

S W R G  
USERS' *Manual*

TRAIN TO WIN  
Shatter the Deception

Intelligent Design for Christ-Centered Curriculum Transformation in the Schools  
IDEEEST  
Christian Education



Second 8th Week Ministries

# SWRG USERS' MANUAL

WRITTEN BY

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*Offered by Second 8<sup>th</sup> Week® Ministries*

God's Intelligent Design for Christ-Centered Spiritual Transformation® (IDCCST®) Christian curriculum

Intelligent Design for Christ-Centered Spiritual Transformation in the Soul®  
**I D C C S T**®

# CONTENTS

Introduction.....	6
How to Use the Spiritual Workout Results Guide.....	7
Why Keep a Reflection Book.....	7
The Tools of the Covenant.....	8
A Word About Consistency.....	9
Revelation.....	10
Resistance.....	11
Exercise Your Faith Muscle.....	12
The Inclination of Man.....	13
The 18 Inclinations of Man.....	14
8 Steps To Building New Shields.....	15
How God Dismantles Our Need for Validation.....	16
The Flesh.....	17
The Deceiver Provokes a Response.....	17
The 5 Facets of the Flesh.....	17
The Knowledge of This World.....	18
The Soul Works With Knowledge.....	19
The Signature of the Soul.....	21
The God-Code.....	22
The Satisfaction the God-Code Offers.....	23
God Addresses the Need to Find Completion in the Flesh.....	23
The Moral Code.....	24
The Moral Code is Not the Righteousness of Christ.....	24
Challenge Your Comfort Zone.....	25
The Fruits of Iniquity.....	26
Our Experience in the Kingdom of Darkness Produced the Fruits of Darkness.....	26
Who is Challenging the Mind, the Moral Code or God?.....	27
Identify the Yoke.....	29
How to Identify the Yoke of the Flesh we are to Put Off.....	30
Discern the Voice You Hear.....	30
Choice.....	32
Faith is a Wonderful Fellowship With God.....	32
Do You Struggle in the Faith?.....	33
Choose Faith.....	34
Reflection.....	35
Plan Your Routine to Keep Your Faith Mobile.....	36
Plan Ahead.....	36

## SPIRITUAL WORKOUT MANUAL

Good Habits are Hard to Make and Bad Habits Are Hard to Break.....	37
Keep Your Vessel Full of Faith .....	37
Don't Cast Away Your Confidence.....	38
Grace is a Power God Issues Towards Those Who Believe.....	39
Reward .....	40
The 9 Operations of God in Grace.....	40
Goals .....	42
God's Purpose is the Same for Each of us.....	42
Don't Allow the Flesh to Derail Your Faith.....	42
Motivation.....	43
Understanding Satan's Inroads through Themistic Law.....	44
Themistic Law Has a Universal Presence in Every Culture.....	44
When Life Centers on Themistic Law Rather Than the Covenant of Jesus Christ.....	44
The Motivating Force .....	45
The Instincts for Survival Are the Bedrock of Themistic Law.....	46
Learn How to Reflect.....	46
The Bed Rock of Your Faith -- Reflection .....	47
Reflection Starts With Asking the Right Questions .....	48
What to do When Reflection is Challenged.....	49
Watch Your Conversation.....	50
Reflection is a Lifestyle .....	52
Exercise in Reflection.....	52
Offer Spiritual Sacrifices of Prophecy to God.....	53

## SPIRITUAL WORKOUT MANUAL

Dear Friend,

Can you believe, that in such a short time, you'll be understanding practically how to live a life of victory, to overcome yourself, the world, and the devil? This manual is all about helping you take the steps necessary to live the life of Christ every day, in every circumstance, and to gain the joy of seeing God doing a work in your heart.

I often come back to something the Lord uses to strengthen my faith in times of tribulation. One of the most helpful is an excerpt from one of Apostle Eric's audio transcripts. It's very fitting for this manual because it has so much to do with the hope our heavenly Father sets before us to prepare us for every spiritual workout, and it provides the bigger picture we need to stay focused. I pray the words Apostle Eric shares from our Savior's heart will touch yours.

A form of salvation is given by knowledge, which we choose to accept, to have an influence over us. The saving knowledge is in Christ. We live by that knowledge and it is a different form of knowledge than the world. Those who are not in the light live by instinct and the intuitive voice, following the rhythm of their own nature. We live by the saving knowledge of Christ and the voice of God's grace.

There is advancement with the knowledge of God, but it must be with faith; for faith causes the soul to progress so that we are increasing and abounding in all utterance, knowledge, and charity. We are abounding, profiting by this knowledge.

Because God placed the saving knowledge in Christ, He will challenge the habit of man to set the record of his own soul as the pattern for faith. When we accept the pattern of Christ for our faith then our whole perspective changes from that of survival to that of faith; from that of lowness to that of greatness; from that which is of the peace and security of temporal things to the peace and security of eternal things.

The animal kingdom labors with the signature, with the things God set within them regarding the force of the flesh, but we are living by the things of the Spirit, the things of the covenant, which is the force of God, the power of God.

The rest of the Spirit has to do with the power of Christ, whereas the rest of nature has to do with resolving the conflict of loss. The natural man always addresses the loss. Always addresses the conflict of the conscience, trying to resolve the conflict that exists in the conscience because of false knowledge. Trying to bring peace through resolve. But peace only comes through Christ.

With each cycle of growth we enter into rest, which means that we cease laboring with that of the lower nature. And by ceasing to labor with the lower nature we enter into His rest of covenant, the rest of faith. Now we are being made free from doubt.

False knowledge ruins your faith because it works doubt. How does false knowledge work doubt? Because you're measuring the things of the Spirit world with the prejudice and experiences and expectation of the physical world. You're measuring the truth of God by a lie. ~Apostle Eric

Finally, to each of you as you embark on this final journey of faith, remember that while faith is simple to understand and simple to apply, it is a journey that is all about endurance. You may often feel that what you are up against is too much to bear, but remember that you are never alone. Keep the tokens of the Spirit close to you and Jesus will never fail you, for He has gone before you to show you the way.

~Teacher Maria

## Introduction

This Users' Manual is your *Step-by-Step Guide* to mastering spiritual growth, teaching you how to use the Spiritual Workout Results Guide (SWRG) as a daily planner to track your growth cycles.

In addition, we want this manual to be your quick-reference guide to the major arteries of faith, so we put a number of valuable tools at your fingertips, keeping you fully-equipped to stay sharp throughout your cycle.

All the tools you need to reach your daily spiritual goals are in this one manual. They have been selected for their relevance to spiritual growth and highly practical nature. The manual's clear presentation and layout combined with practical teaching are designed to help you experience how rewarding it is to grow in the grace of God and to glorify God with the fruit that each cycle brings forth to Him.

Providing clear and user-friendly guidance on all aspects of faith, discernment, and the operative power of God, this manual is the first truly comprehensive guide to spiritual warfare. It gives realistic advice about coping with your cycles of growth, and leads you through the wonderful processes of daily transformation, showing you how to use the divine power for the divine nature.

### Scripture:

According as his *divine power* hath given unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of him that hath called us to glory and virtue:

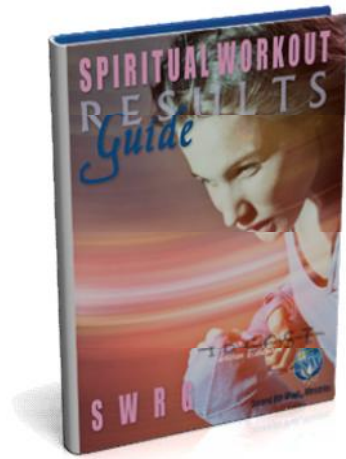
Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises: that by these ye might be partakers of the *divine nature*, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust.

~2 Peter 1:3-4

## How to Use the Spiritual Workout Results Guide

*Use the link to download your free copy on our site.*

<http://s8wministries.org/specialty-pdf/spiritual-workout-results-guide.pdf>



The SWRG is designed to be used as a weekly guide to spiritual growth. You may either print a new copy weekly or use it as a template to work from a planner of your choice. You'll want to purchase a planner that gives you the amount of space needed to record your results.

Let's begin. We'll work from the top of the SWRG down. You'll first of all want to place your name on the appropriate line and select the dates for the week you are recording your results.

As the SWRG indicates, we are working through the week in columns, beginning with Sunday and working through Saturday.

You're being asked to work down the column to first record the results of your labor with the tools of Christ, to then identify the revelation received, to then identify when faith moves into resistance, to identify the inclination of man, the facet of the flesh manifesting, the yoke you are carrying, and the choice you are making. You are asked to record your reflections, God's reward, your goals, and to identify the motivation.

Keep in mind that your SWRG works in tandem with your Reflection Book. So let's briefly talk about what a Reflection Book is.

### Why Keep a Reflection Book

Apostle Eric's reflection books are 4 thick volumes, covering a period of 41 years since his conversion in 1971. He consistently recorded the revelations he received from God through words of knowledge, dreams, and visions. My own reflection books covers 39 years since my conversion in 1973.

The ability to go back into my reflection book to trace my fingers over God's communication to me over the years continues to be a rewarding and necessary experience. I can see how faithful God is. He has never ceased to keep His promise to give substance to my hope, to give me the knowledge to reciprocate to Him, to complete each cycle of growth by forming Christ in me. The deep and rewarding relationship that God allows us to have with Him is confirmed over and over again reminding me of the power of grace to keep me tethered to Him.

You too will be amazed at the faithfulness of our Father in heaven to communicate Christ to you. You'll want to record the date and type of revelation ( a word of knowledge, a dream, vision, understanding God helped you with, a gift of the Spirit, or tangible experience of God's presence such as strong peace or the feeling of heat in your chest or other area on your body). God ties these to your growth cycle. As you begin to record these experiences with God's voice (His

grace) you can go back to your Reflection Book over and over again to reflect on the revelation to reflect and draw strength from your heavenly Father in times of need.

## The Tools of the Covenant

Tool	
P	1hour
P	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
P	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 6
BR	4 chapters

Your Spiritual Workout Results Guide begins with the tools of the covenant. This section is designed for recording your workout with the top 3 tools of the covenant: Prayer, Preaching, and Prophecy.

You have an opportunity here to record your daily prayer times. You are encouraged to pray in tongues for an hour a day. Your spiritual growth cycle begins with praying in tongues because that is the vital tool of intercession whereby the Spirit makes intercession for you (Romans 8:26-29).

Praying in tongues also builds you up in the faith because God assigned this tool for your faith to labor with and He reciprocates with peace to edify you (Jude 1:20). Next, check the box for listening to any of the audio or video preaching by Apostle Eric vonAnderseck, Apostle John Welty, or any of the ministers of Second 8<sup>th</sup> Week Ministries. Your links to easy access:

Apostle Eric: <http://www.s8wministries.org/audios.php?id=30>

Apostle John: <http://www.apostlejohnwelty.com/search/label/Videos>

In addition, you may check the box to indicate that you have offered spiritual sacrifices of prophecy to God that day. If you would like to jot down the number of sacrifices next to the box you may do so, but remember this is not a competition, so be honest. It's great to see your consistency from day to day! If you start with 6 increase them to 12 and so on.

You are encouraged to keep a separate notebook to record your spiritual sacrifices of prophecy that you offer to God each day. You will learn very quickly to come back to these prophecies in times of resistance to refuel your faith. Your priesthood<sup>1</sup> is the vital artery of faith. Keep prayer going and keep your spiritual sacrifices of prophecy going. These are your daily devotions. You'll see what I mean once you make this a part of your daily routine. You'll understand the importance of building the altar of Christ in the soul<sup>2</sup>.

Finally, a space is reserved for you to record your Bible Reading (BR). Simply record the number of chapters or verses you read. It's important to read the Bible every day. I want to also encourage you to go back to the lessons you are studying on our site to continue to draw from them. Each time you do, the Holy Spirit will bring out more for you to build your understanding. Take this understanding with you when you read the Bible and the verses will open up to you like never before.

**Direct link to all our free online courses:** <http://www.s8wministries.org/courses.php?>

<sup>1</sup> Study the entire course Priesthood and Prophecy: <http://www.s8wministries.org/course.php?id=11>

<sup>2</sup> Study the entire course The Altar of Christ: <http://www.s8wministries.org/course.php?id=7>



## A Word About Consistency

You will often hear Apostle Eric talk about the importance of the 3 Cs. He is speaking of the consistency, conformity, and the communication of your faith. Let me explain these to you so that you will understand the importance of recording your spiritual workout with the tools of Christ.

### Consistency

Describes our labor of faith with the tools of Christ's covenant. When the apostles admonished believers to be "steadfast" in the faith they were speaking of being consist in our activity of faith. Each day God has assigned to us the same activity of faith that pleases Him. Consistency with the tools of Christ's covenant is how we walk in cadence with God. God set the pattern for His Spirit to engage you and your activity of faith sets the pattern of the Spirit for the fulfillment of your joy.

Prayer in tongues is the most important tool of the covenant as Jesus said, "What, could ye not watch with me one hour?" (Mt.26:40). Consistency in prayer means to dedicate an hour a day to praying in tongues. We are also being consistent with all the tools of the covenant. This yields the fruits of righteousness. What we experience:

- God daily gives substance to our hope of knowing Him.
- Our understanding comes full circle as we experience regeneration and the renewing of the mind.
- We receive strength as grace is daily issued to our soul.
- As we build, we receive grace for our stewardship.

### Conformity

Describes our labor of faith with Jesus' truth. Conforming to His truth takes place when we study His doctrine as taught by living apostles. When the apostles admonished believers to be "diligent" in the faith they had in mind their conformity to truth as Paul wrote, "And we desire that every one of you do shew the same diligence to the full assurance of hope unto the end" (Hebrews 6:11). Our perspective changes to God's perspective as He daily writes His commandments of Grace and Truth within the heart. God assigned our faith to be joined to His truth that we may experience:

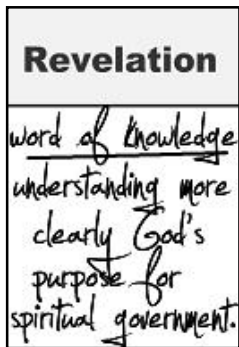
- Confidence of faith as we observe God's faithfulness to His covenant.
- Assurance of God overseeing our faith for our spiritual growth.
- Assurance of God overseeing every detail of our lives.
- Our soul is anchored to His throne of grace.

### Communication

Describes our labor of faith to communicate charity to the brethren. This charity is not as the world gives, but as God gives. In other words, charity is not "Acts of Random Kindness" rather it is the expression of Christ from the foundation of truth. God assigned our faith to be joined to the altar of Christ to be expressed through our spiritual sacrifices of prophecy. The apostles admonished the saints to communicate the work of Christ, "That the communication of thy faith may become effectual by the acknowledging of every good thing which is in you in Christ Jesus" (Philemon 1:6). Therefore we experience:

- Christ is our refuge: He daily covers us with His grace.
- Our reciprocation to God is "in kind": Our gifts of faith mirror Christ.
- Our labor of faith with the communication of charity brings our soul into rest.
- We abound in faith, in love, in joy, in peace, and in hope as we give.

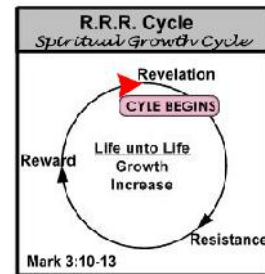
## Revelation



Here is where you will record the manifold graces of God you receive on a daily basis. Whether a dream, vision, or word of knowledge, God is opening your understanding of Christ. This daily ministration of grace to you is how God is nurturing your faith. So you'll want to pay attention to these and jot them down.

We mentioned the need of a Reflection Book in tandem with your SWRG earlier. Although a space is provided in the SWRG to jot down a short note, you'll want to also record further reflections, or dream symbols, visions, and understanding God opens to you based on the record of Christ.

We said that your spiritual growth cycle begins with praying in tongues because that is the vital tool of intercession whereby the Spirit makes intercession for you. But, for the purpose of our chart to the right, your growth cycle begins with revelation, so that's another important reason to journal it. You'll want to come back to it to reflect on God's revelation to you to gain more understanding and strength. Training in proper reflection is found on page \_\_\_\_\_ of this manual.



We clearly see the *pattern* God set for our faith in Jesus. He is our trail blazer. Just as the trial of Jesus' faith began with revelation, so does your spiritual growth cycle begin with "revelation." What is revelation? God declared with a physical voice that could be heard by all, "This is My beloved Son in whom I am well pleased," thus showing us that His voice reveals Jesus Christ. The still small voice of grace (which is louder than a trumpet) now speaks in the language of the covenant that we might share in God's mind, understand His plan of redemption, and stand in His perspective. All revelation is a declaration of Jesus Christ and God's plan through Him.

*Revelation* and *grace* are two words that go hand in hand. When you are talking about grace you're talking about revelation and when you're talking about revelation, you're talking about the grace of God. They are the same thing and must necessarily be linked in your mind. The moment they are separated, revelation becomes something the flesh works for. God's plan is to daily reveal Christ to you.

**Clarification:** Many people ask me to clarify to them how to receive the revelation of God. I do not mean that we are to meditate on scripture until it *becomes* a revelation. That is the wrong way. I am also not speaking about *seeking* a revelation for your life, your job, or whatever. I am speaking to you about Jesus Christ. I am not speaking to you about your life. Don't worry, or feel condemned if you get the two confused at first. It is easy to do that. God designed your daily growth cycles to teach you these distinctions so that you can walk with Him and receive all His spiritual blessings.

Scripture: "He that hath my commandments, and keepeth them, he it is that loveth me: and he that loveth me shall be loved of my Father, and I will love him, and will manifest myself to him."

~ John 14:21

## Resistance



There are lots of ways to identify when your cycle moves into resistance. This section of your SWRG allows you to identify the emotion(s) that come into play.

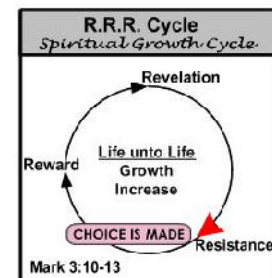
What I want you to do is scroll through those cute guys listed in your SWRG: Are you experiencing low self esteem, anger, or frustration? Are you sad, do you feel hopeless, fearful? Do you have thoughts of suspicion rolling around in your head? The emotion is important to identify because you are going to next identify the inclination of man tied to the emotion.

You might not get this right away, but you will in time, that the emotion is not what God is targeting or challenging for healing, but rather the inclination of man. The emotions change when we allow God to challenge the natural rhythms of the inclination of man. You'll see this played out in your reflections.

Your life coach, the Holy Spirit, isn't going to be speaking to you about your emotions, but speaking to you about Jesus Christ. As you reflect on the daily issuance of grace from your life coach, He is bringing you into conformity to Christ to communicate Him. The results of your spiritual workout can easily be tracked by tracking the movement of your growth cycle from revelation, to resistance, to reward.

I get asked about resistance all the time, and it is by far the most requested spiritual warfare topic. This is understandable as we consider that the challenge to your faith is perceived when you are in the resistance movement of the spiritual cycle of growth.

This is when God sets a scenario for your overcoming and fruit bearing in the name of Jesus. This is when it is so important to see resistance as an *opportunity* to make the choice of faith.



Resistance is about turning on your discernment; resistance is about seeing opportunities for growth and increase, so it is important to recognize the challenge by which God is addressing the fruits of iniquity Satan nurtures that are now being addressed for healing. No matter what God is addressing for healing you are going to overcome these 3 things: yourself, the world, and the devil.

***To overcome yourself*** . . . means to overcome the 18 inclinations of man and the natural appetite of the 5 facets of the flesh and the desire of the aspiration to find a Christ-likeness in the flesh. You are overcoming the deep seated thinking patterns the devil uses to bring you into bondage. The hardest thing is to overcome is yourself because we are our own worst enemy.

“For he that soweth to his flesh shall of the flesh reap corruption; but he that soweth to the Spirit shall of the Spirit reap life everlasting.” ~Galatians 6:8

***To overcome the world*** . . . means to overcome the opportunities the Deceiver offers you to gain the flattery of the world that feeds and strengthens the Jezebel yoke<sup>3</sup>.

<sup>3</sup> Learn more about the Jezebel Yoke. Free lesson gives amazing insights: [www.s8wministries.org/lesson.php?id=119&lesson=aspiration---the-jezebel-yoke](http://www.s8wministries.org/lesson.php?id=119&lesson=aspiration---the-jezebel-yoke)

“But God forbid that I should glory, save in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom the world is crucified unto me, and I unto the world.” ~ *Galatians 6:14*

***To overcome the devil.*** . . . means that you must overcome Satan’s perception and his counterfeits Jesus Christ. You’re going to overcome the devil by gaining knowledge on how the true gospel works so that you are empowered by knowledge and the Spirit of God to focus your attention upon Christ and His tools.

“Lest Satan should get an advantage of us: for we are not ignorant of his devices.” ~ *2 Corinthians 2:11*

### ***Exercise Your Faith Muscle***

It is helpful to picture faith as a muscle that grows stronger and stronger each time it is exercised. If you have ever committed yourself to an exercise program of any kind, your intention is to gain the prize: better fitness, better shape, better health, or to win the prize in a competition. You do not doubt the rewards of engaging in this activity, so when do you generally experience resistance to the need to exercise?

Typically, resistance is experienced when it is time to start. But once you put on your running shoes and your body is in gear, your muscles take over and you enjoy the benefits of having pushed through the resistance to exercise.

***The same is true spiritually.*** You might resist making that choice of faith when you find yourself in resistance. There’s a natural rhythm that tends to occur when we are in resistance. We tend to revert back to the inclinations of the flesh<sup>4</sup>. There is a memory pattern there with the *flesh muscle* that kicks in (here I am talking about your signature, the God-Cod, and moral code, knowledge of this world, and fruits of iniquity) that was exercised a *lot* before you came into covenant with God and is now resisting this new movement you are asking faith to make with the covenant tools.

If you have worked faith with life situations and signature skills to prove God’s blessings, favor, and love, it will be normal for you to feel as if you have nothing to hang onto at first. You’re asking your faith muscle to work in a different way. Working faith with Jesus’ covenant tools is actually the way God intended for faith to work, but faith was not used in this way before so you may experience a season of awkwardness with it.

But as you give yourself time to acclimate your faith to the rhythm of the Spirit you will experience the true liberty of God and you’ll want to come back to that place of strength and communion with God over and over again. You’ll notice that you’re gaining something different out of the movement that you were not able to discern before because you lacked the experience and thus lacked discernment.

**Scripture:** “Ye are of God, little children, and have overcome them: because greater is he that is in you, than he that is in the world.” ~ *1 John 4:4*

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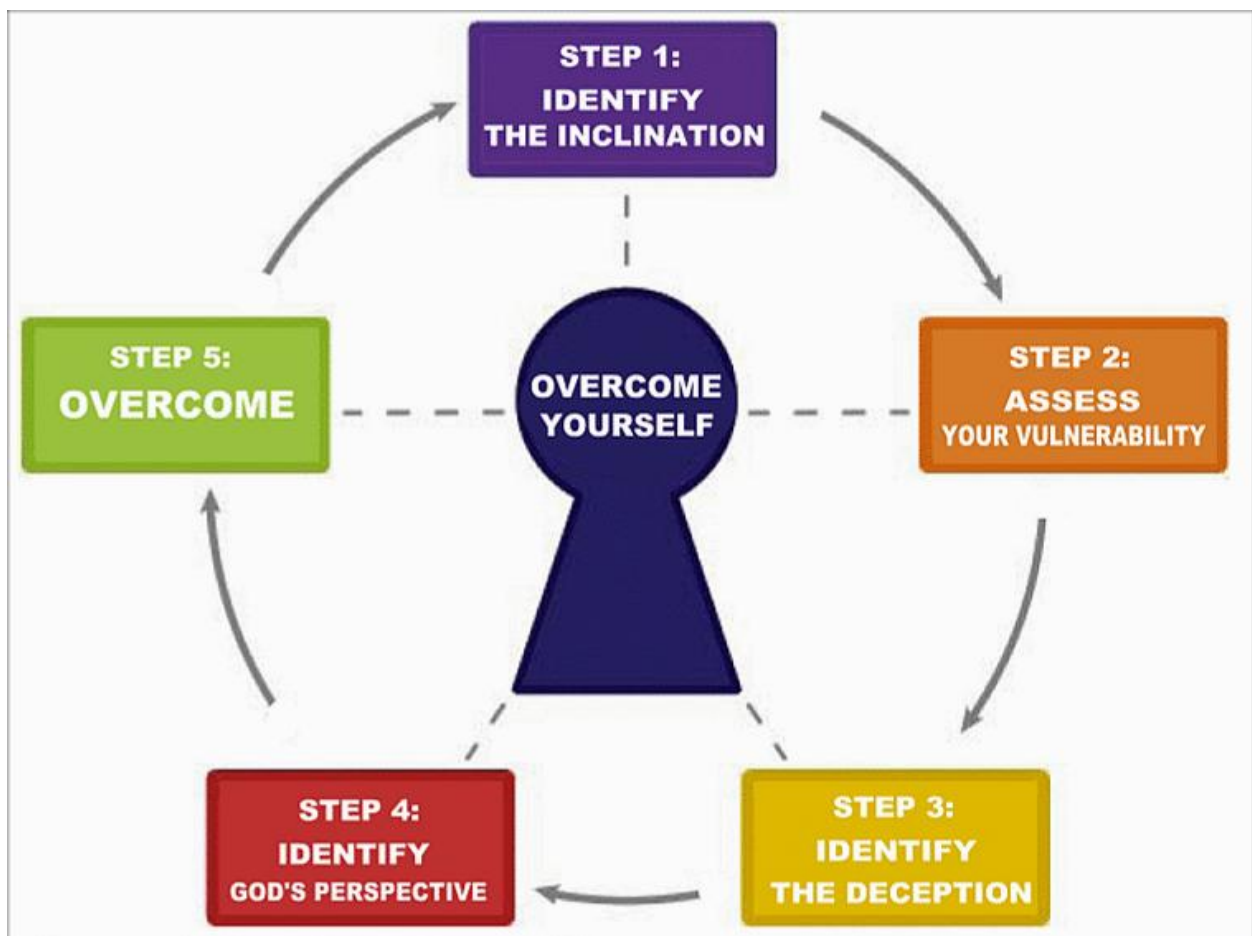
<sup>4</sup> Learn more about how human aspiration works with the inclination of man. A very careful study of the Inclination of Man reveals 18 different inclinations that we deal with on a day-to-day basis.

<http://www.s8wministries.org/lesson.php?id=120&lesson=aspiration--the-jezebel-yoke-part-2>

## The Inclination of Man

<b>INCLINATION</b>
<i>Identify the inclination of man</i>
# <u>3</u>
# <u>8</u>

This segment of your SWRG deals with the first step of your 5-Step Planning Process to overcome yourself, the word, and the devil. In each cycle of growth you will: (1) identify the natural rhythms that tend to occur, how you are *inclined* to follow that rhythm (the inclination of man), (2) assess your vulnerability to the inclination, (3) identify the deception, (4) identify God’s perspective, and (5) overcome. [see chart below]



### *5-Step Planning Process*

The Inclination Workshop curriculum covers 18 separate inclinations of man that we deal with on a day-to-day basis. They are listed below. Why is it important to learn the 18 inclinations of man? Because God called us to overcome. The hardest to overcome is ourselves. We are our own worst enemy. We have to find out why that is.

You are asked to record 1 or 2 inclinations you experience when your cycle moves into resistance. This will help you discern the vulnerability God is addressing for healing.

## ***The 18 Inclinations of Man***

You may want to keep the list of the 18 inclinations of man handy to refer to quickly during the day. The inclination segment of your SWRG given in the example, drew from inclination # 3 “the Inclination to Build Faith on Human Relations” and #8 “The Inclination to Focus on the Wrong Thing.

1. The Inclination of Man – To Emotional Profiling
2. The Inclination of Man – To Distrust God
3. The Inclination of Man – To Build Faith on Human Relationships
4. The Inclination of Man – To Justify the Flesh
5. The Inclination of Man – To Judge
6. The Inclination of Man – To Procrastinate
7. The Inclination of Man – To View Faith From the Perspective of Life
8. The Inclination of Man – To Focus on the Wrong Thing
9. The Inclination of Man – To Build Upon Old Foundations
10. The Inclination of Man – To Trust the Moral Code
11. The Inclination of Man – To Make Straight That Which is Crooked
12. The Inclination of Man – To Measure Ourselves by That Law That Condemns
13. The Inclination of Man – To Please Man
14. The Inclination of Man - to Remain Independent of God
15. The Inclination of Man – To be Discontent
16. The Inclination of Man – To Not Care For the Things of God
17. The Inclination of Man – To Seek Equity in the Flesh
18. The Inclination of Man – To Expect the Worst

Watch out for the Enemy’s familiar trap and avoid it. He will want to turn this into another pajama party where he has you playing another game of self discovery, thus disarming faith. As God opens your eyes to the Enemy’s tricks you’ll never want to go on the journey of self discover again. The end of that journey is more paradoxes, more questions, and more hunger to learn more about yourself. With each cycle of growth God turns you away from yourself and turns you towards Jesus. Wow!! How great is that! I know you’re going to love this!

With each cycle of growth you’ll be able to see where your vulnerabilities are. These vulnerabilities are pretty much the same for everyone. That is why Paul identified temptation as that which is common to man (1 Corinthians 10:13).

Don’t get lost in this discernment. Follow the 5-Step Planning Process to carry the cycle through to overcome yourself. I know, there is nothing more alluring than to find out something about ourselves, but God’s plan is to reveal Christ to us that we might mirror His likeness.

I want to encourage you to take advantage of every opportunity to discern the vulnerability God is addressing for healing. It’s all about applying yourself to the tools of Christ and trusting yourself to the process.

Scripture: “Who gave himself for our sins, that he might **deliver** us from this present evil world, according to the will of God and our Father.” ~*Galatians 1:4*

## ***8 Steps To Building New Shields***

It's great to be able to discern the inclination when it is in action! By following the 5-Step Plan we not only overcome the inclination, but prevent the building of new shields. When the inclination of man is put into practice we will always observe a chain of events taking place:

- |                  |              |                    |                            |
|------------------|--------------|--------------------|----------------------------|
| 1. Vulnerability | 2. Suspicion | 3. Projection      | 4. Aggravation             |
| 5. Inferiority   | 6. Reasoning | 7. Breach of Trust | 8. Building of New Shields |

Let's back up a bit to find out what a "shield is". A shield is like a mask that we wear on the outside to protect what we don't want others to see on the inside. At the core of our vulnerability lies the fact that the soul, separated from God, is naked. When we come to Christ we are clothed in His righteousness and carry the shield of faith to protect us from the fiery darts of the devil.

The Adversary will come and challenge that shield of Christ and he does this by shooting arrows at your vulnerability. He wants you to go through the 8 steps to build new shields of the flesh. Any of the 18 inclinations will make us feel vulnerable, upon which we will feel suspicious as we begin to ask what, when, where, why, and how about this vulnerability (by the way, suspicion is the flesh's way of finding equity). Because we can't find equity in the flesh, the mind next projects with the imagination outcomes that will guarantee our peace and security.



*The*

*8 Steps to Building New Shields*

## ***How God Dismantles Our Need for Validation***

God is giving us new strategies for interpreting validation addiction. We expect that others are going to jump on the same band wagon we are on. But when they do not validate the imagination we have of ourselves, we experience further frustration [here you can make a nice connection to the 3<sup>rd</sup> facet of the flesh, The God-Code, which is the drive of the soul to expect all things to mirror (validate) ourselves. When that is denied we will experience aggravation.]

Following close on the heels of aggravation is inferiority. We are prone to feel a little less of ourselves than we had projected and begin to compare ourselves to others to try to find our footing (boast). The Enemy then has the mind reasoning how to get out of this web of deceit, how to find peace, who is to blame.

As each new piece of evidence is filtered through the many layers of prejudice in the mind a breach of trust is naturally discerned and we build a new shield that is thought to better protect the image we want to sustain. We can understand how shields are constructed of the imagination.

Once one identity is destroyed or breached, it is easy for the mind to construct another one. So then, shields are multi-purposed. They are constructed to hide our vulnerability and to also project an image for others to honor and reciprocate our worth.

God needs to challenge this habit of the mind to build new shields so He goes to the root to challenge the inclination of man. I recommend keeping a copy of the above chain of events to help you identify how the inclination of man leads to these 8 steps to building new shields. There is a natural rhythm that tends to occur when we realize we are vulnerable.

We think that we're building a shield to protect ourselves and identify ourselves, but the process by which new shields are built and maintained tear us down, rather than build us up. The mind is occupied with its own history and need to build a positive self image. Get ready for God to break this destructive cycle, my friend.

When you are born again into God's kingdom, you are born into a covenant relationship with God. He takes ownership of you and gives you the knowledge and tools of Jesus Christ for your God-Code to work with. Believers learn how to *increase* in grace and how the 12 Foundation Stones reflect Christ to find *perfection* in Him alone. Believers learn how to use Jesus' new law of grace and truth to govern them and as a result, they live by another power, the power of God.

### **Ask Yourself: How do I respond to the temptation to build new shields?**

1. Do I follow through on suspicion to finding equity in the flesh or do I follow through on the 5 Step Process of transformation to find equity in Christ?
2. Do I allow God to challenge the way in which my mind builds new shields?
3. Do I respond to feelings of inferiority by building new shields to project a new image of myself, or do I allow God to dismantle the shield by addressing the inclination of man?

Scripture: "Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us."

~Romans 8:37



## The Flesh



The next item on our SWRG is The Flesh. You are asked to identify one or more of the 5 facets of the flesh God is challenging for overcoming. I hope that you find the opportunities to identify the facet of the flesh God is challenging as exciting as I do!

Let us consider for a moment the nature of our creation and the tremendous appetite the soul has to achieve that likeness. Your soul has a natural appetite to complete your signature and a natural appetite for everything the God-Code and moral code promise.

We can understand what human aspiration is. We aspire to achieve that which we are designed to achieve. We assume that when we achieve that which we were designed for then we would experience peace and security. But we don't. Any gratification is temporary. It just gives us a taste of what could be.

You'll find that much "empowerment" teaching heard in Christian circles comes from a person's experience tasting the powers of the flesh—the God-Code, their signature, and moral code. You will find that those who teach about "empowerment" use the flesh to find the likeness of Christ.

For example, you may hear it said that because we are made in the likeness of God we are creative just as God is, or that we have the courage of Jesus Christ to fulfill our signature. Look at where the focus is placed! It is clearly placed on faith fulfilling the design of the flesh! Always remember that you will always get more out of discernment if you think about what your faith is targeting.

God did create you to be like Him, but points out that you cannot please Him by your flesh, by following the instincts of your own nature. God differentiates you from Jesus by giving Jesus Christ for your faith to labor with His knowledge so that by that labor you can be like Him. It is by grace and truth that you take on the likeness of Christ.

### ***The Deceiver Provokes a Response***

The Deceiver is provoking a response from you by using your natural instincts with the 5 facets of the flesh. When I use the word "instinct" I am not saying that you are an animal, but that God wants you to differentiate faith from the "instincts" of the flesh.

Remember, the natural man is the old man, which is the carnal mind, which is the brute beast, which is the flesh. You fall into *a natural rhythm* with the 5 facets of your nature every day. That means that your mind is naturally inclined to flow in rhythm with these 5 facets of your nature. This is why God likens the flesh to a brute beast.

### ***The 5 Facets of the Flesh***

The 5 facets of the flesh are: (1) the knowledge of this world, (2) the signature of the soul, (3) the God-Code, (4) the moral code, and (5) the fruits of iniquity. Let's talk a little bit about each facet to discern the wiles of the devil and get at what the Spirit is assisting you to overcome.

## ***The Knowledge of This World***



Let me make it clear from the start so the Deceiver does not mess with your head. When we talk about God challenging the knowledge of this world<sup>5</sup>, God is not asking you to stop using the knowledge of this world to make a living to function in the flesh. You have to eat and sleep, put a roof over your head, and pay the bills, and make decisions about these things.

To win the battle of the mind and overcome yourself, the world, and the devil, it is necessary to learn the difference between the knowledge of this world and the knowledge of God and how the Enemy works to mold your confidence with the knowledge of this world.

The truth of Jesus Christ carries the pattern of our responsibility to God, while the knowledge of this world carries the pattern of the flesh. The knowledge of this world is the first of the 5 facets of the soul and we are associating the knowledge of this world with SIGHT. The eye of knowledge has to do with our perception, how we think, how we see things. Satan reshaped knowledge with his own perspective.

**The knowledge of this world competes with God.** God created us to reciprocate to Him, but the knowledge of the world is used for reciprocation, robbing the heart of faith as it replaces the eternal work of God with temporal things.

God promised that He would give substance to the soul: fruit, virtue, glory, and the honor of God, filling the soul with heavenly food. False knowledge promises substance for the soul: the honor of man, the pride of life, the spoils of war, leaving the soul void.

**False knowledge promises power**, but the Spirit of God does not rest upon it. False knowledge promises to keep you in rhythm with the world, but the soul needs to be in rhythm with God. The flesh is this earthly perspective that is gained by the knowledge of this world, which carries our own opinion based on our own experiences of life, born of our culture, which is now our prejudice.

Satan's prejudice is sown in our thought patterns, which God challenges in our cycles of growth. If you find yourself dipping into the well of false knowledge you might notice. . .

Thoughts of anger

Thoughts of envy

Thoughts of pride

Thoughts of displeasure at God's will

Thoughts of dissatisfaction with life

Thoughts of being discontent. . .for example. . .

- I lack patience
- I don't feel like God is caring for me.

<sup>5</sup> Refer to the lesson: The Knowledge of This World  
<http://www.http://www.s8wministries.org/lesson.php?id=109&lesson=the-knowledge-of-this-world>

You can place a check mark next to the “Knowledge of the World” to identify these thoughts you are overcoming. These thoughts are identified as the option Satan gives through the imagination. The Enemy wants you to accept this knowledge so that you will live by his testimony. This is Satan’s testimony:

That God is not enough  
That God does not love you  
That your faith is not strong enough  
That God has abandoned you without hope  
That you have to fight for equity in the flesh  
That God wants you to live by the lower nature  
That God’s truth must be supported by your aspiration  
That God’s way will never work  
That God’s truth requires patience that you don’t have  
That God neglected you  
That you are too mixed up to know what real faith is  
That you have to sort this out in your mind

What I want you to do is come back to this section as we talk about the other 4 facets of the flesh and apply them to each facet. If you know how to apply these thought pattern to one, learning the others will not be difficult.

For example, the thoughts of anger, envy or pride, when applied to the signature of the soul works itself in areas where you’re feeling either inadequate in your signature gifts, or using your uniqueness to set yourself apart for the pride and boast of man.

The same thoughts of anger, envy, or pride, when applied to the God-Code of the soul works itself in areas where you’re seeking others to mirror you to validate your worth and this is being denied. Your reaction to that is anger, envy, or pride. That’s the God-Code driving you.

If you find these thoughts dominating you, then increase your reflection on grace. Take this to your heavenly Father in prayer and ask Him to give you more grace to reflect on and then jot your reflections down in a notebook. Do not think these words from God are insignificant. As you learn to discern them, fit them into the mold of Christ, labor with them, and hold onto them, your ability to overcome the thought patterns of the kingdom of darkness will becomes more evident.

### ***The Soul Works With Knowledge***

The human soul was designed by God to be filled with His knowledge, to increase in Him and by Him alone, and to find rest in Him alone. Satan has known this from the beginning and therefore, reshaped knowledge with his own perspective.

Satan challenged God’s knowledge by establishing his own knowledge for Adam to follow. Genesis 3:1 reads, “Now the serpent was more subtle than any beast of the field which the Lord

## SPIRITUAL WORKOUT MANUAL

God had made. And he said unto the woman, Yea, hath God said, Ye shall not eat of every tree of the garden?”

Satan seeks to sever you from God. But God gave us tokens to keep us joined to Him. You will see that in each cycle of growth. Placing a check mark next to the Knowledge of this World means you God is challenging the knowledge of this world for your overcoming.

God calls His children to be separate in their thoughts. Those of faith use the power of their tether to endure for the promise of the adoption and they keep themselves unspotted from the world. We should not expect an increase of faith if we are not laboring with grace. We should not expect to grow in confidence of the tools of the covenant if we neglect them.

God calls His children to learn how to stand in His grace, in agreement with His testimony. As you grow in the power of grace you will find that you will rule over double mindedness and all the snares of the enemy. Satan would have you appease the doubt of your logic and deflects your faith from working with grace. God would have you reason with grace for faith and directs you to be active with His tools.

**Always Remember:** Satan sows tares of false knowledge in the heart and the Holy Ghost uproots these philosophies through each cycle of your growth.

Ask yourself: Is the conscience being appeased by the wisdom of the world or is Christ being confirmed by the record of His truth and the witness of the Spirit? Satan would have you resolve the issues of your conflict by placing your confidence in your ability to labor for equity by the flesh (that which is right and in harmony with your perceptions, or gains the flattery of man).

Ask yourself: Am I trying to resolve the conflict in my mind or am I laboring at the altar of Christ? True equity is by the Spirit and this is why God leads you to the altar of Christ where He gives you tokens to resolve your conflict, teaching you that the promises of Satan are lies and that the conflict ceases when we accept the greater witness of God.

**Always Remember:** Satan observes the empty soul to exploit it for his philosophy, to rival and imitate Christ to reproach God. The believer keeps himself full of faith by laboring at the altar. This is the practice of true religion.

### **Ask Yourself: How do I respond to the knowledge of this world?**

1. Do I accept the Deceiver's thoughts of anger to then accept his testimony that God is not enough?
2. Do I accept the Deceiver's thoughts of envy to then accept his testimony that God has abandoned me?
3. Do I allow the Deceiver to deflect faith from working with grace or do I reason with grace for faith?
4. Can I identify when I am dipping into the well of false knowledge? Do I allow thoughts of lack to dominate me, or do I overcome by holding onto grace to laboring with it?

Scripture: “The Lord is a God of knowledge, and by him actions are weighed.” ~1 Samuel 2:3

## *The Signature of the Soul*



God fashions the signature of the soul<sup>6</sup> as well as the physical body. It is the signature traits, which speak of our talents, gifts, and skills that capture the attention of career counselors and professional development services. God mixes many basic components on His palette in a myriad of ways, like a Master Artist, to achieve the desired combination for each individual's uniqueness. The result is the remarkable human signature, a unique person with many different physical, emotional, and mental capacities/capabilities.

It is not difficult to see where Satan begins to play with the mind, doing your reasoning for you saying, "If God gave you these things, He must have meant for you to use them for Him." We hear this carnal reasoning in thousands of Christian teachings in every Christian denomination. There is nowhere that this mind of Satan has not reached.

Basically, if the Enemy can get you to serve yourself while making you think you are serving God, he has won and you have lost. What you need to realize is that by offering you your signature to use for faith, Satan is teaching you to measure faith to yourself, whereas God measures faith only to Jesus Christ.

To measure faith to yourself in place of Jesus Christ is a mistake. Your mind is held captive to this form of thinking every day and you will feel guilty for it because we can never measure up to God's expectation. Jesus only is the perfect measure of faith. You may check this facet of the flesh when you discern God challenging this deception for your overcoming.

It is important to realize that God did not reveal Himself to us through the self-evident record of our human signature, but rather, He hid Himself and His knowledge within a covenant of faith, within Jesus Christ, where the pride and reason of man could not find Him.

We can see why the flesh (the Signature Map of the soul) is a barrier to grace. When faith follows the rhythm of your signature then it follows the projection of your imagination to build a testimony to self, a memorial of self—your legacy. What will happen when you allow your faith to follow this voice?

When faith follows the voice of your signature, you confuse this voice with the voice of God's grace and mistake the inspiration of your aspirations to be the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, and lastly, you will attempt to express faith in God by expressing your signature.

### **Ask Yourself: How do I respond to the Deceiver targeting my signature skills?**

1. Do I try to use my signature skills to serve God or do I restrict faith to the record of Christ?
2. Do I discern when the Deceiver is trying to get me to remove my expectation from Christ by moving my expectation to my signature skills?
3. Do I recognize feelings of rejection, anger, or suspicion when failing to receive validation and choose instead to reflect the image of Christ?
4. Do I discern the voice of my signature is not the voice of grace?

Scripture: "That your faith should not stand in the wisdom of men, but in the power of God."

*~1 Corinthians 2:5*

<sup>6</sup> Study the entire lesson: <http://s8wministries.org/lesson.php?id=110&lesson=the-signature-map-of-the-soul>

***The God-Code***

The God-Code<sup>7</sup> is this riddle of life, how all of life follows the pattern God has ordered after Himself. No matter who you are, whether African or Chinese or American, German, Italian, French, or Spaniard, etc. we are all working with the same God-Code. People of all races and all cultures throughout time have understood this to be true and have spoken of it in one way or another. This is why people say that "all human beings share certain characteristics".

Wonderfully, the God-Code dictates an appetite to the soul for the very things God designed within it, and the soul instinctively labors to fill these appetites. ..but the end thereof is death. Why? Because the God-Code is prejudiced by the knowledge of Satan and seeks its own (just as Satan did).

There are 12 facets of the God-Code. It's a good idea to keep a copy handy for discernment. It's easy to see how Satan takes these functions of the God-Code to town to confirm the natural man.

1. God sets order to every environment for the purpose of increase.
2. God establishes weight, measure, and rule.
3. God establishes justice.
4. God does things in harmony and equity with Himself.
5. All things orbit around His principle that He may rule.
6. God creates with His imagination.
7. God love to surround Himself with beauty.
8. God increases by His own design.
9. God produces those things that please Him, and nothing is denied Him.
10. God knows no restrictions and no limitations.
11. God can predict outcome and growth and then follows through with a predictable and perfect design by which He demonstrates progression.
12. God established a memorial of Himself in all things—everything mirrors Him.

The rule of one's principle (God-Code facet #3) is difficult to set aside. While God rules by His principle perfectly, man does not. The mind wars against the principles of others, mentally dismantling their logic and reconstructing it for our own gains.

We can see this in how we might reason and defend the things we say and do and pursue. Have you ever tried to set order to someone else's mind to make others see things your way? God will set scenarios to challenge the appetite of the God-Code to

- weigh and measure everything for the purpose of ruling over it. God does not desire us to rule over one another or to rule ourselves. God desires to rule us in love by His grace and truth.

<sup>7</sup> Study the entire lesson: <http://www.s8wministries.org/lesson.php?id=111&lesson=the-god-code>

### ***The Satisfaction the God-Code Offers***

The God-Code offers the soul the satisfaction of bringing to completion its design. The satisfaction (pleasure) of setting order for increase, the satisfaction of establishing our own ways of weighing, measuring, and then ruling, the pleasuring of establishing the parameters of justice, the pleasure of bringing things and people into harmony or equity with ourselves, the pleasure of having all things orbit around our principle, the pleasure of surrounding ourselves with beauty, the pleasure of increasing by our own design.

### ***God Addresses the Need to Find Completion in the Flesh***

God will challenge the habit of the mind to find completion in the flesh. When I say that God “challenges” the habit of the mind I want you to make the connection to God’s work to heal your soul of this influence. A severing has to take place in the mind. This circumcision of the heart is for the purpose of working Christ in you.

We can see where conflict arises and the resulting war in the mind. Each person is trying to find completion through the expression of the God-Code. We can now understand why Jesus directs us to find completion in Him alone: “And ye are complete in him, which is the head of all principality and power.” (Colossians 2:10)

We can also see why the Lord speaks of spiritual fornication (Revelation 2:20), where we join ourselves to the God-Code, signature of the soul, and knowledge of this world for our pleasure (completion) instead of joining our faith to the record of Christ to build God’s house.

If we labor with the flesh (the record of our soul) for the pleasure of building our own house, we are denying Christ the fruit that would come forth from our labor with His knowledge and tools. I want you to see why God needs to challenge the appetite of the God-Code to tame it. When your growth cycle move into resistance you need to be thinking mentally about how the Deceiver is targeting the God-Code and why God wants to redirect your focus.

Understanding the God-Code and how it works is one of the most important discernment tools God is handing you. God will allow the God-Code to be challenged from a variety of different angles. As long as you keep sharp with targeted reflections you’ll overcome every time.

Now I would like you to make the connection between the Journey Mask and your growth cycle. The Journey Mask is the false journey of self discovery that masks the Enemy’s attempt to use the God-Code, signature of the soul, or knowledge of this world to send you down the wrong path to focus your faith on the journey of self discovery.

### **Ask Yourself: How do I respond to the Deceiver targeting the God-Code?**

1. Is my mind warring against the principles of others, mentally dismantling their logic and reconstructing it for my own gains?
2. Am I trying to set order to someone else’s mind to make others see things my way?
3. Am I trying to find completion in the God-Code or completion in Christ?

Scripture: “The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly.” ~ 1 John 10:10

## ***The Moral Code***



The moral code<sup>8</sup> is identified as “the flesh” because it is tied to the appetite of the natural man. The carnal mind associates himself to a moral and ethical appetite in place of identifying himself with God. The carnal mind will use scripture to find morality: what is moral, what is right, what is just.

The moral code carries a prejudice just like the God-Code carries a prejudice and the signature carries a prejudice and the knowledge of this world carries a prejudice. The moral code is first of all dangerous because it attempts to stand in place of the righteousness of Christ.

### ***The Moral Code is Not the Righteousness of Christ***

Let’s work this out in a practical way. You need to see that the moral code is not the righteousness of Christ and to understand how your imagination twists itself into the moral code to construct something for your conscience to approve of as good and pleasing to God.

The imagination, if you allow it, will work with the moral code to twist “right” into “righteousness”. Say for example that you are in the middle of slow moving traffic on a hot summer day. You say to yourself, “How will I react to this circumstance? I will wait patiently rather than honk my horn and shout at my kids in the back seat. That is the ‘right’ thing to do and that will please God.”

In every circumstance of life we can ask ourselves, what is the *right* thing to do? And the flesh would answer:

- It is right to tell the truth.
- It is right to turn away from gossip.
- It is right to respond to anger with kindness.

Why do I say that the “flesh” rather than the Word of God gives these answers concerning what is “right” to do? I say the flesh rather than the Word of God because the challenge was posed by the flesh (moral code) and the imagination twisted right doing into righteousness to construct something that would appease the conscience.

Remember, everything in the Bible is true, it was written by the inspiration of God, but when the flesh rules faith the scriptures are taken out of the environment of truth in which they worked in synergy with the Elements of the Gospel and spiritual tools of Christ and made to serve the moral code instead.

The temporary equity that is gained when equity is put on the scale of the moral code is soon broken when you step outside the lines your imagination has drawn for you..... Ooooppss. Now you stand convicted, you feel guilty, embarrassed, and ashamed. It may have seemed “right”, but

<sup>8</sup> Study the lesson in full: <http://www.s8wministries.org/lesson.php?id=112&lesson=the-moral-code>



it was not the righteousness of Christ. Righteousness has to do with expressing Christ. This is what you do at the altar of Christ and in your choices of faith to prefer Christ over the moral code.

None of us are able to keep the law of the moral code. While it promises righteousness, it brings condemnation. You are asked to place a check mark in this place when you discern that the natural man is being confirmed in the moral code. This will help you know what God is addressing for healing in your cycle of growth.

### ***Challenge Your Comfort Zone***

By far, the most challenge you will receive to your comfort zone will be from the moral code. The Holy Spirit wants you to get out of that comfort zone you have going on with the moral code. In addition to posing as the righteousness of Christ, the moral code is the rule by which we measure ourselves and others. It is easily offended and reacts when it is offended. It lashes out at others to put them in their place or puffs itself up waiting to receive the honor of man. The moral code of man has an aversion to anything that violates it.

For example, do you find yourself avoiding or shunning others, expressing disgust or hostility towards their choices of life, the way they dress, their manner of communication? Do you express your distaste for a person's choice of spouse or hair color or the way a person manages their children? That is the moral code expressing itself.

As you move through the transition and start working with the Elements of the Gospel, get comfortable with being uncomfortable as God begins to challenge all those hiding places where Satan secretly worked to undermine your faith. You're going to see the results of training your mind to identify the 5 facets of the flesh.

When you are in a growth cycle and recognize the challenge, the grace of God is exposing the Enemy to you in a way you may not have seen it before. A flood light comes on and there is no place for the Enemy to hide.

**Always remember:** "There is a way which seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death (Proverbs 14:12). When we love our neighbor as ourself we are willing to die to the moral code and die to the aspiration.

### **Ask Yourself: How do I respond to the moral code?**

1. Is the Deceiver trying to get me to serve God by my moral code?
2. Am I seeking equity by doing "right" rather than doing "righteousness"?
3. Do I choose to express Christ rather than express the moral code?
4. Am I willing to love my neighbor as myself by dying to the moral code?

Scripture: "For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus hath made me free from the law of sin and death." ~Romans 8:2

## ***The Fruits of Iniquity***



Here you are asked to check the box when you discern God is challenging the fruits of iniquity<sup>9</sup>. To bring some background into this, we're going to look at what the Bible says about the fruits of iniquity and how they are a strong hold of Satan, and how to overcome them.

We are also going to watch out for repetitive thinking patterns and become aware of how Satan works with these conditional thoughts to sow the knowledge of his kingdom in the mind to reinforce the fruits of iniquity.

“What *fruit* had ye then in those things whereof ye are now ashamed? for the end of those things is death,” Romans 6:21.

“For when we were in the *flesh*, the *motions of sins*, which were by the law, did work in our members to bring forth *fruit unto death*,” Romans 7:5.

### ***Our Experience in the Kingdom of Darkness Produced the Fruits of Darkness***

The term “fruits of iniquity” is not a term we hear very often in Christian teaching, so let's be clear about what we mean. Our prior experience in the kingdom of darkness with its knowledge and tools produced the fruits of darkness within the soul, called fruits of iniquity. The fruits of iniquity are present in your soul after conversion because you do not get a brand new soul and spirit after you come to Christ, you get the Holy Spirit engrafted into you to begin the work of healing your soul and forming in you the nature of Christ. (Romans 8:26-29)

So then, the fruits of iniquity speak of the condition of the soul because of Satan's sowing within the heart. Satan's sowing took these vile forms of suspicion, anger, jealousy, and envy, even as Paul brings out:

#### **Galatians 5:19-21**

19 Now the works of the flesh are manifest, which are these; Adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness,

20 Idolatry, witchcraft, variance, emulations, wrath, strife, seditions, heresies,

21 Envyings, murders, drunkenness, revellings, and such like: of the which I tell you before, as I have also told you in time past, that they which do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God.

God takes us out of the world upon conversion to Christ and then engrafts the Holy Spirit into the heart to daily take the world out of the heart. This explains the daily transformation that takes place in us which the Lord calls “regeneration”. (Romans 12:2; Titus 3:5; 2 Peter 1:3-4)

<sup>9</sup> Study the entire lesson: <http://www.s8wministries.org/lesson.php?id=113&lesson=the-fruits-of-iniquity---part-1>

Your soul at the time of conversion is like a house that caught fire. Once the fire is put out, the repairs and renovations must begin. A house fire is devastating. From the foundation to the roof, everything gets an overhaul.

Likewise, the damage that Satan inflicted upon your soul is devastating. You may have come to Christ, but the damage must now be inspected, Satan's fruits removed, and the soul beautified with the fruit of Christ. This is a daily process as you grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord.

### **Identifying the Fruits of Iniquity**

Let's do a little more work with the fruits of iniquity to apply what we are talking about to everyday life to get everyday answers. We all know what these fruits are and can easily identify them by the struggles we faced and the questions we asked ourselves while in the kingdom of darkness:

1. Why am I an unforgiving person? I will find ways to be more forgiving.
2. I was abused by my father and brother and mother and friends. I even abused others. I will start a journey of healing to discover the roots of my abuse.
3. I am an impatient person. I want things to happen now! I should work on that.
4. I am a nosy person. I want to know everything. I think I am that way because I want to be in control. I control my spouse, my co-workers, I micro manage everyone. I just can't leave things alone—I have to meddle, meddle, meddle. I should stop doing that.
5. I am a frustrated person and this is why I am irritable and sharp with my tongue. I tell people exactly what I think. I used to believe that was me being honest, but now I think that was me being rude. Hhmmm.....I'll have to work on that.
6. I believe that if I do kind things to others that good things will happen to me. Today I will do Acts of Random Kindness.
7. Why do I feel the way I do? Why do I feel alone? I'll find purpose in my career, or family, or hobbies.
8. How do I respond to others when they express anger towards me? I need to work on controlling my own anger so I don't respond in anger.

### ***Who is Challenging the Mind, the Moral Code or God?***

Whew! That is a lot of labor for the mind, isn't it? Take a careful look at these questions. Did you notice that each question is a challenge? Now let's take a look at who is asking these questions and presenting these challenges. Who is challenging the mind on the grounds of our behavior and past experiences, the moral code or God?

Clue: God will not ask you to compare your lifestyle to Jesus Christ, but ask you to build faith in His image. God knows that if you conform to the 12 Elements of the Gospel that your mind will be using His divine knowledge (instead of responding to the challenge) and your emotions will come into line with what you know to be true about Jesus Christ (not what you know to be true about the 5 facets of the flesh).

So the answer is that the moral code and not God is the one challenging you on the grounds of your behavior. Satan gives your faith the moral code to labor with knowing that as you struggle with the fruits of iniquity you will stumble upon many moral dilemmas.

Let's look at the questions again. Do you see how she is examining the fruits of iniquity that she sees in herself? Do you see how each question she asks, sends her on a journey looking for the answer (remedy/resolve/betterment)?

This is a great opportunity for us to see what a strong hold of Satan is and how it works in the mind. We do things a certain way all the time. We always accepted the challenge of the moral code and thought it was God challenging us to be better people. Satan reinforces this thought pattern to present to you a life time of moral dilemmas he hopes you will take a lifetime to ponder. This is the journey of the paradox, my friend. God does not want you on that path!

Each moral dilemma (why did I react that way? Why did I say that?), when answered by the moral code, will only produce more of what the moral code offers –the challenge to do better.

A part of you may like the challenge because the moral code does not work alone, it works in concert with your God-Code and so (as you have learned from your studies) you feel that drive to excel. But the problem is that the challenge will not produce the divine nature of Jesus Christ in the soul, it will only condemn you for falling short.

**Wow! Who saw that coming? That the moral code is not something God uses to challenge us to do better?**

Stop and think for a minute about how much effort your mind takes to labor with the moral code, the conflict of your mind, the struggle to do better, and the resulting frustration and condemnation you experience when you don't measure up, and the quick work you make to keep the mud slide of guilt from crashing down on your house. There you are, finding ways to excuse your behavior, confront it, or reward it by giving yourself permission to eat a cookie. These stop gap measures fail every time.

If you stopped working with your moral code for just a moment, do you see now how you would be free from condemnation?

**Ask Yourself: How do I respond to fruits of iniquity?**

1. Am I allowing the moral code to help me struggle with the fruits of iniquity or do I allow God to address them for healing?
2. Am I examining the fruits of iniquity to go on a journey of self improvement or do I rather direct my attention to build faith in the image of Christ?
3. Who is challenging the mind on the grounds of my behavior and past experiences, the moral code or God?

Scripture: "But now we are delivered from the law, that being dead wherein we were held; that we should serve in newness of spirit, and not in the oldness of the letter." (Romans 7:6)

## Identify the Yoke

YOKE <i>Identify the yoke</i>
Jezebel Yoke (Aspiration) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Athaliah Yoke (Principle) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Delilah Yoke (Imagination) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

The next challenge you are asked to identify on your SWRG is the yoke you are carrying. God does not want us living by the power of our aspiration, principle, or imagination (the yoke of the flesh). Our heavenly Father wants us to live by the power of Christ.

Each growth cycle is designed by your life coach, the Holy Spirit, to teach you to discern the difference between the yoke of the flesh and the yoke of Christ. We are made to understand how Satan yokes believers with the threefold yoke of aspiration, principle and imagination and how each cycle of growth is designed to

break this yoke.

We gave each of these 3 yokes a name and personality so you can more easily identify the deception:

**Aspiration**<sup>10</sup>: She is Jezebel. God will challenge the “*The Jezebel Yoke*”

**Principle**: She is Athaliah. God will challenge the “*The Athaliah Yoke*”

**Imagination**: She is Delilah. God will challenge the “*The Delilah Yoke*”

**Aspiration** is the *DRIVE* the soul has to aspire to achieve its own design to gain *peace and security*. God teaches us in scripture how the spirit of Jezebel works. Just as Jezebel needed a witness (flattery) and her prophets were that voice, so the flesh looks for a witness to be its voice of flattery.

**Principle** is the *LAW* that is used to dominate others, to rule over others to maintain one’s *peace and security*. God teaches us in scripture how the spirit of Athaliah works. Just as Athaliah destroyed all the royal seed to protect her throne, so the principle of man destroys to protect its own peace and security.

**The imagination** is that power that *PROJECTS* for *peace and security*. Delilah worked with the promise of the lords of the Philistines to project with her imagination her own peace and security. She had to entice faith (Samson) to learn the secret of his strength. So too, the imagination is faith’s enemy and will betray you every time.

The imagination was designed by God as a blessing, but Adam used to find his peace and security in Satan’s promises. From that point on it became an open window through which the Deceiver speaks. So, God put a curse upon the imagination as we see in the days of Noah, that the imagination of the heart is evil continuously; it was molding with false knowledge and projects for outcome.

Man was using his imagination to predict his peace and rest and comfort. And God challenged that saying, You will not find peace with this and I will not allow you to find rest with your

<sup>10</sup> Learn more about the Jezebel Yoke. Free lesson gives amazing insights:  
[www.s8wministries.org/lesson.php?id=119&lesson=aspiration---the-jezebel-yoke](http://www.s8wministries.org/lesson.php?id=119&lesson=aspiration---the-jezebel-yoke)

imagination. God breaths upon the soul of man with His grace and truth that man will see his vulnerability, that man will see his nakedness. Every time God breaths upon the soul and you see your nakedness, you will either become more aggressive for carnal things to hide that or else you will yield to God to become washed by His Word.

I want you to see how Satan inflames the imagination with promise of gain or threat of loss, and in that state of mind the spirit of this world had dominion over you, intending to keep you in a state of the fear of loss where your faith is unproductive in God's kingdom.

We are to replace our aspiration with faith, replace our principle with truth, and replace the covetousness of the imagination with the charity we express at the altar of Christ.

### ***How to Identify the Yoke of the Flesh we are to Put Off***

The flesh lives by the same rhythm God does, but when separated from God and tethered to Satan, the rhythm is the same, but the witness is different. You need to know that the witness is a manner of reciprocation. God teaches us His nature is to reciprocate. This is why the 12 Elements of the Gospel work in pairs, to show us God's design for us to reciprocate Christ. God initiates and man responds in kind. This is why He gave us the Christian priesthood, we reciprocate His knowledge by offering spiritual sacrifices.

The Holy Spirit, agreeing with the knowledge of God, gives witness to Christ when we reciprocate His knowledge. By this witness of the Spirit we increase in the likeness of Christ.

The flesh follows the same rhythm of reciprocation, but with different knowledge, a different witness and different outcomes. Where faith begins with the 12 principles of Christ, the flesh begins with a problem. It is responding to the voice of the aspiration, which is seeking a witness to validate its likeness to resolve the problem. The aspiration, principle, and imagination are always there to assist.

Remember, faith makes the conscience pure and frees the soul of guile. Faith has no need for guile. Guile is used with the moral code. You have to use guile (the aspiration, principle, and the imagination) with the moral code in order to feel you are achieving something, to draw your boast from someone else. When faith is in your heart, you do not need the outside confirmation (the confirmation of the flesh). The confirmation of the Spirit continues to sustain you through dreams, visions, words of knowledge, prophecy, discerning of spirits, etc.

### ***Discern the Voice You Hear***

As you apply yourself with the knowledge about each of the 5 facets of the flesh being the makeup of your soul you are gaining valuable skills in discernment. God wants you to discern the voice that you hear to pick up on the voice of the aspiration, the voice of the principle, and the voice of the imagination. Let's look at a few examples:

**1. You are in a situation where you hear from a co-worker that the company you are working for is downsizing** and an hour later your boss calls you into his office. A voice inside says that you are about to be dismissed. You want to take authority over the fear and uneasiness you are experiencing as now your peace and security hangs in the balance.

Of course you want to “take authority”! But that is the God-Code speaking. Some may say that it is your Christ-given authority to bring fear into subjection, but the authority you are using is not Christ, it is the God-Code of the flesh.

God gave us the priesthood of Jesus Christ to reflect the likeness of Christ. Instead of responding to the situation as Satan would have you respond, with the God-Code, to take authority (to protect for your peace and security with the threefold cord of aspiration, principle, and imagination), you can instead reflect on the knowledge of Christ, that your fulness is in Him and not in the completion of the flesh. The witness of the Spirit will be there to confirm Christ and His peace will carry you through the transition.

You see, the work of grace and truth is different than the work of the aspiration. Grace and truth do not draw the same response as the aspiration. Grace and truth draw faith from the heart it strengthens the will for obedience to overcome yourself, the world, and the devil. You soon learn that the power of grace is greater than the power of the aspiration or imagination, and that the law of grace is greater than the law of the principle.

**2. You are in a situation where your work is being evaluated** and the much coveted promotion goes to someone you thought was not as qualified as yourself. You hear a voice saying that you will never be good enough and another voice saying that so-and-so got the promotion because of her looks and another voice making plans to recover from this loss.

Of course you want to “take authority”! But that is the God-Code speaking. It is helpful to have a copy of the 12 facets of the God-Code that you may refer to them often. Just like God, you set order to your environment for increase (facet #1) and this person is standing in your way.

The flesh responds. You don't think this is fair (the 3<sup>rd</sup> facet of the God-Code is ignited). You briefly think about the work you put into the company over the past 3 years and this lack of appreciation is frustrating and angers you. You had planned to leave a memorial of yourself in your work and this other person receiving the promotion limits you from seeing a reflection of yourself in the company. The company does not reflect you, it reflects her. Facets # 12 of the God-Code just engaged.

If you are also detecting the moral code passing judgments on others, you are right. Where you see the smoke of the God-Code you are sure to see the fire of the moral code and vice versa. You soon learn that the law of grace and truth is greater than the law of the principle. Every day you will have opportunities to choose to reflect on Christ and follow through on your priesthood rather than reflect on the promises of the flesh.

**Choice**

<p><b>CHOICE</b> Identify the choice of faith</p> <p>Tool:</p> <p>P <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p>P <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p>P <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p>
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Here you are asked to chart the results of your choice of faith. God drew you into this scenario to allow you this opportunity to choose faith, so never pass it up. engage God in time of reflective fellowship, using the pattern of Christ for faith. Give yourself over to Prayer, Preaching and Prophecy (see page 7).

The simple act of turning on your reflection and silently praying in tongues means that you are turning towards God to bury the aspiration, quiet the principle, and shut the window of the imagination. It means that you are choosing to express Christ rather than the flesh and putting your confidence in God’s revelation rather than the voice of the flesh.

The longer you wait to kick in your reflections, the harder it gets so don’t delay. God allows the Enemy to offer you the option to faith to fulfill your appetite with the things of this world, but your heavenly Father is waiting for you with outstretched arms to embrace you in fellowship.

***Faith is a Wonderful Fellowship With God***

Recently, while watching a movie, God drew my attention to something. The architect who was hired to landscape a garden for a rich land owner in the 1800’s was explaining to the owner the purpose of the garden. He said that the pattern of the garden was laid out in such a way as to create a sanctuary of beauty. But the point from which all the pattern makes sense is the house itself. He further explained that the garden existed for this purpose only, so that the garden reflect glory, and prestige, and power upon its owner.

This speaks so beautifully of the purpose of our fellowship with God, to create in our souls this beautiful garden that would reflect Him. And it also speaks so wonderfully of the pattern of knowledge we use in Christ. The pattern of the priesthood, the pattern of the tools, the pattern of our growth cycle creates this garden in our souls and the Lord looks upon that and He sees a reflection of the pattern of His own soul and we bring honor, glory, and prestige to His House. (Isaiah 58:11)

But the god of this world wants this honor for himself. The Deceiver wants to take God’s glory and desires the soul to reflect his honor (which is darkness). This is why he drives faith towards the flesh. The yoke of his knowledge is not easy to carry. It will weigh the mind down with

- **suspicion:** who is doing what to whom;
- **regret:** I should have, could have; what if I had done that differently; and
- **a longing to fill holes in the heart:** I need, I want, I desire; and
- **an urgent need to fix things to find a happy place:** In other words to find peace and security in this world.



It's important to remember that the tongue testifies of the altar it carries. The New Testament altar is constructed with the stones of Christ's knowledge while the altar of the flesh is constructed with the stones of the knowledge of the world. You'll find that the conversation of young believers or those who are weak in the faith is centered on the perspective of the flesh in regard to the challenges. They are still carrying the altar of the flesh and that's why they look at it that way.

They may at times say they "tried faith", but it does not seem to work for them. In other words, they still face the same thoughts they imagined would vanish into thin air once they came into covenant with God. Or, they "tried" to keep their focus on Christ, but got distracted.

What happens is that he/she is failing to recognize resistance and the opportunity God is presenting to choose faith. God challenges these thought patterns of Satan's garden to point out this exact thing to us – the kingdom of the flesh is a heavy burden to bear. He points this out because He is preparing the mind to separate from this burdensome thought pattern.

### ***Do You Struggle in the Faith?***

So, we can see that a struggle is taking place in the mind. And often times young believers are doing the right thing (using the tools of Christ to identify Christ by his tools), but are thrown by the "struggle". They wonder why they are "struggling". The Deceiver gets them to doubt their faith based on 2 false accusations against Christ to detract from Him. This is how it happens. . .

1. The presence of Satan's false knowledge (altar of the flesh) lays heavy on the heart and Jesus said His burden is light and easy. So the spirit of this world gets you to wonder, Why am I experiencing this heavy burden and find faith difficult?
2. The burden of the Deceiver's false knowledge is used to imply that you are not an overcomer, weighing you down further by measuring Christ to the flesh.

The problem, first of all, is with the word "struggle". It implies that faith is weak or that you are unsure of how to properly use faith to please God, when in fact, being in covenant with God and receiving instruction from God's chosen apostles today, you know how to use Jesus' spiritual tools in your priesthood, you are 100% sure about how faith works and how to please God.

A problem occurs where we allow the thought patterns of the kingdom of the flesh to speak for our faith to represent us before God, and thus detract from Christ. If you were to strike over the word "struggle" and replace it with the word "challenge" everything changes. What happens as your growth cycle moves into resistance is that you perceive a challenge to your faith. That is quite normal. You *should* perceive a challenge to your faith. God allows your faith to be challenged every day to trigger your faith, to activate it. This is the will of God.

Many times I'll hear believers say that they are struggling with a sense of hopelessness, or a negative self-image, or a season of attacks. What's happening is that they are not recognizing the

challenge God is allowing and fail to respond in faith and so end up engaging the enemy on the battlefield of the flesh where they become pawns of the spirit of Antichrist.

If you have asked God for this healing in your thought life, the Holy Spirit made intercession for you while you prayed in tongues and now God set the scenario to challenge those deep seated traditions of the mind. You're going to feel weak and vulnerable as God skillfully makes these distinctions for you. But, God's challenge does not mean your faith is struggling. Your perception changes when you understand this important key point!

Can you also see a problem developing when not rightly discerning whose knowledge the mind is working with? The presence of Satan's false knowledge is the heavy burden. What you're experiencing is the heaviness of Satan's knowledge, you're not experiencing the heaviness of Christ's knowledge are you? You are experiencing the heaviness of Satan's knowledge.

Can you see more clearly now how the spirit of Antichrist works to counterfeit Christ by switching the record of man (heavy burden) for the record of Christ (light burden). The counterfeit switches your attention onto your signature skills, hoping to find yourself. This is a classic example of how distraction takes place to detract from Christ.

Of course you are going to experience low self esteem in the absence of the power of the Holy Spirit. The Spirit of God will only confirm Christ, not us. Once you pick up on this, that the feeling of hopelessness and loss of self esteem is because the knowledge you're holding onto (the record of your soul) does not carry the divine likeness you will also understand how the Deceiver got you feeling hopeless. When the light turns on for you on that one that's another "Wow!" moment.

If you missed that, you'll soon get it once you have a few cycles of growth under your belt. Of course you're also going to feel vulnerable as God peels back the layers of deception to free your mind. Right then is a good time for the Deceiver's to imply that you are not an overcomer. But if you choose faith, **YOU ARE AN OVERCOMER!**

### ***Choose Faith***

When I say "Choose Faith" I mean that I want you to begin to reflect on what is happening in your mind and differentiate to discern. If you are going to stand by faith, you are going to have to resist fighting against the devil with the moral code. You can't win by fighting these thoughts with the moral code, but you can win by the virtue of Christ. Do you see the distinction I am making?

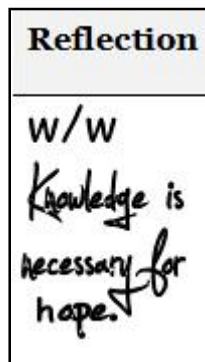
The apostles of our Lord are instructed of Christ to guide the church in reflection. Paul wrote, "Think on these things. . ." (Philippians 4:8). Paul is of course speaking of reflecting on Christ. We are called upon to reflect when the challenge is present. Logic wants to weigh the contradiction on the scale of the moral code to help you fight the moral code for equity and

peace. But Christ is the power for equity and peace, not the moral code. You are no match for the moral code. The fight for equity will go on forever until you collapse from exhaustion.

However, you *can* fight for equity with grace. That's what your training is all about! The building of thoughts as we wrestle with grace strengthens faith by that power that is superior to the moral code. God teaches you these distinctions to sever you from the world to Himself. God's not asking you to overcome the challenge in your own power.

Know this: If the Deceiver can convince you that there is something wrong with God's plan to test and reward your faith or something wrong with your faith then he has weakened your hands. Be encouraged dear friend, if you stay in your priesthood Jesus will be your shield. He will remove Satan's yoke, allowing you to walk in the fulness of all spiritual blessings He has for you.

### Reflection



Here you are asked to record a reflection. It may be a word of knowledge (w/k) or word of wisdom (w/w) that sparks your reflection, or it may a reflection gained while laboring with a spiritual sacrifice of prophecy, or connections God was reinforcing during your growth cycle, or meaning of a dream symbolism God gave you.

You don't have to receive a word of knowledge or word of wisdom to reflect, but you'll soon learn to identify these as the Spirit gives them to you. The difference between a word of wisdom and a word of knowledge is that wisdom directs your faith and knowledge is facts about the plan of God the Spirit is affirming for your labor. Either way, the Holy Spirit is engaging your faith to assist you to build.

I received this word upon awakening one morning, "Knowledge is necessary for hope". When God spoke this to me I experienced a tremendous peace. As I began to reflect on the instruction of our heavenly Father, directing faith to work with His knowledge, I was amazed at how faithful God is to address our expectation and how that can be contrasted to the expectation of the world.

The knowledge of the world leads to hopelessness because it separates us from God. God sets His knowledge before us, so that faith's journey is walked out in cadence with Him. Such a precious gift is this journey of covenant faith. It removes our feet from the path (expectation) of the flesh and sets our feet upon the path (expectation) of life.

We can expect to experience the presence of the Lord.  
We can expect that peace will buffer our heart.  
We can expect God to reciprocate His joy.

In addition, I thought about how God planned for our faith to be reflective and how knowledge works just like a mirror does, it reflects. For our faith to reflect Christ it needs the knowledge of His covenant. Philippians 3:8 came to mind where Paul shares his willingness to suffer the loss of all things for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ. There were many opportunities during the day to come back to that word and build on it and share it with others, which brought to mind this testimony of Christ, that as His knowledge is embraced our hope becomes bright.

### ***Plan Your Routine to Keep Your Faith Mobile***

There are 2 kinds of reflections you'll always want to be sure to include in your spiritual workout. The first kind of reflection is about your responsibility to God to build His house. God wants your soul to prosper in the light of Christ, to be fruitful in His knowledge. He gave you the tools of Christ, but it's up to you to make a plan to use them. You need to get to a place where your movement through your cycle of growth is just second nature, part of your normal thinking process. For that to happen you have to keep your faith mobile.

You can't wait until you are in a place of testing to turn on your reflection. You have to keep it turned on. Just like soldiers train to keep themselves prepared for battle, so you too need to schedule your day to keep your vessel full of faith. This is why your SWRG begins with the tools of prayer, preaching, and prophecy.

### ***Plan Ahead***

You'll need to plan ahead. This means you'll need to think ahead and ask God to help you with time management and to help you identify when you can squeeze in reading another chapter from the Bible or catch another 15 minutes of prayer. It's important that you look for those opportunities to identify when you have free time. Once you look for it, you'll find it. God will show it to you. If you really want to serve God, you'll make a way for that to happen.

This might mean downloading audio preaching from Apostle Eric onto your favorite mobile device to turn on the preaching while jogging, gardening, shopping, en route, or cooking in the kitchen.

It may mean keeping a notebook handy next to your bed so that you won't lose the revelation God gives you at night. It may mean making a plan to share your spiritual sacrifices with a friend or on our S8W Face Book Fan Page<sup>11</sup> and taking the time to reflect on the sacrifices there; or carrying scripture memory cards or flash cards of the Elements of the Gospel with you.

Making a plan for your spiritual workouts is much like making an appointment with God at the altar. Make an appointment and keep it just like you would keep a doctor's appointment or an appointment with your friend to have coffee or slip off to the gym. Make the necessary

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<sup>11</sup> <http://www.facebook.com/S8WMinistries>

adjustments to your schedule. End each night with a prayer to our heavenly Father that He would multiply His grace towards you and thus prepare your heart to serve Him the next day.

### ***Good Habits are Hard to Make and Bad Habits Are Hard to Break***

We often hear Apostle Eric say, “Good habits are hard to make and bad habits are hard to break.” He is teaching about the need to make good habits of faith. And it’s true. We get from our spiritual workout what we give at the altar. It is worth putting in the extra effort because we get way more in return. You’ll begin to pick up that it’s the reciprocation of your heavenly Father that sustains your faith.

You don’t want to encounter any speed bumps on your way to the altar. Speed bumps are obstructions. You don’t want any obstructions to get in the way of your labor at that altar. The obstructions have to do with the options Satan offers. Every speed bump is a distraction that consumes our time and obstructs our walk to the altar. Take the time to think that over in your mind. Identify the speed bumps and start clearing them out of the way.

### ***Keep Your Vessel Full of Faith***

Another frequent quote from Apostle Eric is “Keep your vessel full of faith”. Don’t fall into the bad habit of playing “catch-up”, where you’re always giving yourself permission to do other things first and then promising yourself you’ll exercise your faith later. If you’re playing catch up then you’re slacking on your priesthood duties and that means that when you come to the cycle of growth you are not prepared to stand in His grace.

God is calling us to be mindful of our priesthood. That means starting your morning with reflections. If breakfast is the most important meal of the day, think about how important it is to schedule in your priesthood first thing in the morning. You carry those reflections (food of the altar) with you until you break again for another spiritual workout. You’ll be amazed at how God brings back to your mind those early morning reflections to build on them. He is faithful to reciprocate and sustains our faith. Keep yourself full of faith and the wicked one shall not touch you.

You’ll need to make a plan to schedule your priesthood in the morning: Ok , I have to jet off to work, but I’m planning ahead by getting up early enough to work my priesthood into my morning. If you find yourself sleeping at the altar, get out of bed, shower, make yourself a cup of coffee or tea and then start your priesthood. Be prepared to get out of your comfort zone and then get comfortable with His grace. You’ll find many happy hours of reflection and treasure them!

Scripture: We know that whosoever is born of God sinneth not; but he that is begotten of God keepeth himself, and that wicked one toucheth him not.”

~1 John 5:18

## ***Don't Cast Away Your Confidence***

I'm going to draw from a teaching from Apostle Eric's audio sermon: Hebrews Chapter 10:35 - Chapter 10:39

This is the link for that lecture for your own study and edification:

<http://www.s8wministries.org/audio-single.php?id=16>

### **Hebrews 10:35-36**

35 *Cast not away therefore your confidence, which hath great recompence of reward.*

36 For ye have need of *patience*, that, after ye have done *the will of God*, ye might receive the promise.

Don't cast away your confidence in God. What is your confidence? Your confidence has to do with the tools you are utilizing for faith. We see in that First Covenant that the tools were the confidence of the priesthood. The tools which the priests used, which Moses received by the revelation of the Spirit was for the confidence of the faith of those who served the tabernacle.

They understood their responsibility to engage themselves with these sanctified points of contact, wherein God, thorough through these points of contact would be their shield, their fortress, and their high tower. He would be their armour. He would be the Captain of the host for them. What transpired there in that first tabernacle for the confidence of the saints of that First Covenant is also the confidence for our faith today concerning the tools of the Second Covenant.

As we utilize the tools of the Second Covenant we have confidence within our salvation knowing what the will of the Lord is. Knowing what the will of the Lord is, is an important factor for us to have a good conscience towards Him. Many wonder what the will of God is for their lives so they wander into error and Satan dominates them through the imagination as they either think about their past or think about their future.

Our confidence surrounds our labor, our sowing, and our rest. The priesthood is provided for your faith and tailored to your diligence. The more you sow the more you grow. The more diligent you are to sow the things of the covenant the more God will be involved in your life. We can see the rewards of your sowing, as Paul brings out --- "*great recompense of reward*".

We glorify God through our Lord Jesus Christ by the things we sow through the priesthood of this covenant. We are confident that as we labor, the Spirit is working Christ within and we are bringing forth the fruit of God. Those who are in rhythm with His kingdom are those who possess the glory of God in the soul.

***Grace is a Power God Issues Towards Those Who Believe***

Let's look at the 9 operations of God in grace. We will then understand God's power:

1. Grace.....draws faith from the heart,
2. Grace.....gives us a heart to perceive Christ,
3. Grace.....strengthens the will for faith,
4. Grace .....creates equity between mind and emotions,
5. Grace.....creates creates single mindedness
6. Grace.....creates sober mindedness,
7. Grace.....nourishes the soul,
8. Grace..... enlarges the heart
9. Grace.....keeps the heart rooted in Christ

These are the powers which God has issued towards those who believe. And it is these powers that seal your salvation, changing your perception of life. As we use the tools of the covenant we are using those things that God has given for us to express Him and increasing by these powers. This is His joy. As Jesus said, "That My joy might be fulfilled in them."

Apostle Paul also experienced the power of grace for he wrote, "And he said unto me, My *grace* is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness. Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my infirmities, that *the power of Christ* may rest upon me." (2 Corinthians 12:9)

God issues these powers as a farmer spreads seed in the field. When a farmer spreads seed in his field the activity and labor is with expectation and he takes confidence in the rhythm of nature. He has long patience for the harvest. We take confidence in the rhythm of the Spirit and we also have long patience regarding those things God has sown within us: that we can be fruit bearers and receive the crown of our overcoming. The powers of grace and peace are your crown.

When God sees an image of Himself in you, it's as if He is looking in a mirror, there is equity to the eye of God and there is peace within your soul. With this form of reciprocation and fellowship and communion there is joy because God sees His likeness within you.

When God brings to our minds that we have need of patience, He is saying that the passage of time is necessary for this reward to manifest itself. God has set a path for fulfillment. All you have to do is be patient in your priesthood. As you continue to initiate the responsibility of your priesthood you are awaiting the results. Like putting a stamp on an envelope and putting it out for the mailman to collect. We know that through the process of that institution, that those things that we have sealed will be received by the recipient.

God does the same thing as we patiently endure the passage of time with the tools of the covenant. We await the time of our reward. You have need of patience. All your prayers and petitions are weighed by God. He determined the highest and best way to bring that answer. At the same time there is a circumcision taking place within your own heart. So we are enduring the time until the joy is manifest.

**Reward**

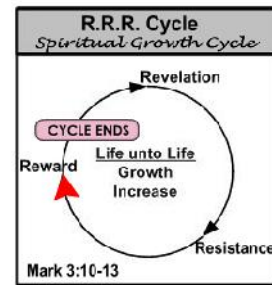
<b>Reward</b>
# 3 & 4
Note: Really noticing how the reward sustains me and fills me with so much joy! 2 Cor. 1:5

If you didn't cast away your confidence in the time of testing, you'll receive the reward of your choices of faith. What you are asked to do here is record the reward of your faith. I want you to get used to thinking about the impact of grace upon the heart and that is the purpose of the first line.

There are 9 operations in the grace of God that you experience each time God ministers His grace to you. That is why grace is called "the gift of grace" (Ephesians 3:7). Grace is issued by God every day for your growth to reward your diligence of faith. The reason why you may not have noticed the gift of grace may be because you were not looking for it. Once you know what to look for, you'll soon become a "grace addict". Which is a good thing.

As your appetite for grace increases, your appetite for the things of this world decreases. And that's what you want! Learning to appreciate the grace of God means learning to identify the operation of God in it [look again at the 9 operation sin grace listed below]. I've selected operation #3 & 4 in the sample SWRG above. Meaning that, I picked up on how grace strengthened my will for faith and how grace created equity between my mind and emotions.

You may want to jot yourself a note. For example, "Really noticing how the reward sustains me and fills me with so much joy!" You may also want to jot down a scripture that ministered to you. "For as the sufferings of Christ abound in us, so our consolation also aboundeth by Christ." (2 Corinthians 1:5) As you are a partaker of the suffering so you are a partaker of His grace. We find rest through faith as the Spirit assists our singleness by the tokens of His covenant. Did I say this takes place on a daily basis? It does!



A believer once wrote to mm to say, "I do realize the difference in days of less reflection. There is a noticeable amount more stress and anxiety. I've been pretty steady this last week and feeling the fruits of it." Record those results. Those kinds of notations will help you see your progress and encourage you in the 3 Cs of your faith: consistency, conformity, and communication.

Scripture: "But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a *rewarder* of them that diligently seek him." (Hebrews 11:6)

**The 9 Operations of God in Grace**

I would like you to look at the 9 operations of God in grace again so that you'll recognize them when you experience them and learn to appreciate them. Without truth we would not have the knowledge of this pattern. God set the world in the heart, so God needs to reveal Christ to us to set our heart on Him. We come to an understanding of God by grace.



## SPIRITUAL WORKOUT MANUAL

Jesus Christ *is* the revelation of God to you. Jesus manifests Himself to you to minister grace for your growth so you may know Him and commune with Him, and that He may heal your soul and form His fruit within you. This divine transformation by His divine power is God's will for you every day (2 Peter 1:3-4). We are commanded to “*grow in grace*, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ” (2 Peter 3:18).

When we say that revelation is Jesus manifesting Himself to us we not only speaking about gaining His perspective, we are also are talking about the way in which grace impacts the soul. These are the 9 operations of God in grace that we talked about. . .

1. Grace.....draws faith from the heart,
2. Grace.....gives us a heart to perceive Christ,
3. Grace.....strengthens the will for faith,
4. Grace .....creates equity between mind and emotions,
5. Grace.....creates creates single mindedness
6. Grace.....creates sober mindedness,
7. Grace.....nourishes the soul,
8. Grace..... enlarges the heart
9. Grace.....keeps the heart rooted in Christ

As you can see, the grace of God is an extraordinary power! In addition, grace works with peace to comfort the soul, to buffer the soul in times of suffering. Grace works both ends and the middle! We are not only speaking of the revelation and the sustaining power in times of suffering, but also the reward of choosing faith. God's rewards provide many edifying reflections to carry you into the next cycle of growth.

I want to also add here that while many talk about hearing God's voice, the voice they hear is the voice of the moral code, not the voice of grace. The operation of God in grace, as itemized above, is absent in their experience and testimony. There is a problem when people claim the voice, but not the power.

Look at the operation of God's grace again. See what it does for you every day? Just think of it! You can taste of the powers of the world to come every day. God is just waiting for you to exercise your faith so He can also reward your faith with these spiritual blessings in Christ Jesus.

Notice what I'm *not* doing. I'm *not* retooling grace (revelation) to speak into your life. I am *not* directing faith to reverse the adverse circumstances you face. I'm *not* retooling grace to speak to you about the fears you may about fulfilling God's design for your signature.

Notice the change in language! The flesh speaks to you about the flesh. God speaks to you about Jesus Christ. The flesh redirects faith to address the issues of life because the flesh is seeking resolution and believes that the witness of the Spirit is in physical blessings. This is why Apostle

Paul made this very important distinction for our learning and discernment by saying that God “blessed us with all SPIRITUAL blessings in heavenly places in Christ.” (Ephesians 1:3)

**Goals**



What is God’s purpose for you? Why did He bring you into His family? When you can answer those questions then you’ll know what your spiritual goals are each day. You’ll want to pencil your spiritual goal onto your SWRG just to remind yourself. That’s a good habit and it will help you with your focus throughout the day.

In the sample to the left I penciled in “fruit bearing”. The scripture John 15:8 tells us God’s purpose, which then is our goal. Jesus said, “Herein is my Father glorified, that ye bear much fruit; so shall ye be my disciples.”

**God’s Purpose is the Same for Each of us**

God’s purpose is the same for each of us and it is the same each day. It does not change. God’s purpose is that the soul bear the image of His Son. The calling may be different (God calls apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors, and teachers), but His purpose remains the same.

God’s purpose is to heal the soul of the scars Satan inflicted and to form Christ within. The fruit of this work is called the fruit of the Spirit: love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, and temperance. God’s purpose is that we know Him through fruit bearing. Jesus said, “And this is life eternal, that they might know thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom thou hast sent.” (John 17:3).

**Don’t Allow the Flesh to Derail Your Faith**

For you to reach your spiritual goals, your growth cycle must come full circle. You can’t allow the flesh to derail your faith by placing God’s purpose in your signature skills. We may each be “fruitful” in our signature skills, but those are not to be confused with being fruitful in Jesus Christ. You want to stay very conscious about this distinction to keep your faith from slipping into the wrong movement.

Each cycle of growth is meant to assist you through the process of this separation that God needs you to make in mind, and goes from revelation, to resistance, to reward. What proceeded from God to us (the revelation), we gave back to God in fruit bearing. God equipped us with this knowledge and these tools to reciprocate His likeness. As He is touching us with grace, we are touching Him with the sanctified tools of the covenant. That which God provided for our contact, we are using for our contact. We give to God fruit that was born in the heart by Christ.

The Lord never withholds His grace from us if we don’t withhold faith from Him. The Lord continues to provide for us as we continue in the way of righteousness. This is how we serve the

living God and this is how He perfects Christ in us. He sowed in us and we utilize that to reflect Him. There is nothing in us that is worthy of God. It is His virtue that is of value to us and that's why our focus is placed on the fruit He forms within the soul. As we experience fruit bearing, the Holy Spirit is effecting change in the soul. The soul is being brought to completion.

**Motivation**

<b>Motivation</b>	
<b>Resolve</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Increase</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Here you are asked to reflect on what is motivating your faith. It will always be one of two things: Faith will either be motivated to find peace and security by resolving the troubling circumstances of your life or faith will be motivated to enter into rest by increasing the soul in God's kingdom. Checking the box for "increase". A daily reminder of God's desire that you increase His kingdom is a healthy thing.

When in conflict for growth, God allows Satan to present the options for the choice of will. This is when the conflict is beneficial for you. As Satan presents to you the options for your will, you will be able to discern why the knowledge he gives you is false, where he hides his promises to you (lies), how he speaks to your imagination, what happens when you follow the shadow of his leading, and what happens when you stand in the revelation of the Spirit.

The natural man, having a valley to mountain mindset sees only one thing and that is to resolve the problem, reverse the circumstance, and gain material blessings. The natural man wants to go from the valley to the mountaintop to prove God's love, presence, and work. God is also teaching you the difference between how Satan leads you to resolve conflict by motivating faith to address the issues and how God leads you to resolve conflict by motivating faith to increase the kingdom of God.

What is happening there is that the natural man is making an effort to stay in rhythm with what is familiar to him. You can expect that, but you can also learn how to resist that challenge and succeed at overcoming yourself, the world, and the devil.

This level of training may be quite different from what you've been used to, when faith was motivated to get God to resolve the issues of your life. It's very important to wrap your mind around this distinction that God is making. Apostle Eric coined "Themistic Law" to bring this very teaching to the forefront and a small excerpt from his book "Breaking the Antichrist Code"<sup>12</sup> chapter 41 "Understanding Satan's Inroads through Themistic Law" page 340-346 is included in this SWRG Users' Manual. Bits and pieces are taken from that dynamic chapter for your daily reflection. This teaching is so valuable when we consider how the Enemy daily challenges faith to stand in confidence of the flesh.

<sup>12</sup> <http://www.antichristcode.s8w.org/>

### ***Understanding Satan's Inroads through Themistic Law***

One of Satan's major inroads into the church is through Themistic Law. We touched on this subject in kingdom #10 when we talked about how Satan thwarted faith by keeping all eyes focused on human need. When life was no longer centered on serving God through covenant, life became centered on the issues that people faced. In chapter 9, we said that "disentangling faith from the human signature means that we need to cut a lot of umbilical cords or lifelines that tethered our faith, our emotions, our intellect, our aspirations, and our principles to the Antichrist spirit and his system." This chapter will focus on understanding more clearly how the Antichrist spirit tethered humanity to Themistic Law to distort faith in Jesus Christ and how the church is transitioning out of that error.

### ***Themistic Law Has a Universal Presence in Every Culture***

Themistic Law has a universal presence in every culture throughout time and is defined by the themes and issues of life. Life is like the mighty Mississippi River, which stretches out for hundreds of miles with its numerous tributaries branching off into smaller streams. The branches of the river are like the many familiar themes and issues of life that everyone faces. Personal and social issues are defined for us daily in such areas as family, job, politics, relationships, gender, need vs. desire, and character development to name a few. These are the common threads of life. Just as the Mississippi River can be defined by its many branches, Themistic Law can be defined by the many issues of life.

Because life is defined by the struggle, life is also defined by the heroes who answered the call to end those struggles, right those wrongs, and bring peaceful resolution to crisis. Satan's exploitation of the "hero" was covered in kingdom #2. Rev. Tellstrom, in his book *Finding a Hero*, wrote: "I think that everyone wants a hero, needs a hero, wants to be like a hero, and wants to walk the hero's journey. Our literature is full of them."<sup>1</sup> However much heroes reshaped the social and political environment and lessened the misery of one generation, the next generation faced its own themes and issues. It is this recycling of life based on Themistic Law and the passing parade of heroes that Satan used to bring God down to the level of one's own traditions and issues.

### ***When Life Centers on Themistic Law Rather Than the Covenant of Jesus Christ***

When life centers on Themistic Law rather than the covenant of Jesus Christ, then the many themes and issues of life overshadow faith. This is much like watching a movie that has been dubbed over with another language. Those who are not bilingual strain to hear the undertone of their native tongue while trying to tune out what seems garbled and confusing. The culture of God's truth is the original language that the human race strains to hear, while Themistic Law overwhelms that voice with distracting overtones.

To understand the movie, one must try to catch bits and pieces of information through visual clues and thus navigate through the plot. So too with life, people try to understand what life is all about by catching bits of information from the themes and issues that touch them and use these clues to put the puzzle of life together.

What authors and storytellers captured in words, artists captured with their brushes and photographers captured with their camera. Freezing in time each unique story, their works were left as an epitaph for the enlightenment of future generations. We can appreciate the struggles of those who went before us, for we, too, are victims of prejudice and injustice, and we, too, look to our heroes for deliverance, hope, and transformation.

Significantly, each human struggle became the impetus for reform, providing symbols of hope for the next generation. Satan is thus able to use each struggle as a reference point to hub humanity to many initiatives in place of Jesus Christ and reference man to heroes in place of their Savior. Empathy is confused with faith, and salvation is no longer centered in Christ—it is centered in initiatives; it is centered in Themistic Law.

Predominantly, people believe that their ability to keep life on track is governed by how well they are able to handle the issues they face. Christian leadership bought into this theme and advertised faith within the context of Themistic Law.

### ***The Motivating Force***

The motivating force of that message focuses the attention of believers on their ability to keep life on track by letting God handle the issues and circumstances that they face. That message challenges faith in that the conflux of Themistic Law converging upon faith drives Christians to center doctrine and discipline on the pursuit of health, wealth, and well-being thus removing Christ as the hub of faith and replacing Jesus Christ with Themistic Law. Themistic Law became a false pathway (door) to Jesus Christ thus arresting God's Intelligent Design for Christ-Centered Spiritual Transformation.

Christian leadership's focus on Themistic Law and circumstances of life developed into a form of correctness, a way of "correct thinking" that replaced truth. Motivational speakers modeled faith discipleship messages on Themistic Law, motivating Christians to realize their dreams, focus their visions, and connect to their true inner self. They drew a connection between the themes and issues of life and family values and motivated Christians to develop themselves, renew themselves, and revitalize themselves. Themistic Law promised spiritual balance through balancing themes and issues of life with the Bible.

Themistic Law is used to deal with life by developing many psychological connections that promised to develop the characteristics of peace, forgiveness, love, joy, humility, long suffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, and meekness through step planning with scriptures.

## ***The Instincts for Survival Are the Bedrock of Themistic Law***

The instincts for survival are the bedrock of Themistic Law. The conditions under which we live makes possible many “soul-searching moments” as the suffering of everyday life provides the backdrop for the lessons learned in the “desert,” yielding many “nuggets of wisdom.”

While it is true that suffering is a part of the spiritual growth cycle God designed for Christ-Centered Spiritual Transformation when faith is joined to the covenant, it does not carry the same design structure as the suffering that is joined to Themistic Law. The latter draws hope from life’s lessons as Christians stand in expectation of “finding God’s will through the refining fire of suffering” and “learn to depend and lean on God” to experience a “deeper relationship with God.”

There are many euphemistic terms that are used with Themistic Law that are not connected to God’s plan for us to experience Jesus. The operation of God is in His own pattern of truth, the tools of the Second Covenant, and the mediation of Jesus Christ made effectual by the power of His Spirit.

Christianity is not about finding the will and purpose of God for our lives in the spiritual desert. Christianity is about finding the will and purpose of God in Jesus Christ. Christianity is not about finding a “deeper” relationship with God but growing in the grace and knowledge of Jesus Christ, knowing God through covenant contact.

## **Learn How to Reflect**

One of the richest rewards of being in covenant with God is gaining God’s perspective from each cycle of growth. But for some the perspective doesn’t come because they feel lost in resistance. When that happens there is a simple fix. Just turn on your reflections.

Jesus said, “Are there not twelve hours in the day? If any man walk in the day, he stumbleth not, because he seeth the light of this world. But if a man walk in the night, he stumbleth, because there is no light in him.” (John 11:9-10)

Here, we know that Jesus is not talking about a literal 12 hour day, but walking in the light of His knowledge. If we labor with His knowledge, He promises that we won’t stumble. The stumbling, He says, takes place in the dark. When a person walks in the dark, a stumbling goes on and this is because there isn’t any light. Here again Jesus is not talking about the literal night, but spiritual darkness. And He makes the point of saying that the light is IN YOU.

Jesus is instructing us that if we walk in His truth then His light IS IN US and we won’t stumble. In order for you to walk in the light of God’s knowledge it has to be *applied* because walking is a form of *activity*. And this is where **reflection** comes in. As long as you turn on your reflection, you’re turning on the light and you’ll be walking in the light and your hope will stay bright.

## ***The Bed Rock of Your Faith -- Reflection***

God is taking you on a new journey of faith and we're showing you how to make it practical and how to apply it to everyday living. You will have the opportunity to learn how to discern Satan's options and to see them for what they really are. What you are going to learn here is the very bedrock of your faith—REFLECTION!

God has always taught His people the importance of reflecting on His holy knowledge as a demonstration of their faith. We see this in the book of Psalms where the Psalmist says, "Selah", which means to stop and consider or to reflect. The word meditate is also used at times to describe how faith is a labor that we do with the mind.

Faith (reflection) is not drawing simply upon the *goodness* of God to consider how God will do *good* things for you, but drawing upon the *plan* of God to prepare the heart for *reciprocation*. Reflection is focused and deliberate. We know that faith pleases God and we know that God desires that we retain Him in our knowledge. So then, our reflection is first of all a response to our desire to please God by using the knowledge of the covenant that we might retain Him in our thoughts.

God wants us to know that His plan for us is to increase our understanding and to increase the fruits of righteousness and increase the Body of Christ through edification. To do this we are to reciprocate God's knowledge. That means to give it back to Him.

Remember, we said that there are 2 kinds of reflections you'll always want to be sure to include in your spiritual workout? The first kind of reflection is about your responsibility to God to build His house by making a plan to schedule your priesthood. I know, some of you were thinking you want your love for God to be spontaneous and free.

I do understand what you are saying, and believe me, the Holy Spirit *will* move upon you to give you words of wisdom, words of knowledge, dreams, and visions. All of them unscheduled and freely given for you to build with. The Lord never withholds His grace from us if we don't withhold faith from Him. The Lord continues to provide for us as we continue in the way of righteousness.

But, believe me, you don't want to leave your reflection to chance, the whim of your emotions, or mood swings. You'll need to plan ahead.

Having gone over that again, our focus here will cover the second type of reflection that you need to learn. This kind of reflection has to do with watching where your mind goes when your cycle moves into resistance; it deals with pulling out all the stops and getting reflection into high gear when you discern a challenge to your faith.

God wants to make you aware that there are 2 kingdoms at war for your soul and 2 kinds of knowledge available to the mind for labor, and 2 directions the knowledge can be taken (for aspiration (self) or for faith (God)). That means that knowledge can be used to project (with the imagination to reach for the aspiration) or to reflect (for faith to please God).

God also wants us to know that knowledge is prejudiced by the kingdom it is tethered to. He wants us to know that He provided us a priesthood and altar in Christ to defend ourselves (our mind) as we build His kingdom.

### ***Reflection Starts With Asking the Right Questions***

When the challenge comes ask,

1. What Inclination of Man is God challenging?
2. What does this challenge say about God's faithfulness?
3. What does this challenge say about the testimony of Christ?
4. What does this challenge say about the testimony of Satan?
5. How does God help me in times of testing?
6. Why choose?
7. Where am I vulnerable?
8. Why do I need to pay attention to God's plan?
9. How am I to avoiding Satan's plan?
10. What does God want me to do?
11. Why is reflection beneficial?
12. Do I see where the flesh is hiding?
13. Can I now see why grace is necessary?
  - It strengthens my will
  - It gives me eyes to see Christ
14. Is the conscience being appeased by the wisdom of this world or is Christ being confirmed?
15. Do I see how Christ is being confirmed?
16. Can I see how Satan is being restricted?
17. Can I see how faith is my shield?
18. Do I see how reflection is the most important choice in times of contradiction?
19. Can I see God's focus?
20. Can I see how grace and charity work together?
21. Can I see how God comforts the soul?
22. Can I see the difference between immediate gratification and patience of faith?
23. Can I see how the conflict of the mind is overcome?
24. Can I see how that through reflection we judge God as faithful –
  - He will complete each cycle of growth with grace
  - He will give life to my understanding
  - He judges me on the worthiness of Christ
  - He will increase my fruit as I labor
25. What is the Spirit bringing to my attention?
  - that the Spirit is greater than the flesh.
  - that God renews my hope as I begin to reflect.
26. Do I see how false knowledge can become my eyes instead of faith?
27. What is the imagination saying?
28. What is the principle saying?



29. What is the aspiration saying?

These questions are very important to ask. Obviously, you don't have to ask them all in one day. The point about the question is that you're taking the time to reflect on Christ and seek God to gain His perspective. The earlier you begin reflecting, the faster you'll be overcoming.

Reflection is a call to action. I'm not saying that we wait for our cycle to move into resistance before we reflect. I'm focusing this teaching on the call to action when in resistance. You'll want to be asking yourself.....What's happening here? I don't mean, what's happening to you, but what is happening in your mind. Are you seeing the opportunity for fruit? Are you getting your reflection into gear? What do you believe?

Questions help you identify the inclination, assess your vulnerability, identify the deception, gain God's perspective, and overcome.

**Did you know. . .** The knowledge we labor with, in the mind, produces fruit in the soul? Did you know that you can tell when that fruit manifests itself: anger, frustration, resentment, fear, suspicion, worry, etc. If the fruit is there, the knowledge is there. That means that your mind is laboring with the knowledge of the kingdom of darkness. Your mind is working with the wrong knowledge and Satan is using your imagination to struggle with your circumstances to enter into rest (this is what God refers to as aspiration) when God wants you to use the knowledge of Christ to enter into rest.

**Know This. . .** That God sets judgments against the aspiration of man. This is what God refers to as chastisement. The correction is to assist you to restrict your imagination, that you not use it for a tool of rest. This chastening of the Lord is for our profit that we might be partakers of His holiness (Hebrews 12:10).

### ***What to do When Reflection is Challenged***

It may be a challenge for some to learn how to reflect so we're going to get at this from the other end. We're going to discern how you can you tell when your reflection is turned off. For example, we might hear someone say that they have been in resistance for 2 or 3 days. That lets me know their reflection is turned off. If you are walking in the light of God's knowledge as we read about in John 11:9, it is impossible to be in resistance for 3 days.

The scenario that God ordained for your overcoming may not pass in a day, but that does not mean that you are in resistance for 2 or 3 days. To be in resistance for 2 or 3 days means that you have failed to reflect for 2 or 3 days, neglected to pray for 2 or 3 days, and offered no spiritual sacrifices for 2 or 3 days and did not separate yourself to the Word of God for 2 or 3 days. That's not resistance, that's turning reflection off. And that's going to add to your feelings of hopelessness and despair.

Follow me on this one. What happens when you reflect upon Christ? What comes out of that labor of faith? An understanding is opened up for you, you gain God's perspective, you take that

and compare it to what you are enduring and you come away with gratitude in your heart that your heavenly Father gave you that opportunity. What happens when you pray? You receive edification or a word of knowledge and you carry that light with you and you don't stumble.

When we teach that you'll have daily cycles, and weekly cycles, and monthly cycles, and yearly cycles, we are not saying that you'll be in resistance for a week or a month. We are saying that some scenarios last longer. That's all.

That should not mean to you that you're not receiving anything from God. Every time you pray God's peace is there. That's God's peace, that's not resistance. It's just that you may not have stopped to reflect on what God just gave you. When you stop to consider God's peace, you stay in His light. You're overcoming. You're not in resistance. You're already overcoming.

### ***Watch Your Conversation***

Once you overcome, watch your conversation. You'll want Christ to be your conversation rather than resistance. You'll want to be talking about the peace you received and the understanding God unfolded. You may notice, though, that when you leave the place of prayer, your mind goes back to the challenge and begins again to seek closure in the flesh.

It's always easier to focus on the contradiction. Let's look at the 18 inclinations of man to see why that is true. I chose inclination number 9, 11, 12, and 18. Let's look at them together.

1. The Inclination of Man – To Emotional Profiling
2. The Inclination of Man – To Distrust God
3. The Inclination of Man – To Build Faith on Human Relationships
4. The Inclination of Man – To Justify the Flesh
5. The Inclination of Man – To Judge
6. The Inclination of Man – To Procrastinate
7. The Inclination of Man – To View Faith From the Perspective of Life
8. The Inclination of Man – To Focus on the Wrong Thing
9. **The Inclination of Man – To Build Upon Old Foundations (any contradiction is going to call you to go over old ground)**
10. The Inclination of Man – To Trust the Moral Code
11. **The Inclination of Man – To Make Straight That Which is Crooked (any contradiction is going to call you to try to fix things and come back to things you fixed to validate that they're fixed)**
12. **Inclination of Man – To Measure Ourselves by That Law That Condemns –(this speaks about using the history of the flesh for our conscience)**
13. The Inclination of Man – To Please Man
14. The Inclination of Man - to Remain Independent of God
15. The Inclination of Man – To be Discontent
16. The Inclination of Man – To Not Care For the Things of God
17. The Inclination of Man – To Seek Equity in the Flesh

**18. The Inclination of Man – To Expect the Worst (this speaks of expectations that are built with false knowledge)**

It's always easier to focus on the contradiction because of the inclination to go back into our history. We can see how Satan's prejudice is sown into our thought patterns, which God challenges in our cycles of growth. We talked about this in the section called "The Knowledge of this World" on page 17 & 18. If you find yourself dipping into the well of false knowledge you might notice. . .

Thoughts of anger

Thoughts of envy

Thoughts of pride

Thoughts of displeasure at God's will

Thoughts of dissatisfaction with life

Thoughts of being discontent....about what you lack

- I lack patience
- I don't feel like God is caring for me.

These thoughts are identified as the option Satan gives through the imagination. The Deceiver wants you to live by his testimony. What is Satan's testimony? The thoughts of anger, envy, pride, displeasure, dissatisfaction, discontent is leading you to accept this testimony:

That God is not enough

That God does not love you

That your faith is not strong enough

That God has abandoned you without hope

That you have to fight for equity in the flesh

That God wants you to live by the lower nature

That God's truth must be supported by your aspiration

That God's way will never work

That God's truth requires patience that you don't have

That God neglected you

That you are too mixed up to know what real faith is

That you have to sort this out in your mind

But Jesus promised, "Are there not twelve hours in the day? If any man walk in the day, he stumbleth not, because he seeth the light of this world." For that promise to become a reality for you, REFLECTION has to be TURNED ON. That's how you resist the devil.

Sometimes you might think you are reflecting because you paused and thought about God and thought how glad you are that you are in covenant, but that kind of passive reflection is like a passing thought and really doesn't turn on the kind of reflection I'm talking about that will make you strong in faith.

You'll want to draw from your Reflection Book to look at the revelations God gave you and spend time fellowshiping with God to build your understanding of the revelation. Avoid turning

it over once or twice in your mind and then rushing from the altar to go back to the thoughts of the world. Stay focused and remember you'll get out of your labor of faith what you put into it.

### ***Reflection is a Lifestyle***

Once you learn *how* to reflect, you'll notice that you'll be doing it all the time. It becomes a lifestyle. You don't turn it off. By that I don't mean that you're not focused on your job while you are at work, but you are aware of what is happening in your thought life. You're also aware of when you're cheating; when you're taking your thought to the flesh. Don't cheat! Keep your faith focused on Christ. Isn't that your desire?

We know that faith pleases God and we know that God desires that we retain Him in our knowledge (Romans 1:28). So then, our reflection is first of all a response to our desire to please God, to retain Him in our thought. This is what Jesus said, "He that hath my commandments, and keepeth them, he it is that loveth me: and he that loveth me shall be loved of my Father, and I will love him, and will manifest myself to him." (John 14:21)

***The KEY to RETAINING God in your thoughts is to ask the right kind of questions.***

I'll say it again, reflecting on Christ means learning to ask questions to make yourself aware of the kingdom that is manifesting and to make yourself aware of the choices you are being offered AND to PLAN the choices you know God wants you to make. You need to have this awareness before you can make a choice of faith when your cycle moves into resistance.

A lot of times believers will tell me that they feel they are making a choice of faith by praying in tongues. And YES that is the right choice of faith, because you're selecting the tool of Christ that God sanctified for your faith to be made perfect in Him. But if you're not turning on YOUR REFLECTIONS at the same time and you're just praying, you'll always be turning to prayer to resolve conflict rather than to build and Satan will dominate your thoughts when you leave the prayer closet.

..... You'll be talking about resistance rather than the grace and peace of God.

### ***Exercise in Reflection***

I want you to ask yourself a question, "Why does God call upon us to reflect upon His knowledge?" I'd like you to write that question in your notebook. And then provide 5 answers. Now, those answers might not be right there on the tip of your tongue. I want you to think about it for a bit. Work on it for the next few days.

Ask God to help your understanding of the importance of reflection. Draw from this teaching. Keep watchful as you read the scriptures, or when you are in prayer. The Lord may point something out to you there about the importance of reflection. When He does, take the time to write down your thought. But, here again, you don't want to wait for an answer to drop on you. God will work with you when you begin to reflect.

## SPIRITUAL WORKOUT MANUAL

TO BEGIN.....

***Ask yourself, what does reflection have to do with confidence?*** You may ask yourself further, “What happens when I reflect upon the knowledge of Christ, what is the Holy Spirit doing? He is providing the witness and that’s why my confidence grows. So I’m going to write that down as my first answer..... God calls us to reflect that we may stand in confidence of what we believe.

***NEXT.....Ask yourself, what does reflection say about God’s faithfulness?*** I don’t know. You tell me. The point is that you won’t know until you stop and consider it and make a plan to keep that thought handy; something you go back to when your faith is challenged. You can reflect on God’s faithfulness.

So..... what DOES reflection say about God’s faithfulness? Now you’re reflecting. Think about how faithful God is to strengthen your will by the preaching of the Word. Think about how faithful God is to reciprocate peace when you pray in tongues. God is faithful to provide scenarios to address the healing of the soul. He desires to carry out His plan in us.

***God calls us to reflection that we may KNOW that He is faithful.*** You don’t get that because someone tells you God is faithful. That might give you hope, to have someone tell you that God is faithful, but God wants to prove His faithfulness to you. Reflection means that you take the time to acknowledge this experience that you have had many times with God.

***I’m going to finish my teaching by turning to Acts chapter 27 verses 22-25:***

This passage of scripture deals with Paul being ship wrecked while on his way to Rome. Paul says:

“And now I exhort you to be of good cheer: for there shall be no loss of any man's life among you, but of the ship. For there stood by me this night the angel of God, whose I am, and whom I serve, saying, Fear not, Paul; thou must be brought before Caesar: and, lo, God hath given thee all them that sail with thee. Wherefore, sirs, be of good cheer: for I BELIEVE GOD that it shall be even as it was told me.”

We can take that to the covenant rather than a circumstance and we also can say that we BELIEVE GOD that it will be even as God planned to unfold Christ and provide His power for our overcoming. For you to BELIEVE IT at the time when you experience the challenge, requires you to turn on reflection by asking and answering questions.

You’ll see how profitable this is for you and begin to take confidence as you see how quickly you are overcoming yourself, the world, and the devil.

### ***Offer Spiritual Sacrifices of Prophecy to God***

Your priesthood is your armour. Now that God has restored the priesthood to the church, carry the altar of Christ with you wherever you go. As God provides food for your reflection to strengthen your faith in Him by His revelations to you, you’ll want to take what God is giving to

## SPIRITUAL WORKOUT MANUAL

you and offer that back to Him in spiritual sacrifices of prophecy. What you are doing is reciprocating the likeness of Christ.

Your growth cycle comes full circle when you offer spiritual sacrifices of prophecy. You are offering to God what He gave you. He provided the knowledge of Jesus Christ for your faith to labor with, God is increasing your understanding, sharing His perspective with you, and you are taking that, and as an obedient child, offering that upon the altar of Christ.

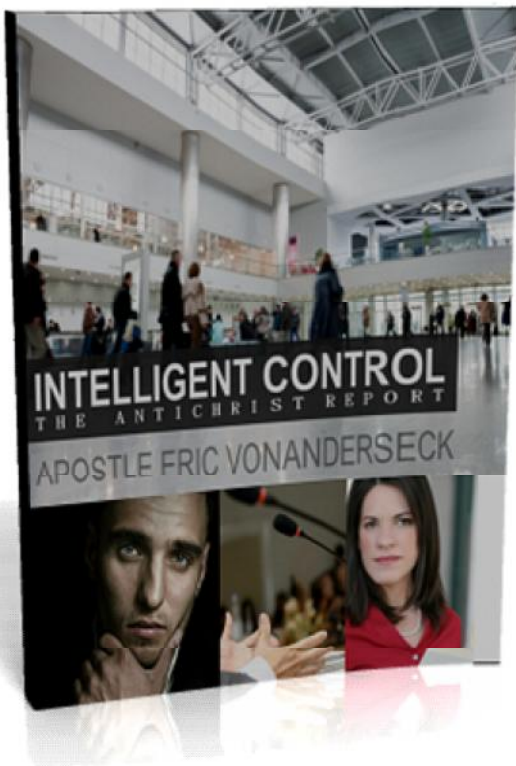
This action of faith is what God refers to as “charity”. “For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten **Son**, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.” Jesus Christ is the “charity” of God. God expressed His love through Jesus Christ and we love Him “in kind” by taking that which He has given in knowledge to express it back to Him.

What action will your faith take? Will you reciprocate the likeness of Christ? That is the challenge God places before you each day, my friend. Finally, let us walk in the victory of Christ that is ours. Remember the words of Jesus when He said, “These things I have spoken unto you, that in me ye might have peace. In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world.” (John 16:33)

**From Apostle Eric vonAnderseck**

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## Covenant Faith: Three Simple Steps to Making a Decision To Follow Christ

Everyone comes to a point in their life where they want to know more about God. Some people say they want to get closer to God. Some say they sense something missing in their faith. Others say they are desperately trying to fill a void in their life. However you say it, God has been ministering to you and calling you to Him for a long time.

You may have tried different religions or churches, looking for God. Or maybe you tried to find God in nature. But no matter what you tried, you always came back to the same place of emptiness, feeling there should be something more to life.



Regardless of how much life or religion has disappointed you, God was there time and again, encouraging you not to give up. He was there telling you that He would help you. There is a Psalm that says, “Hear my voice, O God, in my prayer: preserve my life from fear of the enemy,” Psalm 64:1. And another favorite is, “Preserve me, O God: for in thee do I put my trust,” Psalm 16:1.

So, here you are. All those moments of intervention on God’s part (His grace) has brought you to this point where your faith is about to embark on the final journey home.

Covenant Faith in Jesus Christ is that journey. It is vital that you understand what happened when Jesus shed His blood, and what His death and resurrection means to God. God wants to save, heal, and deliver you. God wants to remove you from Satan’s kingdom of darkness where you were spiritually imprisoned by his lies. God invites you to have a personal relationship with Him in His kingdom, where He will accept you as His child and free you of the hold Satan has on you. God’s invitation is to free you to Him.

Covenant Faith is a simple faith to walk. You’ll learn what it means to become a Christian, and how it is possible to please God and live the kind of life He wants you to live every day. You’ll learn how easy it is to have a personal relationship with God as you walk in your spiritual priesthood. The truth of Jesus Christ will be broken down for you in ways you never thought possible. God will begin to answer many questions that you had about Him and the purpose of your existence.



Let’s now go through a few steps that will guide you to make a faith decision to follow Jesus Christ in the new way of His covenant.



### ***Step One: Understand Where You Are Spiritually and How You Got There***

For most, life's journey is not an easy one. It is much like being on a ship, drifting through thick fog; you feel lost and uncertain of your future. Every time the waves threatened to capsize your ship you cried out, "God, where are you?! I can't see through this fog, and the waves are too high for me! Help me!"



This cry the soul makes for God is desperately repeated thousands of times every day. The Psalmist said, "Hide not thy face far from me; put not thy servant away in anger: thou hast been my help; leave me not, neither forsake me, O God of my salvation," Psalm 27:9.

### ***What the Bible Says About Man's Condition***



Man's separation from God is a direct result of Adam having accepted Satan's promises. Satan gave Adam knowledge for his mind to work with that was a direct contradiction to the things God had told Adam. God told Adam not to eat of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, and Satan said, "Yes, but. . .if you eat of this tree you will get what you want."

Satan offered Adam knowledge (promise) that worked with what Adam wanted and by that knowledge, Satan taught Adam how to work around what God had said. In this way Satan took captive Adam's mind, and this is why all Adamites today are prisoners to the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life.

This is what God said: "But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it: for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die," Genesis 2:17. God breaks sin down for us: Sin is the kingdom of Satan that Adam joined himself to by reaching for Satan's promise. There is no life in Satan's kingdom, only death.

Nothing about sin has changed since the garden. Satan continues to promise liberty, but his promise is a bondage to our self image, which brings uncertainty, works doubt in the heart, and causes man to live in fear.

Knowing these things makes the choice for life easy. Choose life by choosing to enter into God's kingdom by coming into covenant with Him.

### ***Step Two: Recognize the Voice of God Calling You***

**Did you know:** Everyone has heard the voice of God calling them out of Satan's kingdom many times. This call is the most wonderful and sweet thing imaginable. It is like a call home, a longing to be with God, a knowing that you were created for something other than what you are now experiencing.

God's call to you is special. But it's only when you stop and listen that you can hear Him more clearly. You may be wondering, If God has been calling me all my life. why has it been so difficult to find him? The reason for this difficulty is that Satan has been there too.



Every time you heard God calling you, Satan was there hanging around, listening, just like he did in the garden when God spoke to Adam. Satan designed many spiritual paths hoping you would choose one and get lost, looking for God's purpose in the wrong place.

This is why some think God's call is a call to spirituality and begin to search into everything spiritual, while others think it's a call to find themselves and begin a journey of self discovery.

It's hard to find God's true spiritual path of the covenant when Satan volunteers to be our path finder. It's like taking a trip to a faraway place. You're trying to find your way to the tourist center when this man walks up to you and tries to sell you an all-inclusive package to visit the wonderful and exotic places that only he knows about.

Everything sounds adventurous and exciting, and you trust this guy because he appears to know what he is talking about. But you haven't seen the posters around town warning tourists not to trust themselves to this murderer and thief.

In the same way, when people hear the call of God, Satan is there to send them on another journey far away from God. How do you know that is true? Because you come back to the same struggle, the same questions, the same emptiness, and the same disappointments. Does this describe your condition today?



### ***God's Call Into Covenant With Him***

A call into covenant is a call into Christ for the salvation of our souls. The Bible says that God created man in His image and likeness: "And God said,

Let us make man in our image, after our likeness,” Genesis 1:26. When Adam accepted Satan’s knowledge, he lost the likeness of God and gained Satan’s mindset.

Just as a father would be disappointed in a son who follows another path, because the father no longer sees in his son an image of himself, so God, in the same way, is disappointed with man.

When He looks at man’s soul he does not see a likeness of Himself. What does he see? He sees the likeness of Satan. This is the likeness man gained after Adam’s fall: “For all have sinned and come short of the glory of God,” Romans 3:23.

Jesus knows this to be true. This is why he referred to Satan as the “father” of the sinner (John 8:44). All sinners shall have their portion in the lake of fire because that is Satan’s destiny. Nothing of Satan can be allowed into God’s kingdom.

To change this, God provided man with a way back to Him. God gave man a chance to regain the likeness of God. God sent His only begotten Son, Jesus Christ, to die for the sins of the world, thereby offering forgiveness by a covenant of blood.

**John 3:16**

“For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.”

**Hebrews 13:20-21**

“Now the God of *peace*, that brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the everlasting *covenant*, make you perfect in every good work to do his will, working in you that which is well pleasing in his sight, through Jesus Christ; to whom be glory forever and ever. Amen.”

**2 Corinthians 3:18**

“But we all, with open face beholding as in a glass the glory of the Lord, are changed into the same *image* from glory to glory, even as by the Spirit of the Lord.”

God is calling to you to believe the testimony of Jesus Christ, that Jesus Christ is the Son of God. Jesus is the Messiah, the Saviour. He is the one who was prophesied to make reconciliation for the sins of the world, to blot out your transgressions, and to join you back to God through Himself.

Jesus shed His blood to provide the terms or grounds of the Second Covenant to sanctify your faith, that your faith may be pleasing to God.

Jesus rose again from the dead to establish a new priesthood in Himself, a living priesthood of knowledge to establish your communion with Him by this knowledge, that God might change you into His image by the power of the Holy Ghost.

You must believe this report and be baptized with the Holy Spirit, evidenced by speaking in tongues. It is by this engrafting of the Holy Spirit in you that you gain His likeness.

### ***Step Three: Make the Decision to Come Into Covenant With God***

Jesus said, “him that cometh to Me I will in no wise cast out,” John 6:37. God makes it easy for you to come to Christ that God might establish His testimony in you. All you need to do is respond to His grace and accept His invitation. If you believe that Jesus Christ died for your sins, and if you desire God’s forgiveness of sins, I invite you to respond to His grace by praying this prayer right now.

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## **PRAYER**

Almighty God, I humbly come before your throne of grace. I believe the testimony of Jesus Christ; that He is the Messiah, the Savior, that He is the one who was prophesied to come to seal our faith and make us complete in Him, and that it is His sacrifice that blots out our transgressions. I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God, that He died to make reconciliation for the sins of the world to join me back to You through Himself.

I believe that Jesus Christ shed His blood to provide the terms or grounds of the Second Covenant to sanctify my faith, that my faith may be pleasing to You. I believe that Jesus rose again from the dead to establish a new priesthood in Himself, a living priesthood of knowledge to establish my communion with You by this knowledge that I might be changed into His image by the power of the Holy Ghost.



I ask that You forgive me for walking contrary to your covenant for I ignorantly worshiped what I did not understand. It is You that put a difference between truth and error, darkness and light, and I choose to leave the kingdom of sin and enter into your kingdom.

I am tired of living by Satan’s lies, and I desire to walk on the true path of faith in Jesus Christ whereby I can regain your likeness. I accept your knowledge of faith and ask that You baptize me in the Holy Spirit and assist me to pray in tongues.

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If you have prayed this prayer with faith in your heart, then God has forgiven you of your sins and declared you righteous. He will now seal your faith with the baptism of the Holy Spirit, and you will begin to speak in tongues that you may begin a relationship with Him.

### ***God's 4-Step Program***

To convert you to Christ God is bringing you through 4 steps of His own to claim you as His child.

1. The first step is *grace*: Grace is His voice that you are hearing right now, calling you. That is God's part, to provide you grace that you may believe in Jesus. *Ephesians 2:8-9*
2. The second step is *faith*: That is your part. God's invitation to come into covenant is made effective upon grace entering into your heart. You need to yield to the grace of God and accept it. Your confession of faith means that you believe the testimony of Jesus Christ. *Ephesians 2:8-9*
3. The third step is *righteousness*: Upon seeing your heart of faith yielding to His grace God declares you righteous; you have met the standard God placed in His Son for faith to reflect Him, and you are now ready for the final step to come into covenant with God. *Romans 4:6,9,12*
4. The fourth step is the *seal of the Spirit*: The seal of the Spirit is the baptism of the Spirit evidenced by tongues. God needs to bring your faith into the house of Jesus Christ where He can properly care for you and nurture you. *Romans 4:11; Ephesians 1:13*

Visit our site to learn more about these vital 4 Steps to Covenant Faith and see how easy it is to serve God as a Christian when you have the right knowledge and spiritual tools. Our site features Free Online Courses that are fun and interactive, free Bible study aids, free pdf downloads and videos that will help you as you begin this new journey of faith in our Lord Jesus Christ. Our digital magazine features informative and helpful articles from Apostles Today Network of the Second 8<sup>th</sup> Week. May the God of all grace give you the special blessing of His covenant and may you begin to experience Him in a new and living way.

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