



THEY DID NOT ... SHRINK FROM DEATH

Revelation 12:11 'They overcame Him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony; THEY DID NOT LOVE THEIR LIVES SO MUCH AS TO SHRINK FROM DEATH'

Part 3 of a 3 Part MINISTRY OF UNDERSTANDING recognising ...

JESUS IS LORD

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GOD'S EARTHLY ORDER

THE PRINCIPLE OF SERVANTHOOD

Dictionary Definitions

SERVE: do service to, be useful to, meet needs of, do what is required for

SERVANT: devoted follower, person willing to serve another

'Sitting down, Jesus called the twelve and said, "If anyone wants to be first, he must be the very last, and the servant of all" (Mark 9:35)

"Teacher, which is the greatest commandment in the Law?" Jesus replied: "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: Love your neighbour as yourself" (Matthew 32:36-39)

GOD'S PRINCIPLE OF SERVANTHOOD INVOLVES ME PLACING, IN AGAPE LOVE (ie: love through choice of the will), THE INTERESTS OF GOD AND MY FELLOW HUMANS, ABOVE MY OWN SELF INTEREST

The most significant non-physical result of the fall of man was to turn round God's planned earthly order to place self first.

'You turn things upside down, as if the potter were thought to be like the clay! Shall what is formed say to him who formed it, 'He did not make me?' Can the pot say of the potter, 'He knows nothing?'" (Isaiah 29:16)

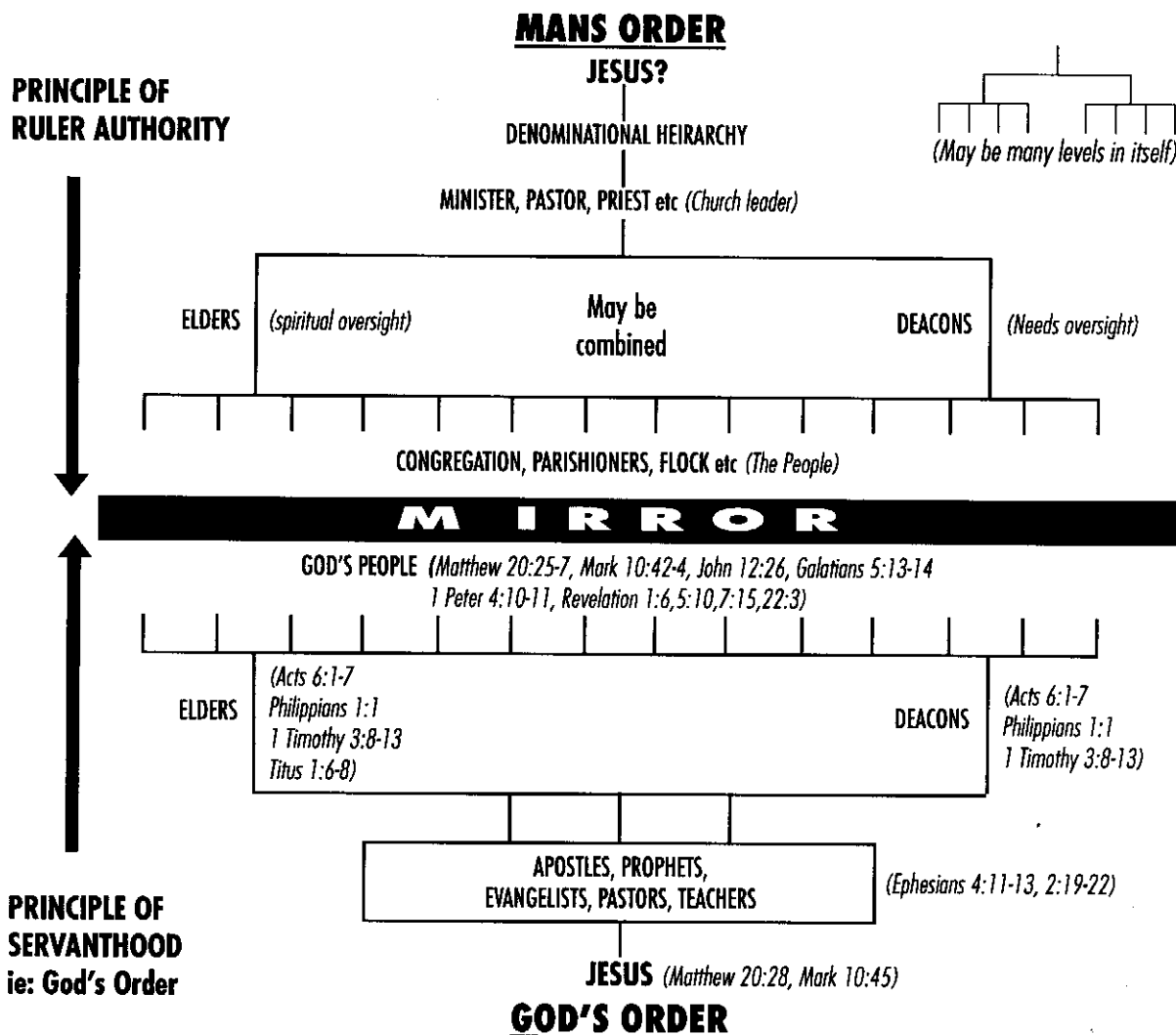
Jesus came to start the process of restoration which will be completed when he returns for a second time. (Acts 3:20-21, 15:16-18)

**FALLEN MAN PLACES SELF BEFORE GOD AND FELLOW MAN.
RESTORED (SAVED) MAN IS REQUIRED TO PLACE GOD AND FELLOW MAN
ABOVE SELF**

GOD'S ORGANISATION CHART

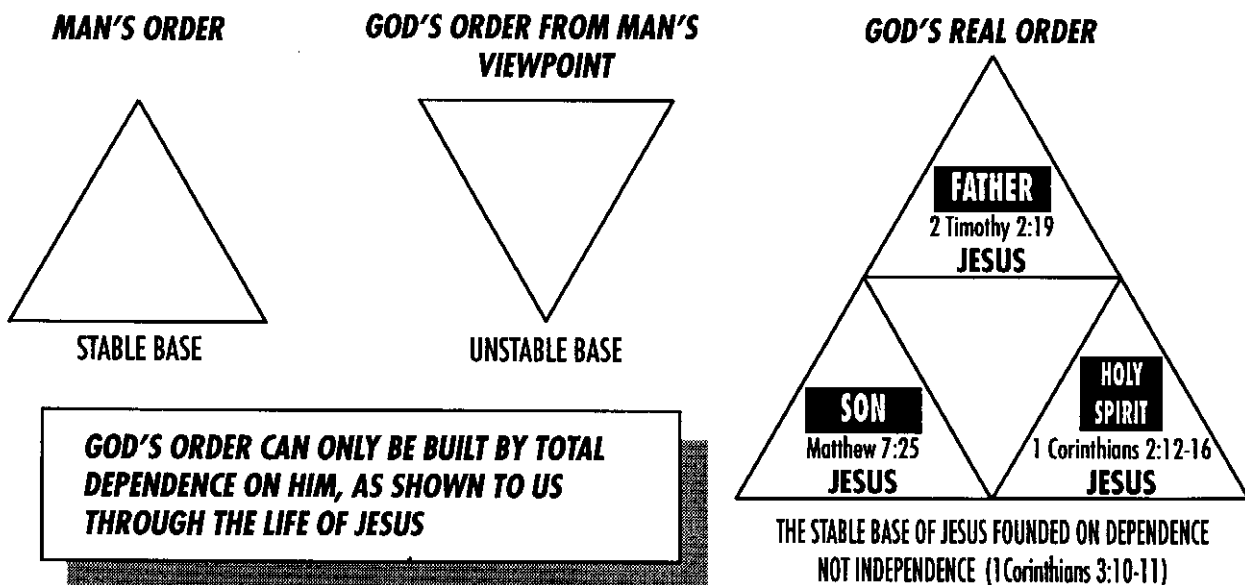
The Bible provides clear guidance to the two earthly organisations of real importance to God, the church and the family (not necessarily in that order).

God's organisation chart is a mirror image (the reverse) of that set up and understood by natural man. Let's look at the church for example. In men's order authority comes from the top of the organisation, flowing down to those at the bottom. This natural human order applies in most of our churches today.



God's real order is based on servanthood, with Jesus being the ultimate servant.

HOW DOES IT WORK?





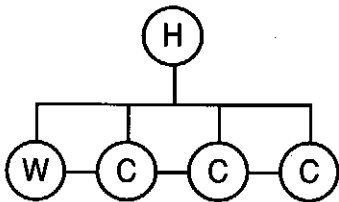
GOD'S OTHER EARTHLY ORGANISATION **- THE FAMILY**

The organisation of the family is to work on the same principle as the church. Unfortunately as the organisation of the church succumbs to fallen man's methods and weaknesses, so also does the family.

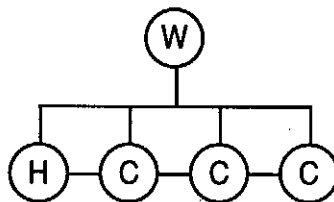
MARRIAGES IN THE WORLD (including many Christian homes!)

There are many different types of marriage in the world. Some of the main ones are:

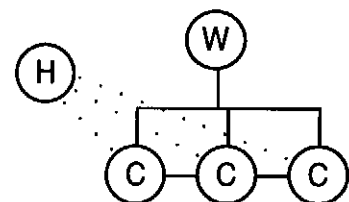
1. TYRANICAL MAN



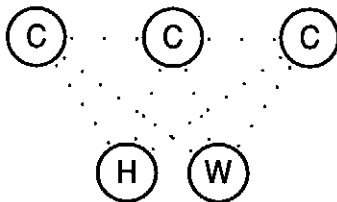
2. STRONG WILLED WOMAN



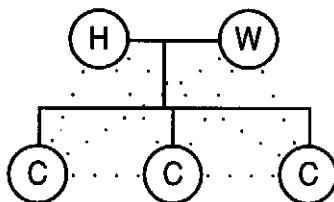
3. HUSBAND OPTS OUT



4. CHILDREN IN CHARGE



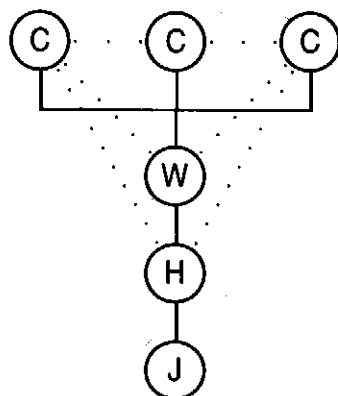
5. JOINT PARENTAL CONTROL



(H) = Husband
 (W) = Wife
 (C) = Child
 (J) = Jesus

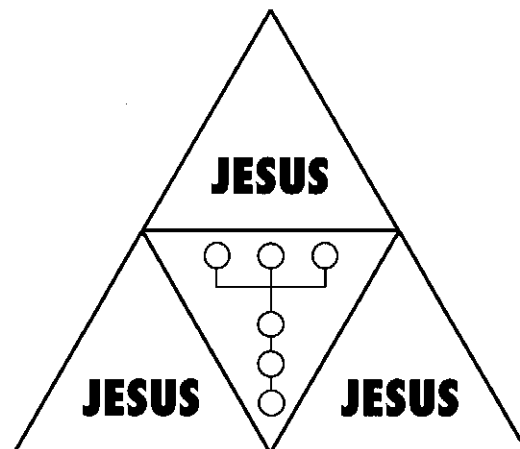
GOD'S MARRIAGE STRUCTURE

As with the church the principle of servanthood applies equally in marriage.



GOD'S FAMILY

**INTERACTIVE
SERVANTHOOD**



FOUNDED ON THE ROCK (Jesus)



For this type of servanthood marriage structure to work, the marriage must be based on Jesus. Without the solid foundation of Jesus, God's ideal plan for marriage simply will not work. This is why it is ridiculed by those in the world who cannot understand it. They try instead to impose, generally unsuccessfully, man-made solutions to this, the most complex interrelational situation we, as parents and children, will be involved with in our lives. Our one to one relationship with Jesus seems simple by comparison!



The Bible sets out guidelines for the respective roles of husbands and wives, and parents and children, which are set out overleaf. It must be remembered however that the whole Bible deals with relationships and those summarised specifics need to be looked at within the full context of the teaching the Bible gives us.



GOD'S MARRIAGE PRINCIPLES

HUSBANDS AND WIVES

RESPONSIBILITIES / DUTIES HUSBAND	RESPONSIBILITIES / DUTIES WIFE
<p>SACRIFICIAL LOVE (Ephesians 5:25-33, Colossians 3:19)</p> <p>MUST NOT DIVORCE AND REMARRY (except for marital unfaithfulness) (Matthew 19:9, Mark 10:11)</p> <p>MUST NOT DIVORCE (both believers) (1 Corinthians 7:10-11)</p> <p>STAY WITH A WILLING UNBELIEVER (1 Corinthians 7:12)</p> <p>ALLOW AN UNBELIEVER TO LEAVE (1 Corinthians 7:15-17)</p> <p>HAVE MARITAL SEX (1 Corinthians 7:2-6)</p> <p>BE CONSIDERATE AND RESPECTFUL (1 Peter 3:7)</p>	<p>SUBMIT (Ephesians 5:22-4, Colossians 3:18, 1 Peter 3:1-2)</p> <p>RESPECT (Ephesians 5:33)</p> <p>MUST NOT DIVORCE AND REMARRY (except for marital unfaithfulness) (Matthew 19:9, Mark 10:12)</p> <p>NOT REMARRY IF SEPARATE (both believers) (1 Corinthians 7:10-11)</p> <p>STAY WITH A WILLING UNBELIEVER (1 Corinthians 7:13)</p> <p>ALLOW AN UNBELIEVER TO LEAVE (1 Corinthians 7:15-17)</p> <p>HAVE MARITAL SEX (1 Corinthians 7:2-6)</p> <p>SEEK INNER BEAUTY (1 Peter 3:3-6)</p>

PARENTS AND CHILDREN

PARENTS	CHILDREN
<p><u>FATHER</u></p> <p>DO NOT - EXASPERATE (Ephesians 6:4)</p> <p>- EMBITTER (Colossians 3:21)</p> <p>TRAINING AND INSTRUCTION IN THE LORD (Ephesians 6:4)</p> <p>ENCOURAGE AND COMFORT (1 Thessalonians 2:11-12)</p> <p>MANAGE CHILDREN AND HOUSEHOLD (1 Timothy 3:12)</p> <p><u>MOTHER</u></p> <p>GENTLE AND CARING (1 Thessalonians 2:7)</p>	<p>OBEDIENCE (Ephesians 6:1, Colossians 3:20, 1 Timothy 3:4)</p> <p>HONOUR (Ephesians 6:2-3)</p>

NOTE: The above are not intended as a marriage guidance course or counselling. They are God's perfect principles for the perfect marriage. We live in an imperfect world and in imperfect individual and family situations. This does not however mean that we should ignore God's desire for us, but rather see if we can try and move a little closer to God's ideal, whatever the situation we are currently in. Pray together, pray separately, attend a christian marriage enrichment course, seek help before you get desperate. God does answer prayer, believers can help. Married or solo, we have to take the first step.

**GOD'S PRINCIPLE OF SERVANTHOOD CAN ONLY BE APPLIED WITH THE HELP
OF GOD'S GRACE, AND OUR COMMITMENT TO THE LORDSHIP OF JESUS
OVER OUR LIFE.**



THE THREE WATERS

The Old Testament describes 3 major events.

1. The Great Flood
2. Crossing the Red Sea
3. Crossing the River Jordan

Each involving water, which amazingly symbolize and reflect;

1. The nature of God (Refer Study 1, 'The Blood of the Lamb', Pages 2 & 3)
2. The process of man being brought back into relationship with God
3. The means God used to restore this relationship.

To understand the full significance of God's plan for man since time began it is important to understand these events. They occurred approximately 1500 & 4000 years before the birth of Christ, beautifully symbolising what was to come and the balance of judgement and love (WOS p3).

THE GREAT FLOOD

(GOD THE FATHER) [JUDGEMENT] {CROSS} (Genesis 6:1 - 9:17)

Judgement

1. Life Limited (Genesis 6:3)



2. Wipe Mankind Out (Genesis 6:6-7,11-13)



Love

4. No More Floods (Genesis 9:15)



3. Save Noah (Genesis 6:8-9,7:1)

- All done by God - no input from man - God the universal planner and ruler

CROSSING THE RED SEA

(GOD THE SON) [RECONCILIATION] {BAPTISM} (Exodus 13:17, - 14:31)

Love

1. Heard His people's cry (Exodus 14:10)



2. Way of Salvation - Moses to hold out staff (Exodus 14:16)



3. People responded through faith (Exodus 14:21-22)

Judgement

JESUS'S JUDGEMENT
YET TO COME



4. Egyptians Drowned (Exodus 14:26-28)



- illustrating an intimate relationship with the people
 - heard the people's cry and made available the way out
 - the judgement aspect of Jesus is yet to come
- a. Came to save and not judge the first time (John 12:47)
 - b. Judgement is to come upon Christ's return (John 5:24-30, 2 Timothy 4:1-8, James 5:7-9), having been delegated to Him by God the Father (Acts 17:31, John 5:27)

CROSSING THE RIVER JORDAN

(GOD THE HOLY SPIRIT) [PROVISION] {SPIRIT} (Joshua 1:1-4:24)

Love and Judgement (Testing) are intermingled

Preparing to Cross the River

1. Promise of 'The Promised Land' (Joshua 1:1-5)
2. Conditional upon obedience (Joshua 1:5-8)
3. Encouragement - God is with you (Joshua 1:9)
4. Testing - Spy out the land (Joshua 2:1-23)
5. Faith - gave the people confidence (Joshua 2:24)

Crossing the River

1. Amazing things to be done (Joshua 3:5)
2. Set foot in the Jordan before the flow stopped (Joshua 3:13)
3. From seeing the priests standing in the middle of the river (Joshua 3:17)
4. Walking over the river normally in flood at that time (Joshua 3:17)
5. The people crossed the river safely (Joshua 3:17)

- symbolizes our intimate day to day walk with the Holy Spirit with its promises, conditional upon obedience, with His encouragement and testing requiring faith on our part to achieve GOD'S PROMISE FOR US.

THE '3 WATERS' AMAZINGLY ILLUSTRATE GOD'S PLAN FOR MANKIND SINCE TIME BEGAN REVEALING THE 3 ASPECTS OF EACH OF

- * THE NATURE OF GOD
- * GOD'S PATTERN FOR THE RESTORATION OF MAN TO HIM
- * GOD'S METHOD FOR MAN'S RESTORATION TO HIM



WHY DID MOSES MISS OUT ON THE PROMISED LAND?

Why did Moses, regarded as the greatest Israelite (Deuteronomy 34:10-12) before the coming of Jesus, (Hebrews 3:1-6) miss out on entering the Promised Land?

THROUGH DISOBEDIENCE TO GOD'S SPECIFIC COMMAND (Numbers 20:12)

While the answer is obvious and well known, the punishment seems to us to be extremely harsh for the man who led Israel faithfully through the deliverance from Egypt and the period of punishment and testing in the desert. Surely such a great man's single misdemeanour would be overlooked by a gracious, loving and forgiving God? It wasn't. Therefore the act of disobedience committed by Moses must have been of great importance to God, important enough to prevent Moses achieving his heart's desire, to lead his people into the Promised Land.

THE PHYSICAL SIGNIFICANCE OF MOSES' SIN

To understand this we must go back to God's commissioning of Moses and then look at 3 key events during Moses' leadership.

GOD'S COMMISSIONING OF MOSES - THE STAFF (Exodus Chaps 3 & 4).

a. Symbol of God's Authority

- i. **To the Israelites** - a sign of God's visitation to Moses (Exodus 4:5)
- ii. **To the Israelites Enemies** - a sign of God's power over their God's and there fore over them eg: Pharaoh & The Plague of Frogs (Exodus 8:5)

b. Symbol of God's Supremacy in the Battle Between Good and Evil (Exodus 4:2-4)

- i. **The Staff** - representing God's power and authority (turned into)
- ii. **A Snake** - representing the serpent/satan/evil powers taken hold of by the tail (and turned back into)
- iii. **The Staff** - symbolising the supremacy of good over evil

THREE KEY EVENTS DURING MOSES LEADERSHIP

These 3 events all involved;

1. **Water** (a symbol of cleansing and purification)
2. **Striking the Staff** (symbolising the working of God's power **through** Moses).
Moses normally held out the staff, as a sign of God exercising **His** power.
Moses only struck the staff on objects 3 times in total (Aaron also once Exodus 8:17), twice on God's specific instruction and the third time of his own volition.



1. TURNING THE NILE INTO BLOOD (Exodus 7:17-20)

'This is what the Lord says: By this you will know that I am the Lord. With the staff that is in my hand I will strike the water of the Nile, and it will be changed into blood' (Exodus 7:17). Moses acting **upon** the Lord's instructions struck the river, (Aaron stretched out the staff over streams, canals, ponds and reservoirs), making it appear to Pharaoh that he (Moses) had done it.

2. STRIKING THE ROCK AT HOREB (Exodus 17:1-7)

'... and take in your hand the staff with which **you** struck the Nile and go. I will stand there beside you at the rock at Horeb. Strike the rock and water will come out of it for the people to drink' (Exodus 17:5-6). Moses acting **upon** the Lord's instructions struck the rock making it appear to the people that he (Moses) had done it.

3. STRIKING THE ROCK IN THE DESERT OF ZIN (Numbers 20:1-13)

'Take the staff (symbol of the Lord's authority) and you and your brother Aaron gather the assembly together. Speak to that rock before their eyes and it will pour out its water ...' (Numbers 20:8) 'Then Moses raised his arm and struck the rock twice with his staff. Water gushed out and the community and their livestock drank' (Numbers 20:11).

Moses **disregarding** the Lord's instructions struck the rock **twice** making it appear to the people that he (Moses) had done it.

These 3 key events each represented the start of a new stage in the lives of God's covenant people, the Israelites.

1. The turning of the Nile into blood signalled the start of the plagues which led to the exodus of the people from Egypt.
2. The provision of water as well as manna led the nation into full reliance on God for their physical needs during the 40 years of their desert wanderings.
3. The water incident at Zin occurred when the old generation had died and the new generation were to occupy the Promised Land as they had been promised by their (& our!) God.

Moses was obedient all his life but for this one slip up, that was obviously of key importance to God. The disobedience of Moses at the beginning of the entry to the Promised Land angered God greatly and cost Moses dearly.

The disobedience of Moses was the forerunner of what was to happen when the Israelites did enter Canaan. While Moses didn't directly cause the disobedience that occurred following the crossing of the Jordan River he did set the scene for it.

There was a much more profound **spiritual** significance to these events in Moses' life that provide an explanation for the seemingly harsh treatment meted out to him, that contains a vital lesson for us to learn today.



THE SPIRITUAL SIGNIFICANCE OF MOSES' SIN

Throughout the Old Testament there are numerous 'pictures' of what was to occur through the death of Jesus on the cross. As a result, man's relationship to God was restored through

- * **RECONCILIATION** - through Jesus's death on the cross
- * **RESTORATION** - resurrection and eternal life
- * **PROVISION** - of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost

Amazingly, I would suggest, these 3 events were foreshadowed by these 3 key happenings in Moses' life.

1. RECONCILIATION (Jesus' Blood - turning the Nile into blood)

The turning of the Nile into blood is an obvious symbol, further developed in the Passover, of the ultimate death of Jesus to reconcile wayward mankind to God. '... and without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness' (Hebrews 9:22)

2. RESTORATION (Resurrection and Eternal Life - Water from the Rock (Jesus))

Without the provision of water from the rock (Symbolising Jesus '... for they drank from the spiritual rock that was accompanying them and that rock was Christ' (1 Corinthians 10:4)), the people would have died in the desert without entering the Promised Land, a promise which still stands today. 'Therefore since the promise of entering his rest still stands, let us be careful that none of you be found to have fallen short of it' (Hebrews 4:1)

3. PROVISION (Holy Spirit at Pentecost - Water **Poured** from the Rock)

At the end of a symbolically similar timespan (40 years v 40 days ie: 40 being the number of trial and testing) as the people were to enter the Promised Land, God was symbolically showing the provision of His guide and protector for His people, His Holy Spirit. This is clearly reflected in the words of the passage:

a. 'Speak to that rock' This is the only miracle that God commanded Moses to perform by asking him to speak, not hold out the staff or strike it. This is symbolic of the Holy Spirit 'We have not received the spirit of the world but the Spirit who is from God, that we may understand what God has freely given us. This is what we **speak**, not in words taught us by human wisdom but in words taught by the Spirit, expressing spiritual truths in spiritual words' (1 Corinthians 2:12-13) (Also Mark 12:36, 13:11, 1 Corinthians 12:3) God was showing that, through the Holy Spirit, Moses could speak to the rock and it would pour forth water.



b. 'Pour out its water' 'Pour out', not just 'water will come out of it', as with the rock at Horeb. 'Pouring' is also symbolic of the Holy Spirit. 'In the last days, God says, I will pour out my spirit on all people. Your sons and daughters will prophecy, your young men will see visions, your old men will dream, dreams. Even on my servants, both men and women. I will pour out my spirit in those days and they will prophesy' (Acts 2:17-18) (Also Ezekiel 39:29, Joel 2:28-29 - quoted by the writer of Acts above - Zechariah 12:2, Malachi 3:10, Isaiah 32:15, Acts 2:33, 10:45) '... He saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit when he **poured out** on us generously through Jesus Christ our Saviour (Titus 3:5-6)

c. 'Water gushed out' Even though Moses did wrong, the water still gushed out to satisfy the thirst of the people and their livestock. God, in His grace, still provided for His people even though their leader had disobeyed Him.

SO WHAT WAS MOSES GREAT SPIRITUAL SIN?

'Then Moses raised his arm and **struck the rock twice** with his staff ...' (Numbers 20:11)

Spiritually Moses had failed to understand the power of the Holy Spirit, going instead back to what had worked for him in the past.

- * *Firstly - one blow - as at the Nile - speaking of Reconciliation*
- * *Secondly - the second blow - as at Horeb - speaking of Restoration*

The sin Moses committed was to stay with what he knew, not being prepared to move on in faith and obedience to a new, greater and more powerful dimension, a dimension that would be essential if the Israelites were to be able to successfully take and hold the Promised Land. He set the example of disobedience to the people which they themselves would in turn copy in the future.

MOSES' SIN WAS TO IGNORE IN HIS ANGER GOD'S PROVISION FOR HIM (SYMBOLISING THE HOLY SPIRIT) PREFERRING INSTEAD TO RELY ON PAST EXPERIENCE (SYMBOLISING THE CROSS AND RESURRECTION) TO MEET THE PEOPLES NEEDS. GOD'S REQUIREMENT OF MOSES TO MOVE FORWARD TO A NEW EXPERIENCE OF HIS POWER THROUGH FAITH, TESTING AND OBEDIENCE WAS IGNORED.

So Moses missed out on his life's desire, to lead the people into the Promised Land. God did however, in his grace and love, just before his death, take him up to the top of Mt Nebo, where he showed him the land his descendants would inherit (Deuteronomy 34:1-6)



SPIRITUAL IMPLICATIONS FOR US TODAY

The experience of Moses has important implications for us if we are to enter into the fullness of God's promise for us.

1. MOVING ON. Avoiding the natural human inclination to stick with what we know - the tried and true - which leads to spiritual death.

'In fact though by this time you ought to be teachers, you need someone to teach you the elementary truths of God's word all over again. You need milk not solid food. Anyone who lives on milk, being still an infant, is not acquainted with the teaching about righteousness (Hebrews 5:12-13) (Also 1 Corinthians 3:1-4). For without the Spirit we cannot understand the deep things of God. 'The man without the Spirit does not accept the things that came from the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him and he cannot understand them, because they are spiritually discerned' (1 Corinthians 2:14)

2. OBEDIENCE TO THE HOLY SPIRIT. So we must obediently follow the guiding of the Holy Spirit.

However as it is written: 'No eye has seen, no ear has heard, no mind has conceived what God has prepared for those who love him' but God has revealed it to us by his Spirit. The Spirit searches all things even the deep things of God. For who among men knows the thoughts of a man except the man's spirit within him? In the same way no-one knows the thoughts of God except the Spirit of God (1 Corinthians 2:9-11)

3. DEEPER THINGS OF GOD are these available to us?

'But solid food is for the mature, who by constant use have trained themselves to distinguish good from evil. Therefore let us leave the elementary teachings about Christ and go on to maturity, not laying again the foundation of repentance from acts that lead to death, and of faith in God, instruction about baptisms, the laying on of hands, the resurrection of the dead and eternal judgement. And God permitting we will do so' (Hebrews 5:14, 6:3)

4. TOWARDS MATURITY which can only be attained through faith, testing and perseverance.

'Consider it pure joy, my brothers, whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith develops perseverance. Perseverance must finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything' (James 1:2-4)

5. TO RECEIVE 'THE CROWN OF LIFE' that symbolically eluded Moses.

'Blessed is the man who perseveres under trial, because he has stood the test he will receive the crown of life that God has promised to those who love him' (James 1:12)

TO SHARE FULLY IN GOD'S PROMISE FOR US WE MUST OBEDIENTLY FOLLOW THE GUIDANCE OF THE HOLY SPIRIT IN OUR LIVES, ACHIEVING MATURITY THROUGH FAITH, TESTING AND PERSEVERANCE.

THE STEPS OF OBEDIENCE

STEPS OF OBEDIENCE	MOSES' STAFF	ISRAEL - OLD GENERATION	ISRAEL - NEW GENERATION BORN IN EGYPT	JESUS'S LIFE	APOSTLES	OURSELVES
1. RECONCILIATION	NILE (Cross) (Exodus 7:17-20)	EGYPTIAN PASSOVER (Cross) (Exodus 12:1-30)	EGYPTIAN PASSOVER (Cross) (Exodus 12:1-30)	NOT REQUIRED IN LIFE, AS WAS PERFECT (Only on death for us)	CROSS (Colossians 1:19-20)	CROSS (Colossians 1:19-20)
2. RESTORATION	HOREB (Resurrection) (Exodus 17:1-7)	RED SEA (Resurrection) (Exodus 13:17-14:31)	RED SEA (Resurrection) (Exodus 13:17-14:31)	SYMBOLISED BY BAPTISM (Matthew 3:17)	RESURRECTION (1 Peter 1:3-4)	RESURRECTION (1 Peter 1:3-4)
3. PROVISION	ZIN (Holy Spirit) (Numbers 20:1-12)	MANNA & WATER (Holy Spirit) (Exodus 15:22-17:7)	PROMISED LAND (Holy Spirit) (Exodus 3:8)	HOLY SPIRIT (Matthew 3:16)	HOLY SPIRIT (John 16:13-16)	HOLY SPIRIT (John 16:13-16)
4. WILDERNESS	MIDIAN (Exodus 2:11-25)	a. EGYPTIAN EXILE (Genesis 15:13) b. EXPLORATION OF CAANAN (Numbers 13:1-24)	DESERT (Numbers 14:28-32)	DESERT (Matthew 4:1-11)	a. CROSS TO RESURRECTION b. ASCENSION TO PENTECOST	INDIVIDUAL (eg Elijah 1 Kings 16:1-17:2)
WILDERNESS TIME *	40 YEARS (Acts 7:29-30)	a. 400 YEARS (Genesis 15:13) b. 40 DAYS (Numbers 13:25)	40 YEARS (Numbers 14:34)	40 DAYS (Matthew 4:2)	a. 3 DAYS b. 10 DAYS (Acts 1:3, 2:1-4)	VARIOUS
5. RESPONSE	DISOBEDIENCE (Numbers 20:6-11)	a. OBEDIENCE (Exodus 12:21-28) b. DISOBEDIENCE (Numbers 13:26-14:19)	OBEDIENCE (Deuteronomy 34:9)	OBEDIENCE (Luke 4:12-13)	OBEDIENCE (Acts Chaps 2-28)	OUR CHOICE
6. RESULT	PREVENTED FROM ENTERING THE PROMISED LAND (Numbers 20:12)	a. THE EXODUS (Exodus 12:1-51) b. DIED IN DESERT (Numbers 14:20-23)	ENTRY INTO THE PROMISED LAND (Joshua 1:1-5:12)	MINISTRY AS SAVIOUR OF WORLD (John 12:47)	ESTABLISHED CHURCH AS FAR AS ROME (2 Timothy 1:16-17)	RESULT OF OUR CHOICE
7. INHERITANCE CLAIMED	NOT CLAIMED (Died in Moab) (Deuteronomy 34:5)	a. FREEDOM FROM SLAVERY (Exodus 14:30-32) b. NOT CLAIMED (Died in Desert) (Deuteronomy 2:13-14)	CLAIMED OVER 400 YEARS (Joshua to David)	3 YEARS OF CLAIMING HIS INHERITANCE (John 17:1-5)	APPROX 30-35 YEARS TO SPREAD GOSPEL TO ROME	AT GOD'S DESIRE

* It is not difficult to see why 40 is regarded as the number of 'Trial and Testing'



10 STEPS TOWARDS CLAIMING OUR INHERITANCE

- FROM SALVATION TO THE LORDSHIP OF JESUS -

A SUMMARY

Our Christian walk starts with salvation but must not stop there! We must '... go on to maturity ...' (Hebrews 6:1) if we are to claim '... the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints, and his incomparably great power for us who believe ...' (Ephesians 1:18-19). This is beautifully illustrated in the Old Testament by God's release of the Israelites from Egypt and their subsequent (tortuous!) journey to the promised land of Caanan. Another Old Testament picture of a modern day reality!

The steps the Israelites took and are to follow are illustrated below.

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
ISRAELITES	Passover	Red Sea	Cloud & Fire	Early Desert	Exploration of Caanan	The Wilderness	Leaving the Desert	Crossing the Jordan	Claiming the Inheritance	Retaining the Inheritance
US	Cross	Resurrection (Baptism)	Holy Spirit	Grounding in the Faith	Receiving our Vision	Death of Vision	Restoration of Vision	Stepping out in faith	Obedience Perseverance	Attaining Holiness

1. PASSEOVER

Release from Egyptian bondage (Exodus 12:1-30)

2. CROSSING THE RED SEA

Into a new life (Exodus 13:17-14:31)

3. PROVISION OF CLOUD & FIRE (- Mana & Water)

God's Guidance & Provision (1 Corinthians 10:1-2 Exodus 14-16)

4. EARLY DESERT

Laws of living & worship (Exodus 19-40, Leviticus)

5. EXPLORATION OF CAANAN

Spy out the Promised Land (Numbers 1-13)

6. THE WILDERNESS

Comdenation through disobedience (Numbers 14-21)

7. PRIOR TO PROMISED LAND

Caanan revisited (Joshua 1-2)

8. CROSSING THE JORDAN

Stopping the rivers flow (Joshua 3-4)

9. CLAIMING THE INHERITANCE

Joshua to David (Joshua, Judges, Samuel, Chronicles)

10. RETAINING THE INHERITANCE

Solomon onwards (Kings, Chronicles)

CROSS (Salvation)

Release from our sins (1 Peter 3:18)

RESURRECTION (Restoration - symbolised by Baptism)

The promise of eternal life (Romans 6:3-4)

HOLY SPIRIT RELEASE (Baptism)

Our helper, teacher & guide (John 14:26)

GROUNDING IN THE FAITH

Learning about God through scripture (Colossians 1:9-12)

RECEIVING OUR VISION (Purpose)

The Lord's desire for us (Acts 9:15-19)

DEATH OF OUR VISION

Test of faith, wait on God's timing (Hebrews 11:17-19)

RESTORATION OF VISION

God is ready to use us (Genesis 22:12-14)

STEPPING OUT IN FAITH TOWARDS RIGHTEOUSNESS

Into a new experience (Acts 9:20-22)

OBEDIENCE & PERSEVERANCE

Paul spreading the gospel, suffering hardship (Acts, Pauls letters)

ATTAINING HOLINESS

To become one with Jesus (Hebrews 2:11 John 17:19)

WE MUST UNDERSTAND AND FOLLOW GOD'S CHOSEN PATTERN FOR OUR LIFE, FROM THE CROSS TO OUR ULTIMATE EARTHLY INHERITANCE, BECOMING ONE WITH CHRIST IN HOLINESS.



THE 10 STEPS TOWARDS CLAIMING OUR INHERITANCE

These 10 steps towards claiming our inheritance are set out to help give an understanding of how God works in and through our lives. We can then become more aware of where we have been, where we are now and where it is likely that we will be heading in the future, if we choose to be obedient to Him. THEY **ARE NOT** A DOGMATIC LIST OF THE 10 MAGIC STEPS TO BE TAKEN TO CLAIM THE HIGHEST PLACE IN HEAVEN! The Lord is in control and He will

- a. Place His hand individually upon each one of us to use as He chooses, at His timing and under His conditions.
- b. Take us back down the steps, if we choose to be disobedient to Him.

What is being illustrated here is a pattern that emerges from the pages of the Bible, both the Old and New Testaments, which at His choice, the Lord often uses to mature us towards becoming '... sons of God' (Romans 8:14)

1. CROSS (Salvation)

Dealt with fully in our first study 'The Blood of the Lamb'. The essential first step towards commencing our walk with God.

2. RESURRECTION (Restoration - Symbolised by Baptism)

The resurrection (restoration) has also been fully dealt with in Study 1. BAPTISM is an important step, publicly signifying one's commitment to Christ. 'Whoever believes and is baptised will be saved ...' (Mark 16:16)

- a. Introduced by John the Baptist as a sign of repentance for all (previously only non-Jews embracing the Jewish faith were baptised) 'I baptise you with water for repentance ...' (Matthew 3:11)
- b. Undertaken by Jesus 'Jesus replied "Let it be so; it is proper for us to do this to 'fulfil all righteousness'", Then John consented' (Matthew 3:15)
- c. Carried out by the disciples upon Jesus's instruction 'The pharisees heard that Jesus was gaining and baptising more disciples than John, although in fact it was not Jesus who baptised but his disciples' (John 4:1-2)
- d. And continued by the disciples after Jesus's death (Acts 10:44-48)
- e. The full theological reasoning for baptism and its connection with resurrection and eternal life being set out by Paul in Romans 6:1-10. The instructions are clear:
 - i. Baptism is for Believers (not infants)
'Simon himself believed and was baptised ...' (Acts 8:13)
 - ii. Baptism is to be by Full Immersion as was shown by the example of Jesus being approved of by God. 'As soon as Jesus was baptised, he went up out of the water ... And a voice from heaven said "This is my Son, whom I love; with Him I am well pleased"' (Matthew 3:16-17)



2. DOING WHAT HE TELLS US TO DO IN THE BIBLE

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

'Always learning but never able to acknowledge the truth' (2 Timothy 3:7)

* Learning must be accompanied by belief and action

b. 'We have not received the spirit of the world but the Spirit who is from God that we may understand what God has freely given us' (1 Corinthians 2:12)

* Understanding comes from God, not from human wisdom.

Application stemming from understanding therefore, must also be the work of the Holy Spirit in our lives, and not from our own strength.

TO LEARN ABOUT GOD WE MUST STUDY THE BIBLE. UNDERSTANDING OF GOD HOWEVER, COMES ONLY FROM HIS HOLY SPIRIT LIVING IN US, REVEALING GOD TO US THROUGH OUR LEARNING

5. RECEIVING OUR VISION

This area of personal revelation of God's purpose for our life ie: our individual place in the body of Christ, is a particularly difficult one for us to comprehend. It is inextricably involved with the whole range of our human emotions, centred on that vexed and most important question in each of our lives; what is our life's purpose?

STEP 1: SUBMISSION TO GOD'S WILL FOR US

'Submit yourselves, then, to God ...' (James 4:7)

This involves

- a. For Achievers: Letting go of personal dreams and goals, however worthy, and being fully open for God to use or not to use for His purpose at His timing
- b. For Non-Achievers: Letting go of the personal feelings of unworthiness, being fully open for God to provide you with the strength necessary to use you for His purpose at His will and timing

STEP 2: HUMBLE YOURSELF BEFORE THE LORD

'Humble yourselves before the Lord, and He will lift you up' (James 4:10)

a. For Achievers:

1. Understanding that any abilities you may have are God - given by His grace (ie: undeserved) and therefore are to be available to God to be used for any task He may choose, however great or small, for you to do.

2. Being prepared to let the Lord use your weaknesses as well as, or instead of your strengths.



**HAVE YOU FOLLOWED JESUS'S EXAMPLE
AND BEEN BAPTISED BY FULL IMMERSION? IF
IT WAS RIGHT FOR JESUS SURELY IT IS RIGHT
FOR EACH ONE OF US TODAY!**

3. HOLY SPIRIT RELEASE (Infilling or Baptism)

Fully dealt with in Study 2, 'The Word of Their Testimony'. As shown by our study on Moses (see pages 8-12) this release, empowering, second touch, or baptism of the Holy Spirit is of extreme importance to God.

**HOLY SPIRIT RELEASE IN OUR LIFE IS A NECESSARY PREREQUISITE FOR US TO
MOVE FORWARD IN CHRIST TOWARDS CLAIMING OUR INHERITANCE.**

4. GROUNDING IN THE FAITH

- Q.** How do we make a friend?
A. By; 1. Gaining understanding of our friend through communication
 2. Learning to meet our friend's needs
- Q.** How do we build a relationship with God?
A. By; 1. Gaining an understanding of God, through the Bible
 2. Doing what he tells us to do in the Bible

1. GAINING AN UNDERSTANDING OF GOD THROUGH THE BIBLE

- a. 'In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God and the word was God. He was with God in the beginning' (John 1:1)
 'The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory of the One and Only (ie Jesus) who came from the Father, full of grace and truth' (John 1:14)
 'No-one has ever seen God, but God the One and Only (ie Jesus) who is at the Father's side has made him known' (John 1:18)

- * Jesus was / is God (The Word)
- * By learning about Jesus we learn about God

- b. 'All scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work' (2 Timothy 3:16-17)

- * Scripture teaches us about God (is God breathed)
- * Scripture trains us in righteousness (to be pleasing to God)



b. For Non-Achievers:

1. Being prepared to trust in the Lord to provide you with the strength you need to use for the purpose He has for you
2. Being prepared to trust the Lord sufficiently to accept any task that He may have for you to do, however big that may be.

STEP 3: WAIT FOR GOD'S TIME

'Humble yourselves, therefore under Gods mighty hand, that he may lift you up in due time' (1 Peter 5:6)

- a. For Achievers: Wait patiently upon the Lord's timing. You may not be as ready as you think you are, or God in his wisdom may not wish to use you just yet.
- b. For Non-Achievers: Wait patiently upon the Lord's timing. The Lord may wish to use you before you feel you are ready to be used. He knows best.
'When I am afraid, I will trust in you' (Psalm 56:3)

REMEMBER: GOD'S TIME FRAME IS ETERNITY. WAIT PATIENTLY!

STEP 4: RECEIVING THE VISION (PURPOSE)

Q. How Will I Receive My Vision?

- A. 1. Clearly. The Lord wants you to know what He wants of you and He will tell you clearly what He wants.
2. In as many different ways as there are people. The Lord will choose the best way to tell you.

Q. When Will I Receive My Vision?

- A. Probably unexpectedly, as the Lord wants to make His purpose abundantly clear to you.

Q. Will My Vision Be in the Area I Expect?

- A. Very often not. The Lord knows us better than we know ourselves. Very often He will use us in our areas of weakness, whereas we would expect to be used in our area/s of strength. This firstly tests our faith, then makes us rely on Him, as we walk in areas beyond our experience which we naturally feel uncomfortable or insecure in.

Q. How Do I Know My Vision is Real and Not Just My (or Others) Wishful Thinking?

- A. The Lord will make your vision clear to you through confirmation. After all it is what He wants you to do.

Q. Will I Like My Vision?

- A. Quite probably you will feel it will be too challenging, too difficult, if not completely impossible for you to do. Visions have to be difficult enough to need to be undertaken in faith, with full reliance upon God. Visions are life changing experiences. eg: Paul, Joshua, Moses, Joseph, Isaac and Abraham.



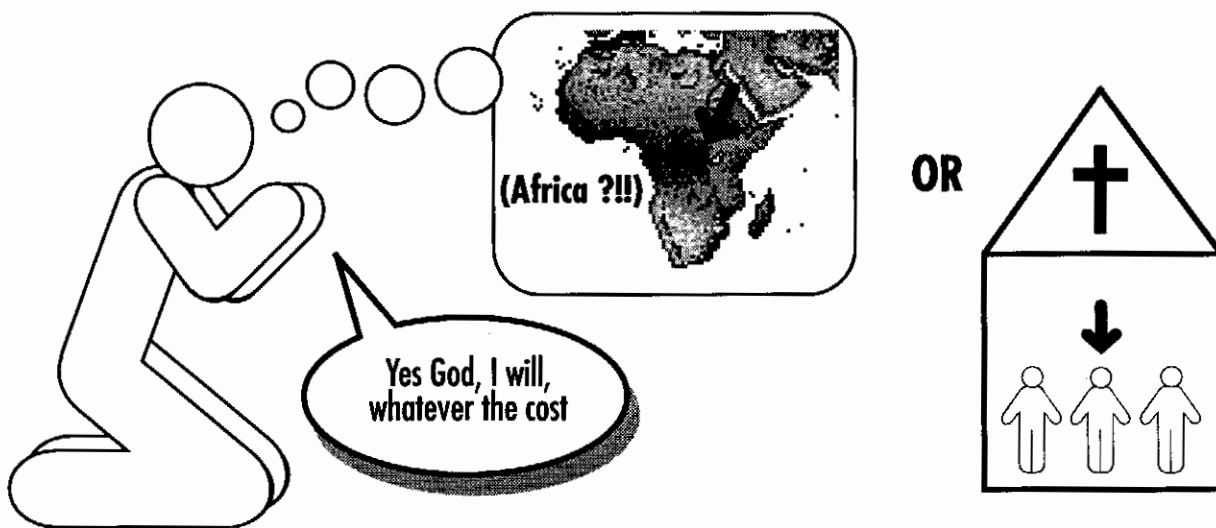
Q. Do I Have to Fulfil My Vision?

A. No. It is a matter of choice. God puts His plan for you in front of you. You may enact or reject it as you chose. If you chose to reject your vision however, you will be answerable to God on Judgement Day! Your vision may be difficult to enact, requiring faith and commitment, but it will certainly be possible. God will ensure that. It is His task for you.

Q. Will My Vision Automatically Come to Pass?

A. No. A vision is only a vision. To bring it to reality faith, obedience and perseverance will inevitably be required.

'... they did not love their lives so much as to shrink from death' (Revelation 12:11)



6. DEATH OF OUR VISION

*** What God gives He then seems to take away. Why?**

'See I have refined you, though not as silver; I have tested you in the furnace of affliction. For my own sake, for my own sake I do this. How can I let myself be defamed? I will not yield my glory to another' (Isaiah 48:10-11)

*** God seeks to confirm our true heart is for Him**

'Therefore this is what the Lord Almighty says: "See I will refine and test them, for what else can I do because of the sin of my people? Their tongue is a deadly arrow; it speaks with deceit. With his mouth each speaks cordially to his neighbour, but in his heart he sets a trap for him" (Jeremiah 9:7)

*** And that we are prepared to trust Him fully**

'By faith Abraham, when God tested him, offered Isaac as a sacrifice. He who had received the promise (ie his vision) was about to sacrifice his one and only son, even though God had said to him, "It is through Isaac that your offspring will be reckoned". Abraham reasoned that God could raise the dead, and figuratively speaking, he did receive Isaac back from death' (Hebrews 11:17-19)



*** For through trials we are purified**

'For you O God, tested us; you refined us like silver' (Psalm 66:10)

*** Through God's love we are chastened**

'And have you forgotten that word of encouragement that addresses you as sons: 'My son, do not make light of the Lord's discipline, and do not lose heart when he rebukes you, because the Lord disciplines those he loves, and he punishes everyone he accepts as a son Endure hardship as discipline; God is treating you as sons. For what son is not disciplined by his father? If you are not disciplined (and everyone undergoes discipline), then you are illegitimate children and not true sons' (Hebrews 12:5-8)

*** And our character matured**

'because you know that the testing of your faith develops perseverance. Perseverance must finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything' (James 1:3-4)

*** With our faith being proved genuine**

'In this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while you may have had to suffer grief in all kinds of trials. These have come so that your faith - of greater worth than gold, which perishes even though refined by fire - may be proved genuine and may result in praise, glory and honour when Jesus Christ is revealed' (1 Peter 1:6-8)

*** To receive the promised reward**

'Blessed is the man who perseveres under trial, because when he has withstood the test, he will receive the crown of life that God has promised to those who love him' (James 1:2)

WHEN DOES OUR VISION DIE?

At the time of GOD'S choosing. Illustrated by

1. AT THE BEGINNING Paul as soon as he was given his vision - 3 days blindness (Acts 9:3-9)
2. A LITTLE FURTHER ON. Abraham being asked to sacrifice Isaac who was the means by which Abrahams vision of being the Father of Israel was to be fulfilled (Genesis 22:1-10)
3. ONCE THE VISION WAS SEEMINGLY FULFILLED. Job was already 'the greatest man among all the people of the East' when his vision dramatically died (Job 1:13-42:9)

BEFORE EMPOWERING US TO FINALLY FULFIL OUR VISION GOD TESTS US TO

1. CONFIRM OUR FAITH

2. PREPARE AND PURIFY US

SO THAT THE GLORY WILL GO TO HIM ALONE



7. RESTORATION OF OUR VISION

On GOD'S timing and upon HIS will, when HE has confirmed our faith and refined us, HE will restore our vision

- eg: 1. PAUL God's restoration of his sight through Ananias (Acts 9:15-19)
2. ABRAHAM When the angel stopped him from sacrificing Isaac and renewed his promise to him (Genesis 22:11-18)
3. JOB After his testing 'the Lord made him prosperous, again and gave him twice as much as he had before' (Job 42:10)

8. STEPPING OUT IN FAITH TOWARDS RIGHTEOUSNESS

*** STEP 1 - FAITH**

'For in the gospel a righteousness from God is revealed, a righteousness that is by faith from first to last just as it is written: 'The righteous will live by faith'' (Romans 1:17)

FAITH MUST FORM THE BASIS OF OUR WORKS

*** STEP 2 - WORKS** (Application of Faith)

'For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do (Ephesians 2:10)

GOD HAS PREPARED OUR WORKS FOR US!

*** LEADING TO RIGHTEOUSNESS**

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

ON OUR PATH TOWARDS RIGHTEOUSNESS

THE MATHEMATICS OF RIGHTEOUSNESS

Works \neq Righteousness (Ephesians 2:8-9)

Faith \neq Righteousness (James 2:14)

Works \rightarrow Faith \neq Righteousness (Romans 9:31-2)

FAITH \rightarrow WORKS \rightarrow RIGHTEOUSNESS (James 2:22)

BUT WHAT IS THE MISSING LINK?

9. OBEDIENCE AND PERSEVERANCE

Step 1 OBEDIENCE (To fulfil God's purposes)

1. Why Obedience? - To move closer to righteousness

'Don't you know that when you offer yourselves to someone to obey him as slaves, you are slaves to the one whom you obey - whether you are slaves to sin, which leads to death, or to obedience which leads to righteousness?' (Romans 6:16)

2. Will it all be easy? No!

'Although he (Jesus) was a son he learned obedience from what he suffered, and once made perfect he became the source of eternal salvation for all who obey him and was designated by God to be high priest in the order of Melchizedek' (Hebrews 5:8-10)

3. Why Not?

- a. To prove we remain in submission as did Jesus (Hebrews 5:7)
- b. To ensure we continue to remain in Him (John 15:4)
By obeying His commands we will remain in His love and our joy will be complete (John 15:10-11)
- c. To be further refined (Daniel 12:10)

4. How do we know we are still with the Lord?

- a. If we obey his commands (1 John 2:3)
- b. If we walk as Jesus did (1 John 2:5-6)
- c. By the spirit he gave us (1 John 3:24)

STEP 2 PERSEVERANCE (To receive God's reward)

- a. To make us complete not lacking anything (James 1:2-4)
- b. To receive the Lord's compassion, mercy and reward (James 5:11)
- c. To receive God's promise to us (Hebrews 10:35-6)
- d. To receive the crown of life (James 1:12)

OBEDIENCE FULFILLS GOD'S PURPOSES, PERSEVERANCE BRINGS GOD'S REWARDS

10. ATTAINING HOLINESS

THE 3 STEPS FROM OBEDIENCE TO HOLINESS



THE FOUNDATION OF OBEDIENCE AND PERSEVERANCE

(Romans 6:18-19)



STEP 1 - RIGHTEOUSNESS

Remember (see page 22), that righteousness is attained through

- a. Faith (Romans 1:17) which in turn is reflected in
- b. Works (James 2:21-24)

but also requires

- c. Obedience and Perseverance (Romans 6:16)
Faith and works alone are not enough to achieve righteousness. Complete obedience to God's will, together with perseverance in achieving the tasks he has given us, is necessary for the state of righteousness to be attained.

THE TRUE EQUATION OF RIGHTEOUSNESS

(FAITH → WORKS) + (OBEDIENCE + PERSEVERANCE) = RIGHTEOUSNESS

STEP 2 - LORDSHIP

Dictionary Definition: LORDSHIP, noun. Dominion, rule, ownership of or over.

By analysing the definition we can see that God the Father has set up Jesus to have Lordship over our lives.

a. Dominion

'... far above all rule and authority, power and dominion ...' (Ephesians 1:20-21)

b. Rule

'... he will be clothed with majesty and will sit and rule on his throne ...'
(Zechariah 6:12-13)

'... one who will arise to rule the nations ...' (Romans 15:12)

c. Ownership

'Now it is God who makes both us and you stand firm in Christ. He anointed us, set his seal of ownership on us ...' (2 Corinthians 1:22)

1a. ASPECTS OF LORDSHIP

The bible reveals many different aspects of the Lordship of Jesus in our lives. They are not simple or easy! They are not meant to be! It is only as we grow in the Lord that we are given the grace to understand and the ability to apply them.

a. LORDSHIP IS GOD'S GIFT

1. Centered on God's grace (1 Timothy 1:12,14), Revelation 22:21)

b. CONFIRMED BY US THROUGH

2. Recognition (Acts 10:36)
3. Confession (Romans 10:9)
4. One Lord (Romans 10:12-13)
5. Oneness with Christ (Ephesians 2:21-2)



c. REQUIRING US TO

6. Reject our sinful nature (Romans 13:14)
7. Die to Self (Romans 14:7-9)
8. Follow Jesus's example (1 Peter 1:15-16)
9. Transform into Jesus's likeness (2 Corinthians 3:16-18)

d. BY

10. Accepting direction (2 Thessalonians 3:5)
11. Accepting Discipline (Hebrews 12:5)
12. Humility (James 4:10)
13. Worthiness (Colossians 1:10)
14. Sacrifice (Philippians 3:7-8)
15. Studying the Word (1 Peter 2:2-3)
16. Our heart attitude (1 Peter 3:15)
17. Discernment (Jude 4)
18. Pleasing God / Christ (Colossians 1:10, 1 Thessalonians 4:1-2, 2 Corinthians 5:9)

e. INSPIRED BY THE PROMISE OF

19. Future hope (Revelation 11:15, 19:16, 22:20)

BUT HOW DO WE DO IT?

'They overcame him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony; THEY DID NOT LOVE THEIR LIVES SO MUCH AS TO SHRINK FROM DEATH' (Revelation 12:11)

OUR KEY VERSE CONTAINS THE ANSWER

Remember our breakdown of man's soul as being

- | | | |
|-------------|------------|-----------------|
| a. Mind | - Thinking | - Hope Centred |
| b. Emotions | - Feeling | - Faith Centred |
| c. Will | - Doing | - Love Centred |

(Taken from Part 2: 'Life Through the Spirit' - page 2)

**THE KEY TO THE LORDSHIP OF JESUS IN OUR
LIFE IS FOUND IN THE COMPLETE
SUBMISSION OF OUR WILL TO HIM IN
LOVE*, EVEN UNTO DEATH**

*** Agape Love - commanded as a duty
(Revelation 12:11)**



THROUGH SUBMISSION

Dictionary definition: SUBMIT, verb. Surrender oneself for control etc to (God)

1. God's Requirement Throughout the Ages
'Do not be stiff necked as your fathers were; submit to the LORD ...' (2 Chronicles 30:8)
2. To Bring Us Into a Close Relationship With Him
'Submit yourselves, then, to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you. Come near to God and he will come near to you ...' (James 4:7-8)

OF OUR WILL

Dictionary Definition: WILL, noun. Faculty by which person decides ... upon and initiates action

This is necessary

1. To Get into the Kingdom of God
'Not everyone who says to me 'Lord, Lord' will enter the Kingdom of heaven, but only he who does the will of my Father who is in heaven' (Matthew 7:21)

ONE OF THE MOST SOBERING VERSES IN THE BIBLE!!

2. To Enter Into Close Relationship With the Godhead
 - a. God the Son (Matthew 12:50)
 - b. God the Father (John 9:31, Romans 12:1-2, Philipians 2:13)
 - c. God the Holy Spirit (John 14:26)
3. To Understand God's Will For Us (Colossians 1:9, 4:12, Hebrews 13:20-21, James 4:15, 1 Peter 3:17, Romans 12:2)
4. Even Through Suffering (1 Peter 3:17, 4:19)
5. As In the Perfect Example of Jesus (John 6:38, 1 Peter 4:12, Matthew 26:39, 26:42, 26:44)
6. To Receive Our Ultimate Rewards
 - a. Eternal life (1 John 2:17)
 - b. Authority over the nations (Revelation 2:26)

THE LORDSHIP OF JESUS OVER OUR LIVES IS MADE POSSIBLE BY GOD'S GRACE (Ephesians 2:8-9) THROUGH

*** THE BLOOD OF JESUS TO CLEANSE US (PART 1)**

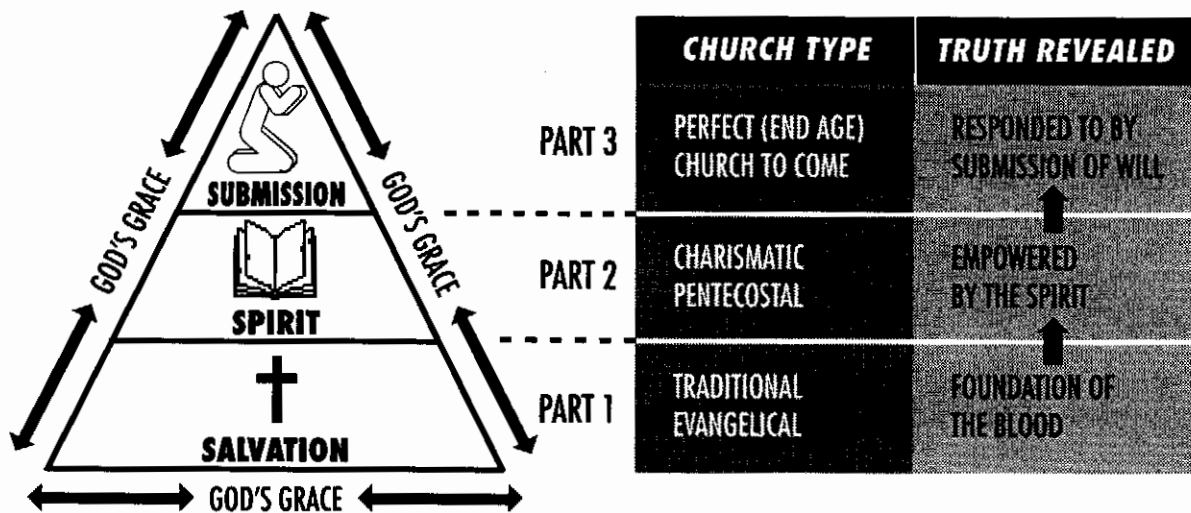
*** THE PROVISION OF HIS HOLY SPIRIT TO GUIDE US (PART 2)**

TO WHICH OUR RESPONSE IS TO BE

*** THE TOTAL SURRENDER OF OUR LIVES TO HIM (PART 3) (Revelation 12:11)**

**PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT****CHURCH DEVELOPMENT**

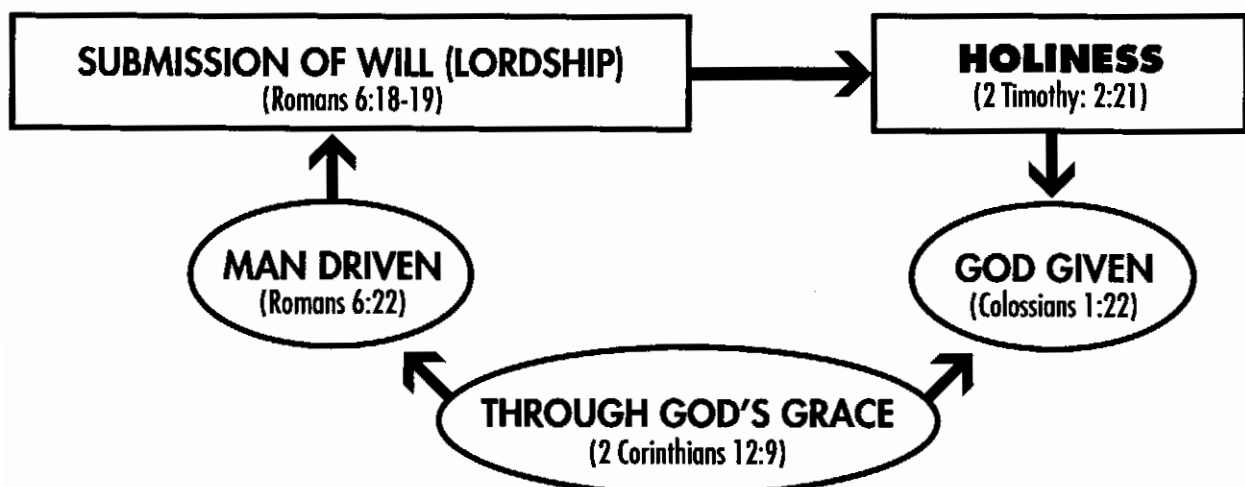
REVELATION 12:11



TO ASPIRE TO THE LORDSHIP OF JESUS IN OUR OWN LIFE (AND IN THAT OF THE CHURCH) WE MUST BE

- 1. SAVED (THROUGH THE BLOOD OF JESUS)**
- 2. EMPOWERED BY THE RELEASE OF THE HOLY SPIRIT WITHIN US AND**
- 3. IN RETURN BE FULLY SUBMISSIVE IN OUR LIVES TO HIM**

FOR SUCCESS, ALL 3 STEPS MUST BE UNDERTAKEN AND IN THE CORRECT ORDER

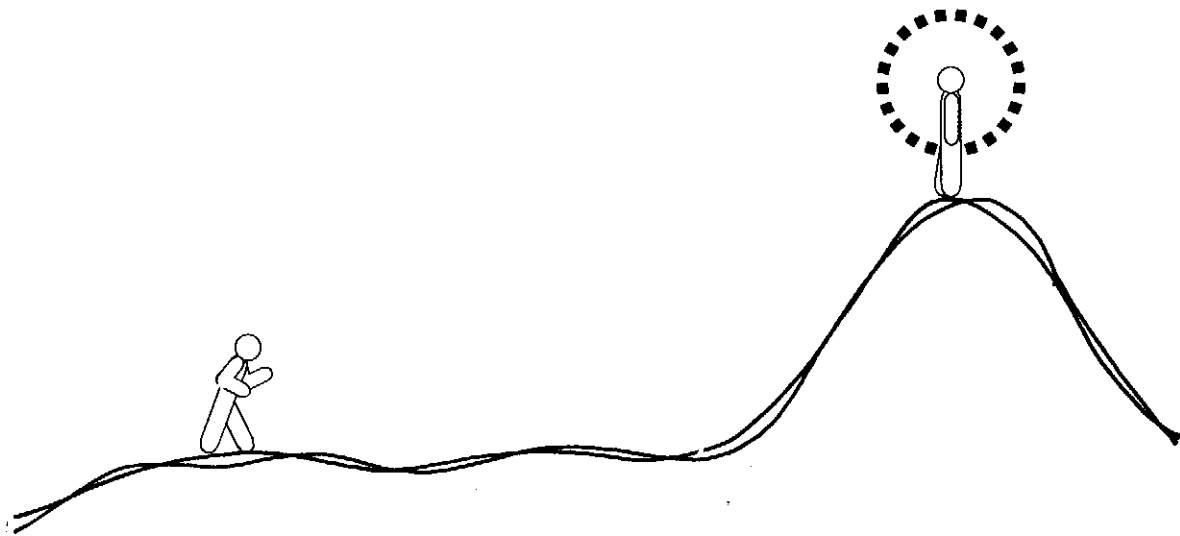
STEP 3 - HOLINESS**THE SECRET OF HOLINESS**



HOLINESS IS GOD'S REWARD FOR THE TOTAL SUBMISSION OF OUR LIVES TO HIM, RESULTING IN FULL ACCEPTANCE AS BROTHERS (AND SISTERS) OF CHRIST (Hebrews 2:11)

THE FOOTHILLS OR THE MOUNTAIN TOP
- THE CHOICE IS OURS

Where will your Christian walk take you?



(Obadiah 1:19-20)

(Obadiah 1:21, Ezekiel 20:40-45)

Will you be content to walk in the foothills or do you wish to scale the heights of the holy mountain of the Lord. This is God's requirement of us in the last days (Isaiah 2:2-3)

THE CALL TO HOLINESS, TO CLIMB TO THE MOUNTAIN TOP, BOTH INDIVIDUALLY AND FOR THE CHURCH AS A WHOLE, IS THE CHALLENGE FACING EACH ONE OF US TODAY. WHERE DO YOU STAND?

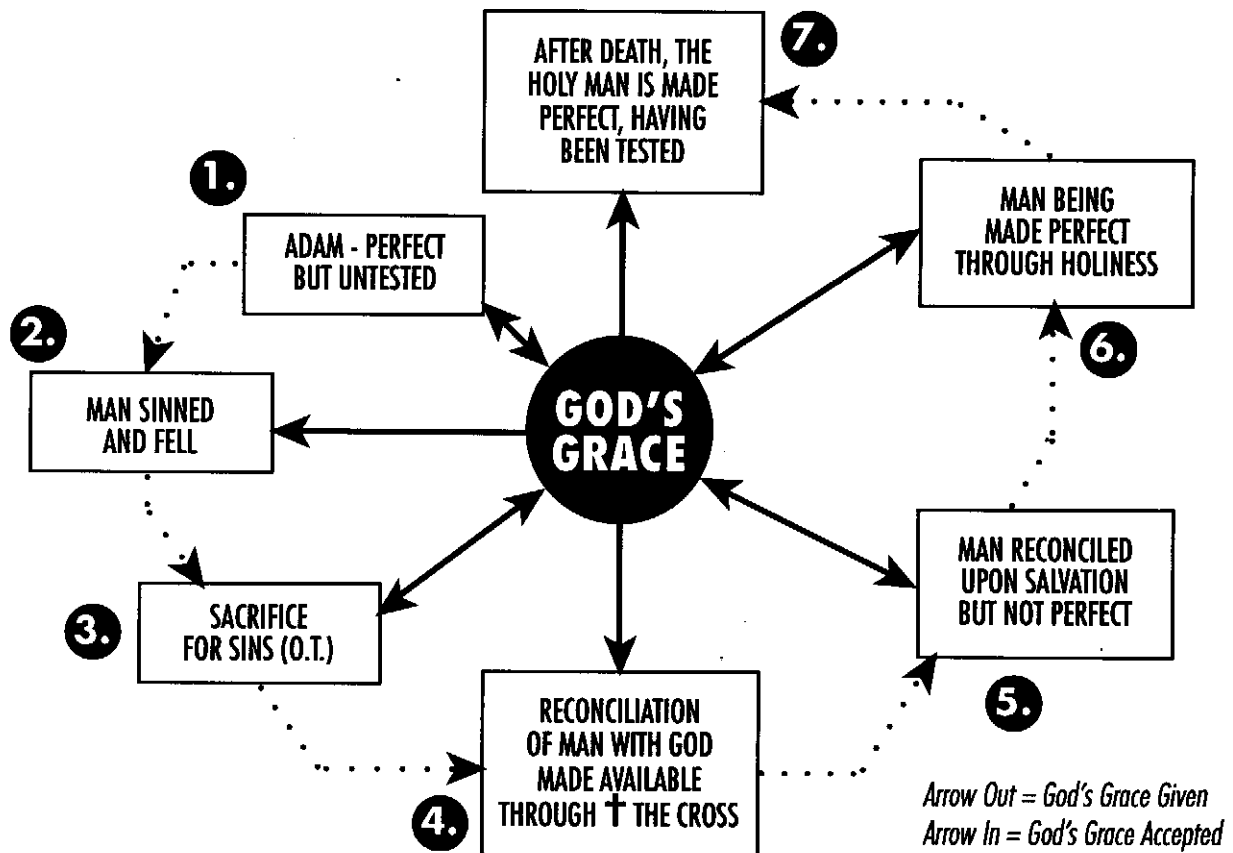


HOLINESS

THE ULTIMATE FULFILMENT (AND REQUIREMENT!) OF OUR WALK WITH CHRIST

Dictionary Definition: HOLY: morally and spiritually perfect; belonging to, commissioned by, devoted to, God.

THE PURPOSE OF HOLINESS



**THE PURPOSE OF HOLINESS IS TO BRING MAN
BACK TO GOD (BY GOD'S GRACE) IN A STATE OF
TESTED PERFECTION**

1. THE STATE OF TESTED PERFECTION IS THE UNITED GOAL OF ALL 3 PARTS OF THE GODHEAD

a. GOD THE FATHER

1. God chose us for salvation (Ephesians 1:4)
2. God sent Jesus to reconcile us to Him (1 Corinthians 1:30
Colossians 1:22, 2 Timothy 1:9-10)



b. GOD THE SON

1. Through His death to cleanse us (Ephesians 5:25-7), Hebrews 10:10-14)
2. To strengthen us (1 Thessalonians 3:13)

c. GOD THE HOLY SPIRIT

1. To reveal God the Father to us (1 Corinthians 2:9-16)
2. To confirm to us God's forgiveness of our sins (Hebrews 10:15-18)

2. ILLUSTRATED IN THE LIFE AND MINISTRY OF JESUS

1. Obedience and perfection through suffering (Hebrews 2:10, 5:8-10)
2. The once only sacrifice to succeed the law (Hebrews 7:28, 9:11-12, 10:14, 11:39-40)
3. To be our example (Hebrews 12:2)

3. TO BE REFLECTED IN OUR SUBMISSION AND REVERENCE FOR GOD BY DOING WHAT HE REQUIRES OF US IN;

1. Purifying ourselves (2 Corinthians 7:1)
2. Accepting God's discipline (Hebrews 12:9-10)
3. Gaining Christ's strength through our weakness (2 Corinthians 12:9)
4. Searching for the deeper things of God (maturity) through the teaching of the Holy Spirit (Hebrews 5:13-6:3, 1 Corinthians 2:9-16)
5. Aiming for perfection and holiness (2 Corinthians 13:11, 1 Corinthians 1:2)

4. BUT REQUIRING EFFORT ON OUR BEHALF TO STAY AWAY FROM THOSE THINGS THAT MIGHT LEAD US ASTRAY BY

1. Becoming slaves to righteousness (Romans 6:18-19)
2. Creating a new attitude of mind-like God in righteousness (Ephesians 4:23-4)
3. Living in peace with all men (Hebrews 12:14)
4. Controlling your own body (1 Thessalonians 4:3-7)
5. Turning away from wickedness (2 Timothy 2:19-21)

5. AND BRING US CLOSER TO THE KINGDOM OF THE LORD BOTH NOW ON EARTH AND UNTIL THE LORDS RETURN

1. Through brotherhood with Jesus (Hebrews 2:11-13)
2. Through maturity bringing unity to the faith (Ephesians 4:13)
3. By holiness, speeding the return of the Lord (2 Peter 3:11-12)
4. So that we might finally achieve the perfection promised at the resurrection of the body (Philippians 3:11-16, 20-21, 1 John 3:1-3)

6. AND REFLECTED IN THE FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT OPERATING IN OUR LIVES, REFLECTING THE LEVEL OF HOLINESS WE HAVE ATTAINED IN OUR LIFE

**THE LEVEL OF HOLINESS IN OUR LIFE
IS ACCURATELY REFLECTED BY THE FRUIT OF
THE SPIRIT WE PRODUCE**

LOVE

(Agape)

Colossians 3:14
1 Corinthians 12:31,13:13)
Galatians 5:22

F R U I T O F T H E S P I R I T

Ephesians 5:9

Goodness
Righteousness
Truth

Colossians 3:12-14

Compassion
Kindness
Humility
Gentleness
Patience
Forgiveness
Tolerance

Galatians 5:22

Joy
Peace
Patience
Kindness
Goodness
Faithfulness
Gentleness
Self Control

James 3:17-18

Purity
Peace Loving
Considerate
Submissive
Merciful
Impartial
Sincerity

THE FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT ALL RESULT FROM THE APPLICATION OF AGAPE LOVE
(as love commanded as a duty) (Colossians 3:14) - LOVE FOR GOD AND LOVE
FOR MEN (REVELATION 12:11)

HOLINESS CANNOT BE ATTAINED BY HUMANLY TRYING TO APPLY THE FRUIT
OF THE SPIRIT TO OUR LIFE BUT ONLY AS THE RESULT OF THE COMPLETE
SURRENDER OF OUR LIVES TO THE UNITED WILL OF THE GODHEAD FOR OUR
LIFE (Revelation 12:11)

WE CANNOT ATTAIN HOLINESS BY PUTTING THE CART BEFORE
THE HORSE! HOLINESS CAN ONLY BE ATTAINED THROUGH GOD'S
GRACE BY:-

The Godhead

Salvation through JESUS
Infilling of the HOLY SPIRIT
Submission to GOD THE
FATHER

Revelation 12:11

They overcame Him by the blood
of the Lamb and by the word of
their testimony; they did not love
their lives so much as to shrink
from death'

Soul Part

Mind
Emotions

Will

Based on

1 Corinthians 13:13)

Hope
Faith

Love



THE TWO MARATHONERS

PART 3

THE RACE (c)

Finally the big RM DAY (15) arrived. Roger Runner turned up in good time for the race, went through his well practised, precautionary STRETCHING ROUTINE (50) and had a gentle warm up. He felt great - rearing to go! He looked round for his old COUCH POTATO (10) Mate, Jeremy Jogger, but he was nowhere to be seen. Ten minutes to go to the start. Still no sign of Jeremy. Five minutes, then two minutes. Suddenly, out of the corner of his eye he saw his old friend Jeremy pushing his way towards him, through the throng. Jeremy looked terrible, he looked really terrible! He had arrived late and had to run the 2 KILOMETRES (6) from where he was able to find a park for his car to get to the starting line. He was flushed and puffing heavily. His COUCH POTATO (10) middle area FLAB (13) was bursting out over the top of his shorts. He just looked so out of place amongst the mass of well prepared, eager RUNNERS (2). While he was still trying to force his way through the crowd towards Roger, the starters pistol fired. With a loud shout the mass surged forward, knocking Jeremy off his feet as he struggled against the flow, all as one in their single minded determination to achieve the GOAL (34) that they had worked towards for so long. As Roger surged forward with the others, he could hear Jeremy's rapidly fading, plaintive cry, "Roger, wait for me, wait for me!"

Roger's mentor, MONTY MARATHONER (43), looked on sadly but silently. It was too late to do anything for Jeremy now. Without doing the TRAINING (24) it was impossible to complete the course. There was nothing that anyone could do for JEREMY JOGGER (17). Jeremy cried like a baby as he was pushed and shoved to one side by the 1000's of runners who passed him by. He was led away a BROKEN (60) man, by the race officials. His race was over before it had even begun.

ROGER RUNNER (35) meanwhile was out on the course. The race seemed easy after the TRAINING (24). Nearly to halfway, no problems. Then loomed up, as expected, the MOUNTAIN (48). Roger was prepared for this challenge. The going started to get a bit tougher as he climbed higher and higher but, just when he needed some encouragement, he saw the stone marking the halfway point of the race. He looked ahead and could see the road disappearing over the top of the MOUNTAIN (48). This spurred him on, up, over the top and down the other side. What a tremendous feeling! The MOUNTAIN (48) conquered. "It will be easier now", Roger thought, with the hint of a smile. A drink station - a welcome replacement of FLUIDS (61) lost on the tough mountain climb.



Suddenly, unexpectedly, a small INCLINE (62) makes its presence felt under Roger's feet. It doesn't seem to be a big deal, but it does. It feels that steep and it seems to go on forever. The muscles in his legs begin to hurt and hurt badly. How could he run a LITTLE HILL (62) hurt so much. Roger looked up in a despair that he saw MONTY MARATHONER (43) at the road, encouraging him onwards. Over the HILL (The 30 km sign appears - only 12 km to go. Then 32 km.

he thought in his friend Monty (40) says. 'THE WALL' body's metabolism) to burning BODY . It was so hard, so (11) that if he did it still had MONTY'S words. "Have faith in (43) h the searing pain.

starting to feel a bit f. "All that the BOOK to be right". Thirty e glanced to the side (3), smiling and said to himself, ooped body. 39 km, e of energy, his Monty there, rowds are cheering (43) is still nment Gardens and of hundred metres wd cheers some stres. The i, 196 metres after

(43) of course. (24) AL (34) (43) smile. , Roger".

67),

All of a sudden Roger's body starts really screaming "I can't go on", despair. "I can't take any more". Then through the pain, he heard his shouting out to him "Remember what the BOOK (Remember what I have taught you". Roger remembered. He has hit (63), the time in every marathon when the bc changes from burning BLOOD SUGAR (64) FAT (65). It was painful, unbelievably painful. very hard to keep on going, but Roger KNEW (carry on, did run through it, everything would come right. Besides he (43) words of encouragement ringing in his e the BOOK (40) Roger, have faith in ME (Roger". He repeated these over and over to himself as he ran throug

Then he looked up again - the 35 km marker. Only 7 to go. He was better too. "Look ahead to the end of the race Roger", he told himself (40) and MONTY (43) have said is proving six kilometres, 37, 38 - 90% done - 9 steps taken out of every ten. He of the road and there again was MONTY (43) encouraging him on to even more effort. "Not far to go now", Roger knowing that the strain was showing on his face and in his slightly st 40 km. "I am going to make it, I am going to make it!" A new releas stride lengthens, his body straightens. He glances sideways and sees running with him. 41 km. Into Rotorua's central shopping area. The c him on. His pace quickens some more. MONTY (running at his side, smiling and encouraging. Roger turns into Gover can see the FINISHING LINE (34) a couple c ahead. The adrenalin takes over and he breaks into a sprint. The cro more. Roger is smiling amidst the effort of sprinting those final few m FINISHING LINE (34) comes at last, 42 km the start of the race.

And who was the first to congratulate him? MONTY (The exhilaration, the tiredness, the joy, the pain, the TRAINING (the VICTORY ! (34). It was all worthwhile. His GO had been achieved. The reward was in MONTY'S ("Welcome to the MARATHONERS CLUB (66),

Roger was surrounded by fellow SUCCESSFUL FINISHERS (



some from his own MARATHON CLINIC (by name, together with many others he didn't know, but was now able to greet as sisters and brothers. They had all run THE RACE (test together.

20) whom he greeted
3) had all passed the

Roger wasn't the first to finish, nor was he the last, but he had run the race to the BEST OF HIS ABILITY (68).

At the prizegiving, after the last FINISHER (67) had completed the course, the PRESIDENT (5) of the MARATHON CLUB

(66) welcomed all the FINISHERS (67) individually, to the club. JEREMY JOGGER (17) was nowhere to

be seen. When it came to Roger's turn, he looked up and his happiness was complete.

Roger had recognised the CLUB PRESIDENT (5). He looked a little different out of his running gear but he clearly recognised him as his friend and mentor, MONTY MARATHONER (43). "Can I ask you just one question, Mr

President", he asked. "When I was out there running my RACE (3) and I needed support, I looked up and every time, saw my friend MONTY

MARATHONER (43) there to encourage me. How did he manage

to do that?" The PRESIDENT (5) answered in a gentle voice,

"Roger, WE (69) ran beside you the whole way. You ran the race to the best of your ability. WE (69) are proud of you".

In the traditional end of marathon, emotional experience, Roger burst into tears, tears of joy that is, and could only reply "Without YOUR (69) guiding, prompting, example, encouragement and friendship I would never have made it. The PRIZE really BELONGS TO YOU (70). The race was run, the race was won. Roger would savour this moment FOREVER (71).





UNDERLYING SPIRITUAL MEANINGS **FOR THE** **STORY OF THE TWO MARATHON RUNNERS**

Words Used

- c. The Race
2. Runners, Marathoners, Friends, Others
3. Race, Course
5. Winner, Olympic Champion, Champion, Victor, President, Him
6. Last Kilometre, Kilometre
10. Couch Potato
11. Belief (& derivatives), Knew
13. Rolls of Fat, Flab, Kilos
15. Rotorua Marathon, Marathon, RM Day, The Day
17. Jeremy Jogger
20. Marathon Clinic
24. Running, Training, Training Programme
34. Finish (& derivatives), Victory, Goal
35. Roger Runner
40. Best Book on Running, Running Book, Book
43. Monty Marathoner, Me
48. Pulled a Hamstring, Injury, Mountain
50. Hamstring Stretching Exercises, Stretching Routine
60. Broken
61. Fluids
62. Incline, Little Hill, Hill
63. The Wall
64. Blood Sugar
65. Body Fat
66. Marathoners Club
67. Successful Finishers, Finisher
68. Best of His Ability
69. We, Your
70. Prize Belongs to You
71. Forever

Spiritual Meaning

- Judgement Day
 Christians
 Race of Life
 Jesus
- The Cross
 Worldly
 Faith (& derivatives)
 Worldly Pleasures
 Judgement Day
- Worldly Minded (Uncommitted)
 Christian
 Spiritual Church
 Christian Walk of Obedience
 Eternal Life
 Spiritual (Obedient) Christian
 The Bible
- The Holy Spirit
 Testing
 Spiritual Warfare
- Condemned
 Spiritual Strength
 Unexpected Testing
 Point of Total Reliance on the Holy Spirit
 Self Reliance
 Spiritual Reliance
 Heaven
 Overcoming Christians
 Used His Talents Wisely
 Jesus & The Holy Spirit
 Saved By Grace
 For Eternity

There are also spiritual meanings for other words and phrases in the story that are not listed here. Can you find them?



INTERPRETATION OF THE STORY OF 'THE TWO MARATHON RUNNERS'

THE RACE

Judgement Day - The Christian Walk From God's Perspective

The story illustrates the different perspective of God to our walk with Him. We see our walk as one of training to enter God's Kingdom, to put in as much or as little effort as we desire. God however views our walk (or race) as commencing with salvation, developing through testing, perseverance and obedience. As we become more dependent upon Him, so the support of His Holy Spirit increases, until we reach the goal we seek and He desires for us - eternal life with Him.

Repented sins are forgiven and forgotten, therefore do not feature in God's judgement of us.

Salvation qualifies us to start the race, however the rewards are at the end. Ultimate victory is achieved through full submission to Him. Only on the path of obedience can the race be run and won.

While we may be plucked out of the race (by death) at any stage, as we live we are required to keep on training and running, to earn God's rewards for us. To give up the training is to give up the rewards. The choice is ours.

WHAT IS YOUR DECISION?

1. Are you content to remain in the foothills

or

2. Do you wish to claim your full inheritance through the complete surrender of your life to the Lord Jesus Christ.

Remember our key verse of this series of studies containing God's requirements for our Christian walk.

THEY OVERCAME HIM BY THE BLOOD OF THE LAMB AND BY THE WORD OF THEIR TESTIMONY; THEY DID NOT LOVE THEIR LIVES SO MUCH AS TO SHRINK FROM DEATH (Revelation 12:11)

If you are ready today to make this final commitment to your Lord, to not 'shrink from death' for Him, why not lie flat on your face on the floor, or on your bed (if you are able) and make your commitment to Him. Submit your life fully to Him today. This is what God wants, indeed requires of you if you are able to enter into the fullness of His magnificent inheritance for you.

THE LORD WILL BLESS YOU RICHLY.