “New Covenant” compared to “Old Covenant of the Law”, *“Stand fast therefore in the liberty by which Christ has made us free, and do not be entangled again with a yoke of bondage ... do not use liberty as an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another ... Walk in the Spirit, and you shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh. (Gal. 5:1,13,16)”*

>>>Taking hold of God’s life-giving gift of “new life” is why God’s grace has come to earth in the person of Jesus Christ. When one embraces God’s grace, the potential for the impossible to become possible enters one’s life.

>>> What strengthens ones “faith in Jesus” is to know that God’s children of Grace are deeply loved by God and that He is dedicated to the work of drawing them into the image of His Son, *“And above all things have fervent love for one another, for “love will cover a multitude of sins.”*

9. Holy Union with God's "Righteousness and Love" (Romans 7:1-12)

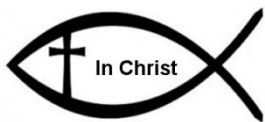
Section Focus:

>>> The hearts of the people who followed the Law religiously grew cold and unresponsive to the one, true God who is love and His desire to overflow His children with the fullness of His "grace and truth".

>>> Their lifestyles based upon following the 613 regulations taken from the Law failed to produce children of God's who exhibited both "righteousness and radical love". Focusing on making oneself a good religious person had accomplished the opposite work that God's love is purposed for resulting in the people's hearts becoming cold to God's loving will (Hosea 6:6).

>>> The people became like a marriage partner that is dead to the other's heart. When a wedding partner is dead towards the other, they will begin to search for love from others or other things with their heart. This is what happened. Either they left God for another or their relationship with God in their religion was incapable of producing a "righteousness and loving" passion in their hearts for life-giving relationships with God first and others. The result of this was that they struggled with sinful (unfaithful) passions of their flesh to satisfy their wayward hearts.

"For when we were in the flesh, the sinful passions which were aroused by the law were at work in our members to bear fruit to death. (Romans 7:5)"



What does being married/yoked to the "body of Christ" look like?

1. The "bride of Christ" hears the proclamation of the Gospel and accepts the "Risen Christ" who is born again with the life of Christ which has come down from heaven.
2. She wears an eternal wedding band of the "Father, Son and Holy Spirit" wrapped around her heart sparkling with God's grace and faithfulness.
3. Gone is the way of religious pride born of dreary sacrifices to God as one simply follows the Law to be a good person and atone for one's sin. This way which left one's heart inattentive to its marriage partner, the God of Creation has been replaced by a heart made new in the undeserved "love of Christ".
4. Unlike being married to Law, the "body of Christ" looks vibrant and fruitful to God as it has become:
 - A "new creation" who is fully consummated (consumed by) to the Spirit of Christ.
 - A "new creation" who is changed from the inside-out;
 - A "new creation" who is capable of bearing spiritual fruit from their marriage;
 - A "new creation" who turns away from spiritual pride which offends their Husband;
 - A "new creation" who relies upon God's "righteousness and radical love";
 - A "new creation" who always trusts their Husband and seeks His way;
 - A "new creation" who lives for the favor of God;
 - A "new creation" who has taken on the purpose of their Husband and His household.
5. The "bride of Christ" has been carried over the threshold of its new home by grace through faith. This new home has an open door policy for both the bride's heart and the heart of God to live together.

“Therefore, my brethren, you also have become dead to the law through the body of Christ, that you may be married to another—to Him who was raised from the dead, that we should bear fruit to God. (Romans 7:4)”

Section Conclusion:

>>> As the Son of God has been revealed to God’s people, He now legally offers them the acceptable and binding way in God’s sight to leave their fruitless marriage of living without love under the Law.

>>> Under the New Covenant, “faith in Jesus” unites two to be one, God and humanity forever in holy marriage (union) as the “love of Christ” takes residence in the hearts of God’s people.

>>> God sees His “righteous heart and radical love” pumping in the hearts of His people. God sees His bride as spotless, inside and out, through the gift of the “righteousness of Christ”. God sees His bride walking down the center aisle toward Him and the wedding altar. This view God has of His bride moved the Apostle Paul to write, *“rejoice in the Lord always, I say it again rejoice (Phil. 4:4)”*

10. The Letter of the Law was Powerless Against Sin (Romans 7:13-25)

Section Focus:

>>>The Ten Commandments and other instruction given to us in the “Old Testimony” gives us wonderful direction regarding how to live as an upright community with God and His other children. However, only the spiritual depth of the Truth (Good Testimony) of Jesus Christ can set one totally free from the power of sin.

>>>Just living with an explanation of “how to be holy? (The Law)” doesn’t change the desires of one’s heart which are unholy.

>>> Just being a people of religious traditions and rituals followed ceremonially repeatedly will NEVER accomplish the Lord’s ultimate goal for His people; to be in holy, eternal covenant with Him.

>>>This section of Romans further addresses the Lord’s conversations with the religious leaders He encountered during His ministry...

Jesus said “If you abide in My word, you are My disciples indeed. And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free. “They answered Him, “We are Abraham’s descendants, and have never been in bondage to anyone. How can You say, ‘You will be made free?’” Jesus answered them, “Most assuredly, I say to you, whoever commits sin is a slave of sin. And a slave does not abide in the house forever, but a son abides forever. Therefore if the Son makes you free, you shall be free indeed. (John 8:31-36)”



Fog of War

What struggles did Paul encounter as one who lived in strict adherence to the Law?

1. Paul did everything in his own power to be the best version of himself under the Law.
2. However, God saw the struggle within Paul and every man that attempts to follow a religious code (law) out of their own power (and character strengths) as they attempt to overcome the power of sin.
3. Living from the position of one’s own strength as one battles against sin (one’s fallen flesh) produces similar results as the life under the Law that Paul struggled with. *“For I delight in the law of God according to the inward man. But I see another law in my members, warring against the law of my mind, and bringing me into captivity to the law of sin which is in my members. (Romans 7:22-23)”*
4. BUT by the grace of God, Paul through Christ saw the futility of his efforts and his need for a “new life and power source” in Romans 7:17-19, *“But now, it is no longer I who do it, but sin that dwells in me. For I know that in me (that is, in my flesh) nothing good dwells; for to will is present with me, but how to perform what is good I do not find. For the good that I will to do, I do not do; but the evil I will not to do, that I practice.”*



If one's will has been weakened by sin and incapable of moving one's flesh to overcome the power of sin, then who can deliver humanity from this roller coaster life of being good and being bad? Has a one-time sacrifice, intercession occurred that doesn't remove one's desire to follow the life-giving Word of the Lord but covers one's eternal life?

1. The Lord Jesus came into the world to make both the knowledge of God and His power of eternal life, its power over sin available to His "people of faith".

2. The gift of the uncompromising character of Christ and the resurrection power of Christ was God's ultimate plan/gift for saving humanity from its hopeless situation. *"O wretched man that I am! Who will deliver me from this body of death? I thank God—through Jesus Christ our Lord! (Romans 7:24-25)"*

3. Adam and eve had eaten the fruit in the Garden of Eden to live an upright life with God (I believe that they were innocently tricked into this sin thinking that it would make them a better person). However, instead they were led into a life of imprisonment by sin because their "free will" had been seared and scarred by the power of sin. Now God is saying "taste and see the goodness of God; consume my fruit, the life of Christ which possesses the victory over sin in this life and in the life to come". Hallelujah!

Section Conclusion:

>>> Without the Son of God, humanity has no hope of being set free from the power of sin because even its will is in bondage to sin. Without the character of the sinless Christ and His resurrection power living inside one's "heart and soul", they could only produce an outward appearance of walking in holy fellowship with God. The Lord is preparing God's house and table for many to enjoy eternal, "righteous and loving" fellowship with Him through His holy, life-giving "WORD and SPIRIT (SEED)".

11. The Spirit of the Law is Freeing and Fruitful (Romans 8:1-11)

Section Focus:

>>>God has done an amazing two-fold work of: 1) removing the condemnation of the Law and 2) putting into place His “Covenant of Grace” which pours out His Spirit upon ALL who trust in Christ.

>>>The “Spirit of Christ” has come to free the faithful from the weakness of one’s “mind (will) and flesh” as it yokes one to the “righteousness of Christ” through grace by faith.

>>>God’s “Spirit of loyal, life-giving love” now flows like a crystal clear and fresh fountain or spring via the life of Christ into humanity as they rely on the Son.

>>>The finished work of Christ produces the only “righteous and eternal” fruit acceptable to God; because the seed for this fruit is the holy, incorruptible life of Christ.

“There is therefore now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus, who do not walk according to the flesh, but according to the Spirit. (Romans 8:1)”



How does the “New Covenant” now fully embodied in Christ deliver God’s children and empower them to be fruitful (good) trees?

1. First we stand by faith on “grace by faith” alone in Jesus delivering and joining our lives (mind, body and spirit) to His Good Tree. *“O wretched man that I am! Who will deliver me from this body of death? I thank God—through Jesus Christ our Lord! (Romans 7:24-25)”* We remember the story of the fig tree outside of the gates of Jerusalem that Jesus cursed because it had NO fruit. We understand now that this story is about a life in religious works verses a life in the fullness of Christ.

2. The unblemished priesthood of Christ is now through God’s “New Covenant” able to intercede for ALL nations as they serve the Lord’s “Great Commission”, to make disciples. As the Spirit leads God’s people, Jesus personally intercedes through His priesthood so that God’s “Holy Word” will bring to bear His promises upon all who trust in Him. *“For the law appoints as high priests men who have weakness, but the word of the oath, which came after the law, appoints the Son who has been perfected forever. (Hebrews 7:28)”*

3. The Holy Spirit through the finished work of Christ now brings the conviction of sin, the gift of righteousness and the judgment of sin into this world like a meal served up on a table for God’s children to consume as they turn to God’s “New Covenant” and receive His Spirit. *“He will convict the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment: of sin, because they do not believe in Me; of righteousness, because I go to My Father and you see Me no more; of judgment, because the ruler of this world is judged. (John 16:8-11)”*

4. Through the Lord’s hands scarred by the nails of the cross, Jesus gives us holy hands to lay upon those we pray for. As God works from above we witness scarred hands of Jesus for our sin being used to regenerate and make new hearts of those who receive Jesus in “Spirit and Truth”. They receive a new empowered will that lives for the “New Covenant” of God, rather than chasing after superficial satisfactions and the empty promises of this world.



Position In Christ

What does one's lifestyle of living in God's eternal covenant, no condemnation look like?

1. When one has been joined with God's Spirit, they become like a child adopted into a royal family. *"But you are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God dwells in you. Now if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he is not His. (Romans 8:9)"* They feel at home in their hearts in their new surroundings, like this is where I belong and stop searching for somewhere else to live.
2. As one's will set free from the power of sin and empowered by God's Spirit, there comes waves of grace that strengthen the connection between believers with the Lord's Truth. As the "Truth of Christ/Living Word" abides in one's heart, through the Holy Spirit one accesses heavenly wisdom and joins it with their freedom to speak life into the people and situations around them.
3. Their "faith in Christ" joined with the Holy Spirit builds up within them and manifests God's character and values:
 - a. God's character is: compassionate, gracious, slow to anger, overflowing with loyal love, faithful and just. (Exodus 34:6-7)
 - b. What God values is found as one seeks first the "Kingdom of Heaven" and the "righteousness / manifest justice of God".
4. They are constantly being renewed as they set their minds on the things of the Spirit and this focus is rewarded by bearing much fruit which comes from the flowers of their renewed minds and thinking. *"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, the things of the Spirit. (Romans 8:5)"*

Section Conclusion:

>>> *"For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has made me free from the law of sin and death. (Romans 8:2)"* Instead of the daily battling with the "mind and flesh" under the Law, God has set His people free from the life of earning their righteousness to a life of walking by faith in the continuous life-giving movement of God's Spirit.

>>> The newfound freedom of the Spirit given to humanity through the blood of Jesus draws them closer to God's will than the Law could accomplish for ALL nations because now the "Spirit of Christ" lives inside God's people wherever they live and worship.

12. Transforming Hearts Through Adoption (Romans 8:12-30)

Section Focus:

>>> No longer will one battle with serving two masters as one receives God's Spirit of adoption and no longer will one fear the judgment awaiting this world.

>>>The new household that "sons and daughters" will call home, through "faith in Christ", has secured God's children His eternal favor even as challenging times arise (Romans 8:28). Daily God empowers His children to follow King Jesus.

"The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, (Romans 8:16)"



How should one see themselves now as the "Spirit of adoption" has taken hold of their lives and placed them together with Christ Jesus into God's family?

1. Being born from above into the "Spirit of Truth" is how ALL are adopted into God's family. The truth sets God's children free from bondage to fear and judgment so they can follow the Spirit. *"For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God. (Romans 8:14)"*

2. Not only have God's children been set free but they have become heirs like Christ who are able to overcome fear, shame and suffering (the weapons of the evil one) through the family name (Christians) that they have been adopted into. *"If children, then heirs—heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with Him, that we may also be glorified together. (Romans 8:17)"*



Position In Christ

How does being adopted (taken) out of the world change hearts and lives?

1. One is given over to a new expectancy, for God to reveal all His sons (and daughters). Even creation itself waits for this revelation. The children of God persevere as they have placed their hope in the Gospel message shared in "Spirit and Truth". *"But if we hope for what we do not see, we eagerly wait for it with perseverance. (Romans 8:25)"*

2. One hopes because one personally witnesses the work of the Holy Spirit sent from the Son now within them restoring their conscience and will, their redeemed heart into the image of the heart of the Father. *"Now He who searches the hearts knows what the mind of the Spirit is, because He makes intercession for the saints according to the will of God. (Romans 8:27)"*

3. One sees Christ constantly making intercession for the saints through His shed blood so that all things will work together in love for those called according to God's purpose (Romans 8:28)

4. One rests in the knowledge that God who has placed us into His household has begun a good work in them through God's loyal love and commitment to seeing the completion of His work of faith in the lives of His children. *"Those whom God is revealing: He foreknew, He predestined to be transformed into the likeness of His Son, He calls them, He justifies them and He glorifies them as they are perfectly joined into and become members of the body of Christ. (Romans 8:29-30)"*

Section Conclusion:

>>>Like the Lord Jesus we proclaim “Grace, grace to it” as the challenges of this life come our way. This is the way of the Lord that leads to His Truth in becoming the righteousness of God manifested with the “Kingdom of Heaven” on earth. *“For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us. (Romans 8:18)”*

>>>God’s children who sit around His table that He has prepared in the midst of His enemies have been awarded the lion’s share of the same future and inheritance of Christ (eternity/resurrection and to reign over “sin and death”). Adoption through the “love of God” has done this and changed their heart cries for ALL in this world to be redeemed by King Jesus.

13. Letting the Love of God Have Full Access (Romans 8:31-39)

Section Focus:

>>> Jesus in the Father's love modelled for us the perfect life of faith; a life where heavenly, agape love has full access to one's heart, mind and body. In doing so, Jesus lived both a righteous life and a life of letting the "love of God" direct one's heart.

>>>The teaching of Romans has gone to great lengths to detail the work of God the Father providing an eternal covenant to cover His children's sin through faith. Now this section emphasizes the power of God's love for ALL who surrender their heart to Jesus.

>>>In God's "love and power", Paul and the early disciples were sent into the world to share the fruit of the "love of Jesus" and the Gospel message even if it meant martyrdom. (Romans 8:36)



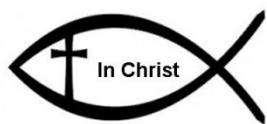
Fog of War

How the "love of Jesus" is the life-changing breakthrough for God's beloved?

1. Unfortunately, the "fog of war" (deceptions of the enemy) still tries to undermine the faithful work of God's children as they go about sharing the "love of Jesus". "Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? *Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? As it is written: "For Your sake we are killed all day long; We are accounted as sheep for the slaughter. (Romans 8:35-36)"*

2. As we go into the ministry of interceding for others through the "love of Jesus", we remember other servants of God like Nehemiah who worked to rebuild the temple in Jerusalem after the Jewish exile to Babylon. Nehemiah had a tool in one hand and a weapon in the other. New Testament believers have the Gospel, the "light, love and life" of Jesus in one hand and the "Sword of the Spirit" in the other hand.

3. The "love of Jesus" has successfully led many to the very gates of hell to intercede for the lives of others. Without a deep understanding of the "love of Jesus" this rarely occurs which is why Paul prayed in another epistle the following: *"that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith; that you, being rooted and grounded in love, may be able to comprehend with all the saints what is the width and length and depth and height— to know the love of Christ which passes knowledge; that you may be filled with all the fullness of God. (Eph. 3:17-19)"*



What do all Christians rest in as they pursue living as God's children born in (and through) the "love of Christ"?

1. As one sees their "new life" in Christ as an opportunity (calling) to live a life that transcends this world and transforms them into the image of the "Resurrected One" (Romans 8:28-30), they should always rest in God's promise to His children of His loyal love for them.

2. They rest in the promises of God such as these three promises Scripture makes based upon God's loyal love and His good purpose in Romans 8:31-34 for us:

1. If God is for us, who can prevent God from giving us all things? As God did not spare the life of His Son for us, He will certainly freely give us the fullness of the life of His Son (all things).
2. No condemnation can be brought against those who trust in this labor of God as they pursue by faith God's work in His elect. It will ALWAYS be God who justifies.
3. God's Son who gave His life, intercedes for us at the right hand of the Father as we struggle in this world where all flesh resists the work of God's redeeming love whether they know God or not.



Position In Christ

Will any trial or test overcome the power of God's love and eternal plan (will)?

1. The power of God's love is tested by: tribulation, distress, persecution, famine, nakedness, peril and violence. Nonetheless, the Spirit which has drawn God's children to Himself now overcomes all these tests through the life-giving power of His love (Christ). *"Yet in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us. (Romans 8:37)"*

2. No matter what wrong or injustice our eyes may witness in this life, our faith in Christ positions us to God's loyal love with a hope that sees the Lord's reign overcoming ALL these injustices with these words spoken in Rev. 21:5 at the second resurrection as He has returned, *"Then He who sat on the throne said, "Behold, I make all things new. (Rev. 21:5)"*

Section Conclusion:

>>>Therefore, brethren let the love of Christ have full access to your heart and be persuaded like the Apostle Paul who spoke these words. *"For I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels nor principalities nor powers, nor things present nor things to come, nor height nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord. (Romans 8:38-39)"*

14. Carrying the Gospel Seed of Christ (Romans 9)

Section Focus:

>>>When we read the story of Isaac in Genesis, the first child of God's seed of faith (faithfulness to His covenant), we don't see a story that details a life filled with many of the types of encounters with God that his father had. Rather, we observe the story of a life that passes on the faith of his father to the next generation.

>>>In Christ, God's children of faith carry His "Spirit of Truth" to the next generation, *"who are Israelites, to whom pertain the adoption, the glory, the covenants, the giving of the law, the service of God, and the promises; of whom are the fathers and from whom, according to the flesh, Christ came, who is over all, the eternally blessed God. Amen. (Romans 9:4-5)"*



How does God's Seed that believers carry differ from the seed of works?

>>>It's a Seed of God's faithfulness, mercy and worth alone of being glorified that is being sown in all of creation! No other faithfulness to truth or life coming from a seed can bring forth eternal blessings. No other mercy or life coming from a seed can keep one secure in eternal life. No other glory or life coming from a seed can come close to God's promise, guarantee for His children. The Gospel Seed that His children carry is NOT just a seed of the flesh but a SEED of God's Spirit.

>>>God's Seed leads His children to be obedient carriers, believers in the promise contained within it. In Genesis 22, we see Isaac obediently go with his father Abraham to the sacrifice on Mount Moriah, whether he knew he was the sacrifice or not. In Genesis 24, we see Isaac obey his father as he sought after a bride (Rebekah) from outside of the Canaanite land, a land that would be transformed by God's Seed (Promise) being passed between generations. Knowing and trusting in God's promise is at the core of the Seed. "I will call them My people, who were not My people, And her beloved, who was not beloved." "And it shall come to pass in the place where it was said to them, 'You are not My people,' There they shall be called sons of the living God." (Romans 9:25-26)

>>>The holiness of the God's Seed secured (covered) in "the righteousness of Christ" has the power through the blood of Jesus to keeps God's children from becoming like Sodom and Gomorrah. 'And as Isaiah said before: "Unless the Lord of Sabaoth had left us a seed, We would have become like Sodom, And we would have been made like Gomorrah. (Romans 9:29)"' Therefore, ALL God's children will ALWAYS be total dependence on the holy life that is born from His Seed. The sinless life of Jesus and His holy sacrifice for sin is the uncorruptible life that is born from God's Seed.



Position In Christ

How is God's positioning of his children to carry His "mind and heart" boggling Seed?

>>>It leads God's children to revere Him and surrender their life to Him as they grow in the revelation (understanding) of the awesome position that God has given His children. It is one of being guided by God to share His "compassion and mercy" to the world. 'For He says to Moses, "I will have mercy on whomever I will have mercy, and I will have compassion on whomever I will have compassion." So then it is not of him who wills, nor of him who runs, but of God who shows mercy. (Romans 9:15-16)'

>>>As God's endures with MUCH longsuffering holds back His wrath (judgment of sin) so that the riches of His glory (mercy) might be shared with ALL nations and people. His children are led to live the same way as they carry His Seed. *"What if God, wanting to show His wrath and to make His power known, endured with much longsuffering the vessels of wrath prepared for destruction, and that He might make known the riches of His glory on the vessels of mercy, which He had prepared beforehand for glory, even us whom He called, not of the Jews only, but also of the Gentiles? (Romans 9:22-24)"* Therefore, God's children should look to His call of longsuffering as being a much greater calling than one of a calling of which ones to distribute punishment to. God, the Ancient of Days who sees all, is a much better judge than humanity with their temporary and limited lives.

Section Conclusion:

>>> *As it is written: "Behold, I lay in Zion a stumbling stone and rock of offense, And whoever believes on Him will not be put to shame." (Romans 9:33)* The Seed must be received and carried by ALL who desire the gift of eternal life in the "Father and Son".

>>>The surrender of one's sin life to God, initiates the planting of God's Seed in His children. It is the Seed that empowers God's children to carry "faith in Jesus" forever in their hearts. The Gospel is NOT just another self-improvement message for humanity. Rather, it's the "life and power" behind a one-of-a-kind, eternal journey of faith for ALL who carry the "Seed of Christ".

15. Sowing the “Good Seed”, the Righteousness of Christ (Romans 10)

Section Focus:

>>>When we sow the Seed of the “Righteous Life of Christ”, we are sowing the faithfulness of Jesus Christ, who came to save the world through Himself (the fullness of God’s “grace and truth”) despite humanity’s fallen state (Romans 3:23, 5:8). Paul wrote this about the religious people who thought they had no sin to repent of, *“All day long I have stretched out My hands to a disobedient and contrary people. (Romans 10:21)”*

>>>This work of sowing the “Good Seed” ALWAYS lifts up the “Righteousness of Christ” and the mercy of God from the highest mountains to the lowest valleys. It’s NOT about an individual or nation’s faithfulness to God’s Word being declared. Rather, one sows the Lord’s “Seed of Righteousness” as one graciously speaks of the perfect (holy) “light, love and life” of His Son. As it is sown many see the Lord’s hands stretched out and nailed to the cross for them to take hold so that He can be made in the righteous image of Christ (Gen 1:26), the image of God’s perfect love (John 3:16-17).

“Christ is the end (culmination) of the law for righteousness to everyone who believes. (Romans 10:4)”



What life-giving work is the “righteousness of Christ” and the Lord’s radical love doing as one sows the “Good Seed”?

1. The “righteous heart and radical love” of God calls ALL to take hold of the Lord’s hands stretched out on the cross, His greatest and final act of “love and obedience” for humanity. *“Greater love has no one than this, than to lay down one’s life for his friends. (John 15:13)”*
2. In “truth and love” God declares through the witness of His children of faith (in Christ) that Christ is the answer so all will turn to God’s “Faithful One” *(Romans 10:4)”*
3. The “Good Seed”, Gospel life is for ALL, both “Jew and Gentile” to receive through repentance, confession of sin and receiving God’s “Faithful One” as they receive the Risen Christ. *“If you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. (Romans 10:9)”* When God raised Jesus from the dead, He confirmed the need for ALL to be saved through His Son Jesus Christ (John 6:40).
4. The “Spirit and Truth”, “Good Seed” of God, is implanted in one’s heart through grace by faith as one responds to His invitation to be a new creation, *“For whoever calls on the name of the LORD shall be saved. (Romans 10:13)”* Receiving the “righteousness of Christ” in “Spirit and Truth” makes one new.



Position In Christ

How do believers position their hears to plant and water the “Good Seed”?

1. Jesus has said *“My sheep know my voice, they listen and follow me and I will lead them to eternal life. (John 10:28)”* Calling on the name of the Lord and following the direction of His voice (Spirit and Truth) leads one to tell others about their journey to eternal life. Since Christ is interceding for God’s people on His “Throne of Grace”, we can go directly to Him in prayer and during one’s daily activities.

2. Having a thankful heart for the gift of the Lord's "love and righteous life" invites God's presence and power to move in their life. One needs God's Light to shine the Light into darkness. One understands that their purpose is centered around being a witness (light). Nehemiah was a witness who worked to rebuild God's Temple and "Kingdom of Israel" 70 years after the Jewish exile. He labored with a tool in one hand and a weapon in the other. Similarly, believers labor nowadays to build God's Temple (body of Christ) and "Kingdom of Heaven" by using the tool of God's "Good News (Truth)" and wielding the weapon of God's "presence and power (Spirit of Christ)" in this world (Nehemiah 8:10, Zech. 4:6).

3. *"How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the gospel of peace, who bring glad tidings of good things! (Romans 10:15)"* All made new in Christ are born into the highest calling, to give witness, to sow the "Good Seed" of righteousness into darkened hearts. *"They overcame him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony, and they did not love their lives to the death. (Rev. 12:11)"*

Section Conclusion:

>>> *'For Isaiah says, "Lord, who has believed our report?" So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God. (Romans 10:16-17)'* If we don't share the "Good News (Word)", who will and how will the world be saved through God's "Kingdom of Heaven" coming to earth?

>>>The qualification for sowing the "Good Seed" is to trust in Christ (Rom. 10:9). There are many ways to proclaim the Gospel as the love of Christ resides in one's heart. Sometimes, one sows and other times one waters the "Good Seed" of the Gospel. This is accomplished as one carries the Gospel (Living Word) and walks with the Holy Spirit which empowers believers 😊

16. Growing in the Gospel so its Light Shines from Within (Romans 12)

Section Focus:

>>>As God's children continue to grow in the grace of God found in His Gospel (Word of Life), they shine a bright light upon "the good and acceptable and perfect will of God".

>>>Jesus is the eternal "Light of the World". When the "Tabernacle of Christ", "Light of Christ" enters one's heart, it illuminates one's "heart and mind" with God's "thoughts and will". One's continuing fellowship in/with the "Tabernacle of Christ" transforms one's "thinking and will" from being consumed by sin to being consumed by the eternal sufficiency of God's Grace. Following the Lord's "Way of Grace" becomes one's living sacrifice as their lives give witness to the freedom won through the victory of Christ at the cross over "sin and death".

"Therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service. And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God. (Romans 12:1-2)"



Position In Christ

How does the Gospel (Word of Life) change the position of one's heart in this life?

The Gospel leads one to abhor evil (sin) and cling to what is good (Grace) as follows:

1. To approach one another with brotherly love and honoring their God-given life (Romans 12:10)
2. To be instruments of Grace that: remain focused; fervent in spirit; rejoice in hope; patient during trials and continue steadfastly in prayer (Romans 12:11-12)
3. To distribute to the needs of the saints and be drawn to hospitality (Romans 12:13)
4. To bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse. (Romans 12:14)
5. To rejoice with those who rejoice, and weep with those who weep (Romans 12:15)
6. To be of the same mind towards one another NOT setting one's mind on special privilege. Rather, upon associating with others in humility (Romans 12:16)
7. To repay no one evil for evil and to show preference for the good things before all. (Romans 12:17)
8. If it is possible, as much as depends on you, to live peaceably with all men (Romans 12:18)
9. To not avenge oneself, but rather to give place for God's judgment (Romans 12:19)
10. To even love one's enemy; if your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him a drink (Romans 12:20).

The Gospel positions one's heart and life to not be overcome by evil but rather to overcome evil with good. (Romans 12:21)

Section Conclusion:

>>>When one receives Christ what life has God yoked them to? *“And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth... And of His fullness we have all received, and grace for grace. (John 1:14,16)”* God’s children have been given grace to distribute it. *“Freely you have received, freely give (Matt. 10:8)”*

>>>In the sermon of the Mount Jesus said, *“Blessed are the pure in heart for they shall see God and blessed are the peacemakers for they shall be called sons (daughters) of God (Matt. 5:8-9)”*. The purity of the heart of Christ and His desire to see all obtain peace with God led Him to value others greater than himself. This is the Christian Way all followers of Christ are growing in the knowledge of.

Training Conclusion – Live as Representatives of the “Kingdom of Heaven” Coming to Earth

“For if we live, we live to the Lord; and if we die, we die to the Lord.

Therefore, whether we live or die, we are the Lord’s.

*For to this end Christ died and rose and lived again,
that He might be Lord of both the dead and the living...*

*Therefore do not let your good be spoken of as evil;
for the kingdom of God is not eating and drinking,
but righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit.*

*For he who serves Christ in these things is acceptable to God
and approved by men.*

*Therefore, let us pursue the things which make for peace
and the things by which one may edify another.
(Romans 14:8-9,16-19)”*