

HEBREWS 4:12

"For the word of God is alive and powerful. It is sharper than the sharpest two-edged sword, cutting between soul and spirit, between joint and marrow. It exposes our innermost thoughts and desires."



ZANDER KRUGER

Dedicated to God.

Galatians 4:30-31

Amplified Bible, Classic Edition

30 But what does the Scripture say? Cast out *and* send away the slave woman and her son, for never shall the son of the slave woman be heir *and* share the inheritance with the son of the free woman.

31 So, brethren, we [who are born again] are not children of a slave woman ([a] the natural), but of the free ([b] the supernatural).

There is a FINE LINE between the natural and supernatural.

The natural is self sustaining, the supernatural is uncompromising God sustaining.

Thank You for Your Word that contains the Truth and the Wisdom to understand Your version of the FINE LINE.

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ZANDER KRUGER

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2020

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INTRODUCTION

PROVISION OF GOD'S MERCY

1 KINGS 3:9 AMPLIFIED BIBLE (AMP)

9 So give Your servant an **understanding mind** *and* a **hearing heart** [with which] **to judge** Your people, so that **I may discern between good and evil.** For who is able to judge *and* rule these great people of Yours?"

Solomon prayed to God to bless him with the wisdom of discernment between good and evil.

Solomon became aware that **evil** originated from disobeying God's commandments and that the only way to please God is to rule over sin, with the blessing of the righteousness within the omnipotence character of God.

1 KINGS 3:11-14 AMPLIFIED BIBLE (AMP)

11 God said to him, "Because you have asked this and have not asked for yourself a long life nor for wealth, nor for the lives of your enemies, but have asked for yourself understanding to recognize justice, 12 behold; I have done as you asked. I had given you a wise and discerning heart (mind), so that no one before you was

your equal, nor shall anyone equal to you arise after you. **13 I have also given you what you have not asked, both wealth and honour**, so that there will not be anyone equal to you among the kings, for all your days. **14** <u>If</u> you walk in My ways, keeping My statutes and My commandments, as your father David did, then **I will lengthen your days**."

God provided – Solomon enjoyed peace nobody experienced before.

It is of essence that we understand, that to prosper in the good created for the earth, we need the provision of God's mercy.

From nothing, He formed the heavens and earth – from nothing He can make anything – even a son to Himself.

For **God to provide** – Let us all be wise and follow Solomon's behaviour in praying for wisdom to understand the difference between good and evil to receive a discerning heart, wealth and honour.

However, God also stipulates that if those who walk in His ways and keep His statutes and commandments, He will even lengthen their days! Let's discover the **fine line** between good and evil.

SESSION1 CREATION GENESIS 1:1-3

1 In the beginning, God (*Elohim*) created [by forming from nothing] the heavens and the earth. 2 The earth was formless and void *or* a waste and emptiness, and darkness was upon the face of the deep [primaeval ocean that covered the unformed earth]. The Spirit of God was moving (hovering, brooding) over the face of the waters. 3 And God said, "Let there be light"; and there was light.

God is the Creator of all, even *light*. The sun gives light during the day and the moon lights up from the sun at night.

Imagine that the sun symbolizes God and the moon symbolizes Christ (*Rev 21:23*) and His followers (*the church of Christ or the body of Christ*) are the stars.

SESSION 2 GENESIS 1:27-28

27 So God created man in His own image, the image and likeness of God He created him; male and female He created them. 28 And God blessed them [granting them certain authority] and said to them, "Be fruitful, multiply, and fill the earth, and subjugate it [putting it under your

power]; and rule over (dominate) the fish of the sea, the birds of the air, and every living thing that moves upon the earth."

It is clear that God had in mind to create man in His own image and likeness to bring fortune and development to earth (a partly decoration to the heavens).

To be fruitful, one has to bare good fruit, deriving from good soil.

We'll learn later that good thoughts and actions derive from a pure heart and therefore the heart must be cultivated with unleavened (*purified*) elements, similar to God's character, to establish a just domination and fair rulership.

SESSION 3 GENESIS 2:16-17

16 And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, "You may freely (unconditionally) eat [the fruit] from every tree of the garden; 17 but [only] from the tree of the knowledge (recognition) of good and evil you shall not eat, otherwise on the day that you eat from it, you shall most certainly die [because of your disobedience]."

Before the command, God formed Adam and Eve and

quickened their spirit with His holy breath of life (*Gen 2:7*), making them complete in body and Spirit. It is evident that evil did not exist in their soul. However, their disobedience to ignore God's commandment, brought about gradual death to the body (*will, emotion and mind*) and spirit.

SESSION 4 GENESIS 3:6-7

6 And when the woman saw that the tree was good for food and that it was **delightful to look at**, and **a tree to be desired** to make one **wise and insightful**, she took some of its fruit and ate it; and she also gave some to her husband with her, and he ate. **7** Then the eyes of the two of them were opened [that is, their awareness increased], and they knew that they were naked, and they fastened fig leaves together and made themselves coverings.

Adam and Eve lose their threefold protection (*Ecc 4:12*) – Though one may be overpowered, two can defend themselves, but with God's Spirit, a knot is not easily broken. The desire to gain more than what God presents to man is the downfall of man.

Those who are disobedient shall fall to nakedness and lose the provision and protection of God's Spirit, allowing evil to infiltrate their soul and spirit. The carnal man can cover himself with fig leaves (*Deuteronomy 8:8*) – a fertile plant that can produce food all year round – a sense that God is a forgiving God, but firm and adamant *not to* compromise.

SESSION 5 GENESIS 3:22-23

22 And the LORD God said, "Behold, the man has become like one of Us (Father, Son, Holy Spirit), knowing [how to distinguish between] good and evil; and now, he might stretch out his hand, and take from the tree of life as well, and eat [its fruit], and live [in this fallen, sinful condition] forever" – 23, therefore, the LORD God sent Adam away from the Garden of Eden, to till *and* cultivate the ground from which he was taken.

God's Spirit has abandoned man, and his soul is left with a carnal understanding of good and evil. The natural and Spiritual do not make the house in one vessel (*Rom 8:5*). God is alarmed that man has eaten from the tree of life, and the possibility that man might live forever disturbs Him because the absence of His Spirit could lead to devastation. To decide between good and evil without God's Spirit, was never God's will.

Fear and anxiety fill man as he is thrown out of Paradise (place of future happiness) to cultivate (work for a living) his new territory.

SESSION 6 GENESIS 3:24

24 So God drove the man out; and at the east of the Garden of Eden He [permanently] stationed the cherubim and the sword with the flashing blade which turned round and round [in every direction] to protect *and* guard the way (entrance, access) to the tree of life.

This signified the exclusion of a man from communion with God, which was the bliss and glory of future happiness that could have been.

God will keep the man out with His righteous sword; He forbade him all hopes of a re-entry until he is fully united in the faith and in the full knowledge of God's patterned Son.

SESSION 7 GENESIS 6:13-14

13 God said to Noah, "I intend to make an end of all that lives, for through men the land is filled with violence; and behold, I am about to destroy them together with the land. 14 Make yourself an ark of gopher wood; make in it rooms (stalls, pens, coops, nests, cages, compartments) and coat it inside and out with pitch (bitumen).

Noah found grace in the eyes of the Lord. He fears God and God entrusts him with His secret (*Ps* 25:14). The faceless

carnal and wicked have to be destroyed as he carries no continuous good fruit. Noah has to build an Ark. God could have secured Noah by the ministration of angels, without putting him to any care, or pains, or trouble, himself; but He chose to employ him in making that which was to be the means of his preservation, both for the trial of his faith and obedience and to teach us that none shall be saved by Christ, but those only that work out their salvation. Note the bitumen used for inside the Ark (God's habitual place) – watertight, no other spirit (water) to enter except God's Spirit.

SESSION 8 GENESIS 6:18-19

18 But I will establish My covenant (solemn promise, formal agreement) with you; and you shall come into the ark – you and your [three] sons and your wife, and your sons' wives with you. **19** And of every living thing [found on land], you shall bring two of every kind into the ark, to keep them alive with you; they shall be male and female.

This was a great honour put upon him, that not only in him the race of mankind should be kept up; that from him should proceed a new world, the church, the soul of the world, and Messiah, the head of that church, but that he should be instrumental in preserving the inferior creatures: a saviour, like Christ Jesus.

SESSION 9 GENESIS 7:12, 21, 23

12 It rained on the earth for forty days and forty nights.
21 All living beings that moved on the earth perished – birds and cattle (domestic animals), [wild] animals, all things that swarm *and* crawl on the earth, and all mankind.
23 God destroyed (blotted out, wiped away) every living thing that was on the surface of the earth; man and animals and the crawling things and the birds of the heavens were destroyed from the land. Only Noah and those who were with him in the ark remained alive.

God did admirably serve the purposes of His own glory by their destruction, as well as by their creation.

Herein His holiness and justice were greatly magnified.

By this, it appears that He hates sin, and is highly displeased with sinners, when even the inferior creatures, because they are the servants of man and part of his possession, and because they have been abused to be the servants of sin, are destroyed with him.

This makes the judgment the more remarkable, the more dreadful, and, consequently, the more expressive of God's wrath and vengeance.

Still, He is a forgiving God with a survival plan.

SESSION 10 GENESIS 8:14-17

14 On the twenty-seventh day of the second month, the land was [entirely] dry. 15 And God spoke to Noah, saying, 16 "Go out of the ark, you and your wife and your sons and their wives with you. 17 Bring out with you every living thing from all flesh – birds and animals and every crawling thing that crawls on the earth – that they may breed abundantly on the earth, and be fruitful and multiply on the earth."

After 40 days (tribulation) of rain, the water prevailed for 150 (wholeness) days. Eight (new) humans were set free to free all.

SESSION 11 GENESIS 12:1

1 Now the LORD had said to Abram,

"Go away from your country,
And from your relatives
And from your father's house
To the land which I will show you;

God calls on Abram to trust in Him for provision.

Those who love God is My relatives, says Jesus (*Mat 12:50*). Abram is challenged, like any convert, to rely on that all

will work out for the best for those who love God (*Rom* 8:28) – convinced that only God knows the future.

SESSION 12 GENESIS 12:2

2 And I will make you a great nation,

And I will bless you [abundantly],

And make your name great (exalted, distinguished),

And you shall be a blessing [a source of great good to others].

When God took Abram from his own people, He promised to make him the head of another. He cut him off from being the branch of wild olive, to make him the root of a good olive.

Remember, Abram had no son (male or female; to build the family name) at that time, and he felt emotionally inferior. He relied on God to be spiritually uplifted.

The name of obedient believers shall certainly be celebrated and made great. The best report is that which elders obtained by faith (Heb 11:1, 2).

It is a great honour to be related to Christ. This made Abram's name great that the Messiah was to descend from his loins, much more than that he, Abraham, should be the father of many nations.

All that are blessed are blessed in Christ (Acts 4:12).

The call to Abram is a call to us, to those who decided to trust in the Lord. God is the same today as yesterday, even tomorrow (Heb 13:8).

We need to be a blessing to others, to comply with the law of Christ.

SESSION 13 GENESIS 21:5; GENESIS 22:1-2

5 Abraham was a hundred years old when his son Isaac was born.

Genesis 22:1-2

1 Now, after these things, God tested [the faith and commitment of] Abraham and said to him, "Abraham!" And he answered, "Here I am." 2 God said, "Take now your son, your only son [of promise], whom you love, Isaac, and go to the region of Moriah, and offer him there as a burnt offering on one of the mountains of which I shall tell you."

Not only is it extraordinary to conceive a child at the ripe age of 100, but also unnatural to receive a call to kill that child. The meaning of the word 'believe' in Hebrew is to adhere to, to trust in and to rely on.

Elimination of any of these three synonyms will not have the same overall result.

Abraham *adhered to* God's calling because he *trusted in* the *reliance* of God's earlier promise.

But so it was with Isaac – he must have seen the faith within his father towards God the Father, and relied on, trusted in and eventually adhered to the call to lie down to be slaughtered.

And so it applies to us – to trust in, rely on and adhere to God's calling to carry our own cross (wickedness), an offering of the flesh – to be burnt in fire to ashes, to start a new life within God's Holy Spiritual Kingdom domain – to regain the authority to rule over sin.

SESSION 14 EXODUS 3:6

6 Then He said, "I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob."

Then Moses hid his face because he was afraid to look at God. Not only was Moses afraid, but ashamed of their continuous murmuring.

SESSION 15 DEUTERONOMY 7:1

1 "When the LORD your God brings you into the land which you are entering to possess and has cleared away many nations before you, the Hittite and the Girgashite and the Amorite and the Canaanite and the Perizzite and the Hivite and the Jebusite, seven nations greater and mightier than you ... "

God was committing Himself to His previous statutes when He made promises to those who would commit themselves to His regulations. God is Spirit, and our enemy should be seen as spirit too. Therefore, it is vital to analyse the characteristics of each nation.

In essence, God is alerting us that these seven spiritual nations are evident since birth and because the Promised Land resembles our body, soul and spirit, we should identify the individual emotional characteristics of these seven nations within us.

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Hittite = fear;

Girgashite = rejection;

Amorite = worthlessness;

Canaanite = shame;

Perizzite = insecurity;

Hivite = defilement;

Jebusite = hopelessness.
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SESSION 16 DEUTERONOMY 7:22

22 The LORD, your God, will clear away these nations before you *little* by *little*; you will not be able to put an end to them quickly, for [if you did] the wild animals would become too numerous for you.

Notice God's assistance – *little by little*. Tackle nation for the nation. The demonic filled behaviour can be overcome by and through the help of Christ's Spirit. There is no quick fix to becoming holy and acceptable to God. To get rid of a worldly spiritual nation within us, is an emotional and endurable experience. The spiritual journey to the cross is long, and death to iniquities might change our appearance, before overcoming the desires and lust of this world.

SESSION 17 GAL 5:16-17

16 But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh.

17 For the desires of the flesh are against the Spirit, and the desires of the Spirit are against the flesh, for these are opposed to each other, to keep you from doing the things you want to do.

Carnal and Spirit is not compatible unless the flesh is pure and without defect. As humans, we are living in this world, but Christ Jesus, who overcame sin and death, His kingdom is not from this world. By the power of God, Jesus was saved. By the power of God, Jesus became our Saviour. The Holy Spirit is the power of God, and without His sincere help, nobody can overcome the sinful nature of this world.

SESSION 18 GAL 5:19-21

19 Now the works of the flesh are evident: sexual immorality, impurity, sensuality,

20 idolatry, sorcery, enmity, strife, jealousy, fits of anger, rivalries, dissensions, divisions,

21 envy, drunkenness, orgies, and things like these. I warn you, as I warned you before, that those who do such things will not inherit the kingdom of God.

Introspection is necessary. Jesus says – even when you look at another's wife with immoral thoughts, you are guilty of sin (*Mat* 5:28).

Further, the whole world strives to become debt-free. This opens up other evil works, like jealousy, rivalry and conflict.

To compromise has become the order of the day – to wait for God to solve our problems is taking too long and patience runs out quickly – and therefore we strive to solve our problems without the aid of God's Spirit.

SESSION 19 GAL 5:22-23

22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, 23 gentleness, self-control; against such things, there is no law.

These are the 9 characteristics of the Holy Spirit. The character of the Holy Spirit is often compared to water because of the pureness and transparency of its colour. The character also has a flavoured smell because of its power to infiltrate the mind and bring about peace and tranquillity. The character also possesses the power to bring about goodness when righteousness within the Word of God is revealed through self-control and kindness.

SESSION 20 GAL 5:24-26

24 And those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. 25 If we live by the Spirit, let us also keep in step with the Spirit. 26 Let us not become conceited, provoking one another, envying one another

The fine line starts here – those who belong to Jesus Christ – who are they?

They have been to the cross, have overcome the emotional war within themselves, have won the race with arms a-high,

have succeeded to renew their minds to the full measure of Christ Jesus, have joined the culture of Jesus Christ, have accepted the nature of the Lamb.

However, the call from God is *not to envy one another*. Help each other to the end line. How else can we multiply and fulfil God's request – to become one big nation with similar thoughts and actions? Jesus got crucified, so that we could live. We should figuratively do similar.

SESSION 21 ISA 11:2

2 And the Spirit of the LORD shall rest upon him, the Spirit of wisdom and understanding, the Spirit of counsel and might, the Spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD.

Those who crucified the sinful nature with its passions and desires shall be blessed with an extraordinary flavour of discernment. And their delight shall be in fear of the LORD. They shall not judge by what their eyes see, or decide disputes by what their ears hear, but with righteousness, they shall judge the poor, and decide with equity for the meek of the earth; and they shall strike the earth with the rod of their mouth, and with the breath of their lips they shall overcome the wicked.

SESSION 22 HEBREWS 4:14-15

14 In as much then as we [believers] have a great High Priest who has [already ascended and] passed through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession [of faith and cling tenaciously to our absolute trust in Him as Savior]. 15 For we do not have a High Priest who is unable to sympathize *and* understand our weaknesses *and* temptations, but **One who has been tempted** [knowing exactly how it feels to be human] in every respect as *we are*, *yet* without [committing any] sin.

A great High Priest, much greater than Aaron, or any of the priests of his order. The high priests under the law were accounted for great and venerable persons, but they were faint types and shadows of Christ.

The greatness of our High Priest is set by His having passed into the heavens, to send His Spirit to prepare a place for His people, and to make intercession for them.

He was Himself tried with all the afflictions and troubles that are incident to our nature in its fallen state: and this not only that He might be able to satisfy for us, but to sympathize with us.

We've to carry and overcome our own burden.

SESSION 23 HEBREWS 4:16

16 Therefore let us [with privilege] approach the throne of grace [that is, the throne of God's gracious favour] with confidence *and* without fear, so that we may receive mercy [for our failures] and find [His amazing] grace to help in time of need [an appropriate blessing, coming just at the right moment].

There is a throne of grace set up, a way of worship instituted, in which God may with honour meet poor sinners, and treat with them, and they may with hope draw to Him, repenting and believing. God could have set up a tribunal of strict justice, dispensing death, the wages of sin, to all who were convened before it, but He has chosen to set up a **throne of grace**.

SESSION 24 HEBREWS 5:7

7 In the days of His earthly life, Jesus offered up both [specific] petitions and [urgent] supplications [for that which He needed] with fervent crying and tears to the One who was [always] able to save Him from death, and He was heard because of His reverent submission toward God [His sinlessness and His unfailing determination to do the Father's will].

It is through and by this throne of grace that Christ was established.

The determination of Jesus to do the Father's will saved Him, and through His dedication, He declared God's grace. He was aware of His destiny.

He knew He had to die because of a breach of contract.

He concluded His journey for the rest to live. He has left us an example, that we should learn by all our afflictions a humble obedience to the will of God.

We need affliction to teach ourselves submission. He was consecrated by His submissiveness.

SESSION 25 LUKE 3:23

Genealogy of Jesus

23 When He began His ministry, Jesus Himself was about thirty years of age, being, as was supposed, the son of Joseph, the son [by marriage] of Eli.

Hebrews 5:8-9

8 Although He was a Son [who had never been disobedient to the Father], He learned [active, special] obedience through what He suffered.

9 And having been made perfect [uniquely equipped and prepared as Savior and retaining His integrity amid opposition], He became the source of eternal salvation [an eternal inheritance] to all those who obey Him.

Christ was heard in that he feared. He had an awful sense of the wrath of God, of the weight of sin. Being the only begotten Son of the Father, one would have thought this might have exempted Him from suffering, but it did not.

Let none then who are the children of God by adoption, expect an absolute freedom from suffering. God specifically begot Jesus, to challenge us to the likeness in Christ, to become acquainted with the Word (Matt 4:1-11), to inherit similar privileges.

SESSION 26 HEBREWS 5:12

12 For though by this time you ought to be teachers [because of the time you have had to learn these truths], you actually need someone to teach you again the elementary principles of God's word [from the beginning], and you have come to be *continually* in need of milk, not solid food.

Some persons, instead of going forward in Christian knowledge, become stagnant due to the lack of seeking their rich inheritance.

SESSION 27 HEBREWS 5:13-14

13 For everyone who lives on milk is [doctrinally inexperienced and] unskilled in the word of righteousness, since he is a *spiritual* infant.

14 But solid food is for the [spiritually] mature, whose senses are trained by practice to distinguish between what is morally good and *what is* evil.

There are in the church babes and persons of full age, and there are in the gospel milk and strong meat. Those that are babes, unskilful in the word of righteousness, must be fed with milk. They must be entertained with the plainest truths, and these delivered most plainly.

It is good to be babes in Christ, but not always to continue in that childish state. We should endeavour to pass the infant state, and in understanding, we should grow up to a manly maturity.

SESSION 28 ROMANS 12:1

Dedicated Service

1 Therefore I urge you, brothers and sisters, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies [dedicating all of yourselves, set apart] as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God, which is your rational (logical, intelligent) act of worship.

We must surrender ourselves to God, and so lay a good foundation. We must first give our own selves unto the Lord. The body must be presented to Him – the body is for the Lord and the Lord for the body (1 Cor 6:13).

Our persons and performances tendered to God through Christ, our Priest, are as sacrifices of acknowledgement to the honour of God – to engage our bodies in the duties of immediate worship. It is Christ living in the soul by faith, that makes the body a living sacrifice (Gal 2:20).

SESSION 29 ROMANS 12:2

2 And do not be conformed to this world [any longer with its superficial values and customs], but be transformed *and* progressively changed [as you mature spiritually] by the renewing of your mind [focusing on godly values and ethical attitudes], so that you may prove [for yourselves] what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect [in His plan and purpose for you].

Conversion and sanctification are the renewing of the mind, a change not of the substance, but of the **qualities** of the soul. It is the same with making a new heart and a new spirit:

new dispositions and inclinations, new sympathies and antipathies, the understanding enlightened, the conscience softened, the thoughts rectified, the will bow to the will of God, and the affections made spiritual and heavenly.

SESSION 30 ROMANS 12:3

3 For by the grace [of God] given to me I say to every one of you not to think more highly of himself [and of his importance and ability] than he ought to think; but to think to have sound judgment, as God has apportioned to each a degree of faith [and a purpose – designed for service].

We must take heed of:

having too great an opinion of ourselves or putting too high a valuation upon our own judgments, abilities, persons, performances.

But, on the other hand, we should think soberly, that is, we must have a low and modest opinion of ourselves and our own abilities, our gifts and graces, according to what we have received from God, and not otherwise.

We must take heed of this, and labour after that knowledge which tends to sobriety –

to the rectifying of the heart and the reforming of life.

SESSION 31 ROMANS 12:4-5

4 For just as in one [physical] body we have many parts, and these parts do not all have the same function *or* special use,

5 so we, who are many, are [nevertheless just] one body in

Christ, and individually [we are] parts one of another [mutually dependent on each other].

All the saints make up one body in Christ, who is the head of the body, and the common centre of their unity.

Believers lie not in the world as a confused disorderly heap but are organized and knit together, as they are united to one common head, and actuated and animated by one common Spirit.

We must remember that we are not the whole; we are but parts and members.

SESSION 32 ROMANS 12:6

6 Since we have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, *each of us is to use them accordingly*: if [someone has the gift of] **prophecy**, [let him speak a new message from God to His people] in **proportion to the faith** *possessed*.

Prophesying is not foretelling things to come, but the ordinary office of preaching the word (1 Cor 14:1-3). The manner of our prophesying must be according to the proportion of the grace of our faith.

First, believe and then speak (2 Cor 4:13).

Teaching is the bare explaining and proving of gospel truths. As for those who persist in sin, rebuke them in the presence of all, so that the rest may stand in fear. Paul says in (1 Tim 5:21) – In the presence of God and of Christ Jesus and of the elect angels I charge you to keep these rules without prejudging, doing nothing from partiality. Do not despise prophecies – test everything. Hold fast what is good.

SESSION 33 ROMANS 12:7-8

7 if service, in the act of serving; or he who teaches, in the act of teaching; 8 or he who encourages, in the act of encouragement; he who gives, with generosity; he who leads, with diligence; he who shows mercy [in caring for others], with cheerfulness.

Seven gifts to be found in *Rom 12:7-8* – with the gift of **prophecy** and **service** to the ministry, profiting the graceful ministry of *teaching*; *encouraging*; *giving*; *leading and caring* (*mercy*). These gifts of grace should be used to **preserve order and promote the edification in the church**.

SESSION 34 ROMANS 12:9-15

- **9 Love is to be sincere** *and* **active** [the real thing without guile and hypocrisy]. Hate what is evil [detest all ungodliness, do not tolerate wickedness]; hold on tightly to what is good.
- **10 Be devoted to one another with [authentic] brotherly affection** [as members of one family]; give preference to one another in honour;
- **11 never lagging behind in diligence**; aglow in the Spirit; *enthusiastically* serving the Lord;
- **12** *constantly* **rejoicing in hope** [because of our confidence in Christ], stead-fast *and* patient in distress, devoted to prayer [continually seeking wisdom, guidance, and strength]
- **13 contributing to the needs of God's people**, pursuing [the practice of] hospitality.
- **14 Bless those who persecute you** [who cause you harm or hardship]; bless and do not curse [them].
- **15 Rejoice with those who rejoice** [sharing others' joy], and weep with those who weep [sharing others' grief].

These are the first 7 of 14 characteristics to acquire, to master the character of Jesus to perfection – to serve our Lord and man. We should be glad to have an opportunity to prove the sincerity of our love – to our friends and our enemies.

SESSION 35 ROMANS 12:16-21

16 Live in harmony with one another; do not be haughty [conceited, self-important, exclusive], but associate with humble people [those with a realistic self-view]. Do not overestimate yourself. **17** Never repay anyone evil for evil. Take thought for what is right and gracious and proper in the sight of everyone. **18** If possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone. **19** Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave the way open for God's wrath [and His judicial righteousness]; for it is written [in Scripture], "Vengeance is Mine, I will repay," says the Lord. **20** but if your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him a drink; for by doing this, you will heap [a] burning coals on his head." **21** Do not be overcome and conquered by evil, but overcome evil with good.

We must not only do that which is good, but we must cleave to it (Acts 11:23).

SESSION 36 HEBREWS 10:16

16 "This is the covenant that I will make with them After those days, says the Lord:
I will imprint My laws upon their heart,
And on their mind, I will inscribe them [producing an inward change],"

Jesus baptized with fire – The fire of the **Holy Ghost** (*Mat* 3:11) – in purity and sincerity, in knowledge and spiritual insight, in patience, in kindness, in the **Holy Spirit**, in genuine love (2 *Cor* 6:6).

The Holy Spirit knows the wisdom within God. He understands God, as He is part of God – the power of God. So is Christ Jesus part of the Godhead.

It is through Him that we claim possession of the Holy Spirit, with all God's laws implanted in our hearts (*James* 1:21).

SESSION 37 HEBREWS 10:17-18

17 "And their sins and their lawless acts I will remember no more [no longer holding their sins against them]."

18 Now where there are [absolute] forgiveness and complete cancellation of the penalty of these things, there is no longer any offering [to be made to atone] for sin.

Convert to God's commandments, and rebirth into Christ is enough to qualify for complete forgiveness of sin. But unfortunately it's not a take out. It has to be earned. By faith we'll be saved, says God. You have to be tested and tried. Your character is on trial.

SESSION 38 2 PETER 1:5-10

5 For this very reason, applying your diligence [to the divine promises, make every effort] in [exercising] your faith to, develop moral excellence, and in moral excellence, knowledge (insight, understanding),

6 and in *your* knowledge, **self-control**, and in *your* self-control, **steadfastness**, and in *your* steadfastness, **godliness**,

7 and in *your* godliness, **brotherly affection**, and in *your* brotherly affection, [**develop Christian**] **love** [that is, learn to unselfishly seek the best for others and to do things for their benefit].

8 For as these *qualities* are yours and are increasing [in you as you grow toward spiritual maturity], they will keep you from being useless and unproductive regarding the true knowledge and greater understanding of our Lord Jesus Christ.

9 For whoever lacks these qualities is so nearsighted that he is blind, having forgotten that he was cleansed from his former sins.

10 Therefore, brothers, be all the more diligent to confirm your **calling and election**, for if you practice these qualities you will never fall.

If we practice and perfect these 9 qualities, we'll never fall (2 Peter 1:10). We'll be richly provided for with an entrance

into the eternal kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

SESSION 39 SEVEN PILLARS OF WISDOM

TRUST – **Prov 3:5** Trust in *and* rely confidently on the LORD with all your heart and do not rely on your own insight *or* understanding.

INTEGRITY – **Prov 10:9** He who walks in integrity and with moral character walks securely, but he who takes a crooked way will be discovered and punished

GENEROSITY – **2 Cor 9:7** Let each one give [thoughtfully and with purpose] just as he has decided in his heart, not grudgingly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver [and delights in the one whose heart is in his gift].

DILIGENCE – **2 Tim 2:6** The hard-working farmer [who labours to produce crops] ought to be the first to receive his share of the crops.

WATCHFULNESS WITH WORDS – Prov 10:11 The mouth of the righteous is a fountain of life *and* his words of wisdom are a source of blessing, but the mouth of the wicked conceals violence *and* evil.

FRIENDSHIP - **Prov 22:11** He who loves purity of heart and whose speech is gracious will have the king as his friend.

PERSONAL PURITY – **Prov** 5:1-2 My son, be attentive to my wisdom [godly wisdom learned by costly experience], Incline your ear to My understanding; That you may

exercise discrimination *and* discretion (good judgment), And your lips may reserve knowledge *and* answer wisely [to temptation].

The above 7 Spiritual pillars of wisdom should replace the 7 evil characteristics within the nations discussed in *sessions* 15 and 16.

TRUST = FEAR = <u>HITTITES</u>

INTEGRITY = SHAME = <u>CANAANITES</u>

GENEROSITY = INSECURITY = <u>PERIZZITES</u>

DILIGENCE = HOPELESSNESS = <u>IEBUSITES</u>

WATCHFULNESS WITH WORDS = WORTHLESSNESS = <u>AMORITES</u>

FRIENDSHIP = REJECTION = <u>GIRGASHITES</u>

PERSONEL PURITY = DEFILEMENT = <u>HIVITES</u>

The 9 character qualities in **session 36**, the 7 pillars of wisdom above, the fruit of the Spirit –

(love, joy, peace, long- suffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance – Gal 5:22) –

already invested in ourselves at repentance, shall help us to overcome all evil – to enable us to practice the spiritual gifts (*session 30, 31*) successfully, to announce and declare the righteousness in the Word of God.

SESSION 40 THE FINE LINE STARTS HERE

1 John 2:4

4 Whoever says, "I have come to know Him," but **does not habitually** keep [focused on His precepts and obey] His commandments (teachings), is a liar, and the truth [of the divine word] is not in him.

Now that we are acquainted with God's will and have knowledge of His demands and petitions, we should *habitually* walk in Jesus' footsteps, but the devil is evil, and he'll visit us to detract us from the straight path.

SESSION 41 1 JOHN 2:5-6

5 But whoever *habitually* keeps His word *and* obeys His precepts [and treasures His message in its entirety], in him, the love of God has truly been perfected [it is completed and has reached maturity]. By this we know [for certain] that we are in Him:

6 whoever says he lives in Christ [that is, whoever says he has accepted Him as God and Savior] ought [as a moral obligation] to walk *and* conduct himself just as He walked *and* conducted Himself. To walk with Christ is truly a challenge. The devil is like an angry lion and is always ready to attack His family.

SESSION 42 1 JOHN 2:7

1 John 2:7 Amplified Bible (AMP)

7 Beloved, I am not writing a new commandment to you, but an old commandment which you have had from the beginning; the old commandment is the message which you have heard [before from us].

We have to accept that the Old mirrors the New Testament.

SESSION 43 JOHN 14:6

6 Jesus said to him, I am the [only] Way [to God] and the [real] Truth and the [real] Life; no one comes to the Father but through Me.

There is no other God, but God the Almighty (*Isa* 45:21).

SESSION 44 JOHN 14:23

23 Jesus answered, "If anyone [really] loves Me, he will keep My word (teaching); and My Father will love him, and **We** will come to him and make Our dwelling place with him.

Here is evidence that God accepted Jesus as the patterned example of a son to be.

SESSION 45 JOHN 14:24

24 One who does not [really] **love** Me does not keep My words. And the word (teaching) which you hear is not Mine, but is the Father's who sent Me.

Scary words: those who falter, renounce God. God emphasizes the word **love**. To *love* someone is to rely on, adhere to and trust in and have respect in that person. Jesus died for us because He *loved* us. God offered His only begotten Son because He *loved* us.

SESSION 46 JOHN 14:15-17

15 "If you [really] love Me, you will keep *and* obey My commandments.

16 And I will ask the Father, and He will give you another Helper (Comforter, Advocate, Intercessor; Counselor,

Strengthener, Standby), to be with you forever –

17 the Spirit of Truth, whom the world cannot receive [and take to its heart] because it does not see Him or know Him, *but* you know Him because He (the Holy Spirit) remains with you *continually* and will be in you.

Now that we respect Jesus to be the only way to Paradise (a place of future happiness), He answers our call by offering

the same Spirit who helped Him to conquer, to us, to help us to also mature in Christ.

Mature in Christ means to fully understand the Godhead and abide in His requests.

SESSION 47 JOHN 14:26

26 But the Helper (Comforter, Advocate, Intercessor; Counselor, Strengthener, Standby), the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name [in My place, to represent Me and act on My behalf], He will teach you all things. And He will help you remember everything that I have told you.

Previously in **session** 34, we discussed how God would write the laws upon our hearts and here we have proof and knowledge of His parable.

This basically means that we do not have to know the Bible like a parrot, but merely exam it with interest.

The Spirit within us knows every hair upon our body, and He needs to feel our intense keenness to know God's will before He shares God's wisdom.

God proclaims that He gives attention to those who love Him – those who seek Him – those who care to diligently abide in His Word.

SESSION 48 HEBREWS 12:14

14 *Continually* pursue peace with everyone, and the sanctification without which no one will [ever] see the Lord.

Keep on walking with Jesus's Spirit. Let Him lead. He is Peace.

SESSION 49 EPHESIANS 4:13

13 until we all reach **oneness** in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God, [growing spiritually] to become a mature believer, reaching to the measure of the **fullness of Christ** [manifesting His spiritual **completeness** and exercising our spiritual gifts in unity].

Sanctification is the aura of Paradise, the place of future happiness. To become one with our God is a challenge, but necessary for Paradise.

SESSION 50 EPHESIANS 4:14

14 So that we are no longer children [**spiritually immature**], **tossed back and forth** [like ships on a stormy sea] and carried about by every wind of [shifting] doctrine, by the cunning *and* trickery of [unscrupulous] men, by the

deceitful scheming of people ready to do anything [for personal profit].

Spiritual gifts mean nothing if we cannot use it.

We have to participate in declaring God's kingdom; otherwise, we are spiritually immature.

SESSION 51 EPHESIANS 6:11

11 Put on the **full armour of God** [for **His precepts** are like the splendid armour of a **heavily-armed soldier**], so that you may be able to [successfully] stand up against all the schemes *and* the strategies *and* the deceits of the devil.

Truth, readiness, trust in righteousness shall overcome all strategies.

SESSION 52 EPHESIANS 6:12

12 For our struggle is not against flesh and blood [contending only with physical opponents], but against the rulers, against the powers, against the world forces of this [present] darkness, against the spiritual *forces* of wickedness in the heavenly (supernatural) *places*. Demons exist and are the devil's warriors. They're called spiritual forces.

They infiltrate the mind and access the will and emotions.

SESSION 53 EPHESIANS 6:18

18 With all prayer and petition pray [with specific requests] at all times [on every occasion and in every season] in the Spirit, and with this in view, stay alert with all perseverance and petition [interceding in prayer] for all God's people.

The *matured* in Christ – those who have conquered the 7 evil spiritual nations – who are always alert and ready for spiritual battle, should pray for and help others who are still falling prey to the wicked of this world – and so fulfil the law of Christ (*Gal* 6:2).

SESSION 54 MATTHEW 25:29

29 "For to everyone who has [and values his blessings and gifts from God, and has used them wisely], more will be given, and [he will be richly supplied so that] he will have an abundance:

but from the one who does not have [because **he has** ignored or disregarded his blessings and gifts from God], even what he does have will be taken away.

Stewardship of God's gifts is of vital importance. He gives us these gifts to use it to enhance the truth of His kingdom rule. God loves those who love Him. *If we cannot look after His free gifts or misuse them, then we do not respect or love Him.*

SESSION 55 MATTHEW 25:30

30 And throw out the **worthless servant** into the outer darkness; in that place [of grief and torment] there will be weeping [over sorrow and pain] and grinding of teeth [over distress and anger].

Worthless does not have any value. We are not born to be called without value. But if we are of no value to others, but ourselves, then we surely love only ourselves as if we are our own creator!

God made provision for

- those who act as if they created themselves and for
- those who honour Him as their Creator.

SESSION 56 LEVITICUS 24:15

15 You shall speak to the Israelites, saying, 'Whoever curses his God will bear his sin [through his own death]. In Hebrew, the word *curse* means to **despise** or **disrespect**. Thus, those who do not honour God, disrespect Him or despise Him.

SESSION 57 DEUTERONOMY 28:15

Consequences of Disobedience

15 "But it shall come about, **if you do not listen to** *and* **obey the voice of the LORD your God**, being careful to do all His commandments and His statutes which I am commanding you today, **then all these curses will come upon you and overtake you:** Disrespect does not live in love. God is love. Therefore, God has the authority to curse anything that disrespects His likeness and being.

SESSION 58 DEUTERONOMY 28:17

17 "Your basket and your kneading bowl will be cursed. Whatever you try to accumulate and/or save, won't receive the blessing of the Lord, not until you are prepared to listen and adhere to the advice of the Lord.

SESSION 59 DEUTERONOMY 28:18

18 "The **offspring of your body** and the **produce of your land**, the **offspring of your herd** and the **young of your flock** *will be* cursed.

Health is bound to be affected here, even children. The fortune, the handwork, the prospects and the expectations of those who disrespect God's kingdom rules, are bound to be cursed with a curse that would end in desolation.

SESSION 60 DEUTERONOMY 28:30

30 You will be pledged to marry a wife, but another man will be intimate with her [before you]; you will build a house, but you will not live in it; you will plant a vineyard, but you will not use its fruit.

An unrighteous seed must die. The wife must go – to not produce more seed for unrighteous fruit.

The original family shall scatter – to not enlarge the disrespectful family.

The carnal man shall produce but not enjoy the fruit of his work – like paying maintenance during a divorce.

SESSION 61 DEUTERONOMY 28:1

Blessings

28 "Now it shall be, **if you diligently listen** to *and* **obey the voice of the LORD** your God, being careful to **do all of His commandments** which I am commanding you today, the LORD your God **will set you high above** all the nations of the earth.

Listen, obey, do = blessing.

SESSION 62 DEUTERONOMY 28:5

5 "Your basket and your kneading bowl *will be* blessed.

Fortune and fame. Whatever is produced shall carry enough, even overflow, to abundance.

SESSION 63 DEUTERONOMY 28:4

4 "The offspring of your body and the produce of your ground and the offspring of your animals, the offspring of your herd and the young of your flock *will be* blessed.

Healthy children. Favour and expansion in the workplace.

SESSION 64 DEUTERONOMY 28:13

13 The LORD will make you the **head** (leader) and **not the tail** (follower), and you will **be above only, and you will not be beneath**, if you listen *and* **pay attention to the commandments** of the LORD your God, which I am commanding you today, to **observe them carefully.**

Sober in decisions. Respectful in character. They were blessed with righteous integrity **if** attention and observation are given to the commandments of the Lord.

SESSION 65 DEUTERONOMY 28:7

7 "The LORD will cause the **enemies** who rise up against you to be **defeated** before you; they will come out against you one way but **flee before you** seven ways.

The Holy Spirit protects. Do not fear; God will fight for you (*Ex* 14:14).

SESSION 66 PHILIPPIANS 4:8

8 Finally, believers, whatever is **true**, whatever is honourable *and* worthy of respect, whatever is **right** *and* **confirmed** by God's word, whatever is **pure** *and* wholesome, whatever is **lovely** *and* **brings peace**, whatever is **admirable** *and* **of good repute**; if there is any excellence, if there is **anything** worthy of **praise**, **think** *continually* **on these things** [centre your mind on them, and implant them in your heart].

We call this **a healthy mind**.

SESSION 67 TITUS 1:7-9

7 For the overseer, as *God's steward*, must be blameless, not self-willed, not quick-tempered, not addicted to wine, not violent, not greedy for dishonest gain [but financially ethical].

8 And *he must be* hospitable [to believers, as well as strangers], a lover of what is good, sensible (upright), fair, devout, self-disciplined [above reproach – whether in public or in private].

9 He must hold firmly to the trustworthy word [of God] as it was taught to him so that he will be able both to give accurate instruction in sound [reliable, error-free] doctrine and to refute those who contradict [it by explaining their error].

God's stewards are from a remnant who has earned God's respect – those that have washed their souls with the holy water of Christ.

Those who know who they are in Christ. Those that know where they come from and where they are going to.

Their destiny does not worry them, as they know that presently to be with Christ, is already heavenly. Their names have been majestically elevated to that of Jacob, now Israel – *to rule like God (Hebrew)*.

SESSION 68 1 PETER 2:9

9 But you are *a chosen race*, *a royal priesthood*, *a consecrated nation*, a [special] people for God's *own possession*,

so that you may proclaim the excellencies [the wonderful deeds and virtues and perfections] of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light.

One family and true servants are royal in Christ's Priesthood, collected under One Head, called out of darkness into a state of marvelous light, to possess joy, pleasure, and prosperity – with the intent and view that they should show forth, by words and actions, the virtues and praises of Him who has called them.

SESSION 69 1 PETER 2:21

Christ Is Our Example

21 For [as a believer] you have been called for this purpose, since Christ suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that you may follow in His footsteps.

Good Christians are a sort of people called to be sufferers, and therefore they must expect to suffer. By the terms of Christianity, they are bound to deny themselves and take up the cross. They are called by the commands of Christ, by the practice of Jesus Christ; they are bound to suffer when called to it. Both the body and soul must suffer.

To offer one's body and soul, mean to accept that to bare the cross for others, shall affect the emotions as well as the fatigue of the body. Even for us who do not sin, is this not exempted. Jesus also had not sinned, and therefore, we should abide in accepting to offer to suffer. Pride and haughtiness have no place in this arena. To follow, mean to be led. Follow Jesus, but be led by His Spirit.

Not all have the same gifts – and not all will pass through the same path and or fire.

SESSION 70 1 PETER 4:1

Keep Fervent in Your Love

4 Therefore, since Christ suffered in the flesh [and died for us], arm yourselves [like warriors] with the same purpose [being willing to suffer for doing what is right and pleasing God], because whoever has suffered in the flesh [being like-minded with Christ] is done with [intentional] sin [having stopped pleasing the world].

Jesus died in the physical flesh sense, but we have to die in the spiritual flesh sense.

It is our character that has to be exchanged or be transformed into the full measure in Christ.

It is a spiritual baptism to be *transformed* and not a physical baptism to be *exercised*.

SESSION 71 1 PETER 4:2-3

2 so that he can no longer spend the rest of his natural life living for human appetites *and* desires, but [lives] for the will *and* purpose of God.

3 For the time already past is [more than] enough for doing what the [unsaved] Gentiles like to do: living [unrestrained as you have done] in the course of [shameless] sensuality, lusts, drunkenness, carousing, drinking parties, and wanton idolatries. Human desires are soul-based. The soul (will, mind and emotions) must be led by the heart (Ps 9:2).

Truth is from the heart (Ps 15:2). The beginning of all true mortification lies in mind. The lusts of men are the springs of all their wickedness (James 1:13-14), but true conversion makes a marvelous change in the heart and life of every one who partakes of it.

SESSION 72 ROMANS 1:18-19

Unbelief and its consequences

18 For [God does not overlook sin and] the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men who in their wickedness suppress and stifle the truth,

19 because that which is known about God is evident within them [in their inner consciousness], for God made it evident to them.

The act of nature and the measure of light in the law of Christ, reveals the justifying between blessings or curses – good or evil. The wrath of God is a revelation from heaven – His displeasure against the deed of the unrighteousness of His truth. God cooperates with both good and evil deeds, with the evil deeds He does so only in as much as they are deeds, not the evil in them.

To sin is a deed of evil and the wrath of God is against the deed, though *the curse* is against the evil that inspired the deed of sin.

The evil within is a spiritual aspect mended by utilizing the renewing of the mind. A curse can be broken using the quickening of the spirit to the measure of the fullness in Christ. A deed of sin can thus be nullified by simply stop doing the deed through renewing the mind.

SESSION 73 ROMANS 1:19

19 because that which is known about God is evident within them [in their inner consciousness], for God made it evident to them.

We cannot by searching find God, as He is Spirit. However, we can experience the evidence of both of His seasons, natural and spiritual.

SESSION 74 ROMANS 1:20

20 For ever since the creation of the world His invisible attributes, His eternal <u>power</u> and <u>divine nature</u>, have been clearly seen, being <u>understood through</u> His <u>workmanship</u> [all His creation, the wonderful things that He has made], so that they [who fail to believe and trust in Him] are <u>without excuse and without defense</u>. The power and Godhead of God are invisible and yet are clearly seen in the product of creation.

SESSION 75 ROMANS 1:21

21 For even though they knew God [as the Creator], they did not honour Him as God or give thanks [for His wondrous creation].

On the contrary, they **became worthless in their thinking** [godless, with **pointless reasoning's** and **silly speculations**], and their **foolish heart was darkened**.

To glorify Him as God is to worship Him with spiritual worship.

SESSION 76 ROMANS 1:22-23

22 Claiming to be wise, they became fools,

23 and exchanged the glory and majesty and excellence of the immortal God for an image [worthless idols] in the shape of mortal man and birds and four-footed animals and reptiles.

"It was the greatest honour God did to man when He made man in the image of God, but it is the greatest dishonour man has done to God when he has made God in the image of man." *Matthew Henry*.

SESSION 77 ROMANS 1:24

24 Therefore God gave them over in the lusts of their own hearts to [sexual] impurity, so that their bodies would be dishonoured among them [abandoning them to the degrading power of sin].

The fault is to be laid upon the sinner's wicked heart. If a patient is obstinate and will not submit to the method prescribed, but wilfully takes and does that which is prejudicial to him, the doctor is not to be blamed if he gives him up as in a desperate condition. All the fatal symptoms that follow are not to be imputed to the doctor, but to the disease itself and to the folly and wilfulness of the patient.

SESSION 78 ROMANS 1:25

25 because [by choice] they exchanged the truth of God for a lie, and worshipped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever!

By choice, man refuses to understand God.

SESSION 79 ROMANS 1:26

26 For this reason, God gave them over to degrading *and* vile passions; for their women exchanged the natural function for that which is unnatural [a function contrary to nature].

Those who dishonoured God were given up to dishonour themselves.

SESSION 80 ROMANS 1:27

27 and in the same way also the men turned away from the natural function of the woman and were consumed with their desire toward one another, men with men committing shameful acts and in return receiving in their own bodies the inevitable *and* appropriate penalty for their wrong-doing.

A man cannot be delivered up to greater slavery than to be given up to his own lusts.

SESSION 81 ROMANS 1:28

28 And since they did not see fit to acknowledge God *or* consider Him worth knowing [as their Creator], God gave them over to a depraved mind, to do things which are improper *and* repulsive. They did not retain God in their knowledge because they did not like the challenge.

They failed to find the truth and did what they liked most – pleasing themselves. God does not force anyone.

SESSION 82 ROMANS 1:29

29 until they were filled (permeated, saturated) with every kind of unrighteousness, wickedness, greed, evil; full of envy, murder, strife, deceit, malice and mean-spirit. They are gossips [spreading rumours], 30 slanderers, haters of God, insolent, arrogant, boastful, inventors [of new forms] of evil, disobedient and disrespectful to parents, 31 without understanding, untrustworthy, unloving, unmerciful [without pity].

Such a life filled with ungodly activities, widening the gap between sinful man and God, can be resolved by Jesus.

SESSION 83 ROMANS 1:32

32 Although they know God's righteous decree *and* His judgment, that **those who do such things deserve death**,

yet they not only do them but they even [enthusiastically] approve *and* tolerate others who practice them.

To be pleased with other people's sins is to love sin for sin's sake.

It is like joining in agreement with the devil's kingdom and interest and resist God's rule by ignorance.

SESSION 84 NEHEMIAH 1:8-9

8 If you are unfaithful and violate your obligations to Me I will scatter you [abroad] among the peoples; 9 but if you return to Me and keep My commandments and do them, though those of you who have been scattered are in the most remote part of the heavens, I will gather them from there and will bring them to the place where I have chosen for My Name to dwell.

God is a forgiving God and reacts on repentance.

SESSION 85 1 CHRONICLES 21:7

7 Now God was displeased with this act [of arrogance and pride], and He struck Israel.

God was displeased with David because he counted the men who carried the sword. There's **a fine line** between calculating (mindful) and pride.

SESSION 86 1 CHRONICLES 21:8

8 Then David said to God, "I have sinned greatly because I have done this thing. But now, I beseech You, take away the wickedness *and* guilt of Your servant, for I have acted very foolishly." Note – previously, God found favour in David and treated him as a righteous man. The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective (James 5:16).

SESSION 87 1 CHRONICLES 21:9-10

9 And the LORD said **10** "Go and tell David, saying, 'Thus says the LORD, "I offer you three *choices*; choose for yourself one of them, which I will do to you [as punishment for your sin]".

God ordained that, as a Father, He would discipline His children's iniquities with the rod of men (2 Sam 7:14) and sense – though **David receives a choice** in verse 12, nobody goes unpunished.

SESSION 88 1 JOHN 1:8

8 If we say we have no sin [refusing to admit that we are sinners], we delude ourselves, and the truth is not in us. [His word does not live in our hearts.]

We must beware of deceiving ourselves in denying or excusing our sins. The more we see them, the more we shall esteem and value the remedy. We are holy as long as we are led by the Spirit.

Stubbornness creates disobedience, then not led and surely unholy (Rom 8:14).

SESSION 89 1 JOHN 1:9

9 If we [freely] admit that we have sinned *and* confess our sins, He is faithful and just [true to His own nature and promises], and will forgive our sins and cleanse us continually from all unrighteousness [our wrongdoing, everything not in conformity with His will and purpose].

God is faithful to His covenant and word, wherein He has promised forgiveness to the penitent (apologetic) believing confessors.

The timeline between the deed of sin and the confession of same is of utter importance.

The Holy Spirit shall charge the sinner with immediate effect.

The fine line between hesitation to confess or not shall decide the timeline and measure of punishment or not.

The good news is, however - on repentance with a true heart, God forgives.

SESSION 90 1 JOHN 3:19-22

19 By this we will know [without any doubt] that we are of the truth, and will assure our heart and quiet our conscience before Him 20 whenever our heart convicts us [in guilt]; for God is greater than our heart and He knows all things [nothing is hidden from Him because we are in His hands]. 21 Beloved, if our heart does not convict us [of guilt], we have confidence [complete assurance and boldness] before God; 22 and we receive from Him whatever we ask because we [carefully and consistently] keep His commandments and do the things that are pleasing in His sight [habitually seeking to follow His plan for us].

By the power of the Holy Spirit, the heavens and earth were created. This Spirit has enriched the true believer with all majesty. If the true believer abides through faith in Him, he can expect to receive riches.

SESSION 91 1 JOHN 3:23-24

23 This is His commandment that we believe [with personal faith and confident trust] in the name of His Son Jesus Christ, and [that we unselfishly] love *and* seek the best for one another, just as He commanded us. 24 The one who *habitually* keeps His commandments [obeying His

word and following His precepts, abides and] remains in Him and He in him. By this, we know *and* have the proof that He [really] abides in us, by the Spirit whom He has given us [as a gift].

The blessing is invested in His character, and we should be eager –

- to discern what He is, according to His name, to have an intellectual view of His person and office, as the Son of God and the anointed Saviour of the world;
- to approve Him in judgment and conscience, conviction
- and consciousness of our case;
- to consent to Him and approve in Him as our Redeemer unto God;
- to trust to Him, and rely upon Him, for the full and final discharge of His saving grace.

SESSION 92 1 JOHN 5:20

20 And we [have seen, and] know [by personal experience] that the Son of God has [actually] come [to this world], and has given us understanding *and* insight so that we may [progressively and personally] know Him who is true; and we are in Him who is true – in His Son Jesus Christ. This is the true God and eternal life.

The Son leads us to the Father, and we are in Both - in

the love and favour of Both – in covenant and federal alliance with Both – in spiritual conjunction with Both, by the habitation and operation of Their Spirit.

By their union, we are connected to eternal life with Both.

SESSION 93 2 JOHN 6-7

6 And this is love: that we walk following His commandments *and* are guided continually by His precepts. This is the commandment, just as you have heard from the beginning that you should [always] walk in love.

7 For many deceivers [heretics, posing as Christians] have gone out into the world, **those who do not acknowledge** *and* **confess the coming of Jesus Christ in the flesh** (**bodily form**). This [person, the kind who does this] is the deceiver and the **Antichrist** [that is, the antagonist of Christ].

The anti-Christ does not accept that Jesus was in bodily form. They do not believe that the Holy Spirit can help the believer to renew his mind to the stature and full measure of Christ.

They believe that all believers are constant sinners and that judgment day is only after physical death. They do not believe in rebirth of the soul and spirit, because they do not believe that Jesus came in the flesh. In fact, they have doubts about His crucifixion and spiritual, heavenly departure.

SESSION 94 JAMES 3:17

17 But the wisdom from above is **first pure** [morally and spiritually undefiled], then peace-loving [courteous, considerate], gentle, reasonable [and willing to listen], full of compassion and good fruits. It is unwavering, without [self-righteous] hypocrisy [and self-serving guile].

Notice the order – **first pure, then ...** The spiritual room must be clean. All the dust and filth must be taken out and thrown away. For the Spirit to enter the room, to have communion with the convert, the area should be cleansed. After that, the Spirit shall introduce and invite other characters to join ...

SESSION 95 REVELATION 3:16

16 So because you are lukewarm [spiritually useless] – neither hot nor cold – I will vomit you out of My mouth [rejecting you with disgust].

Lukewarm Christians compromise with the Righteous Word.

SESSION 96 REVELATION 3:21; 19:7, 22

21 He who overcomes [the world through believing that Jesus is the Son of God], I will grant to him [the privilege] to sit beside Me on My throne, as I also overcame and sat down beside My Father on His throne.

19:7 He who overcomes [the world by adhering faithfully to Christ Jesus as Lord and Savior] will inherit these things, and **I will be his God**, and **he will be My son**.

22 I saw no temple in it, for the Lord God Almighty [the Omnipotent, the Ruler of all] and the Lamb are its temples.

To join God in His Holy City (Rev 21:10), one must first become an overcomer, as seen above – an overcomer of the flesh (Rom 8:23). Earlier in Ex 12:1-11, God instituted the Passover, where He ordained the mannerism in treating and consuming the **whole** Lamb.

The Lamb symbolizes Jesus Christ, who is the Word of God (Rev 19:13), and we should **absorb the whole Word**, who is sans defect.

We note that we should not compromise and let any outsider join us when eating this Lamb. The outsider has his own belief and god, and our God is a jealous God, who is Righteous in His own right.

The Holy Temple has many rooms (houses, believers), and God can do home visits. He wishes whenever He wishes. The flavour of the compassion of Christ fills the whole city and the goodness of God can be visualized everywhere – Happiness in Paradise at work (Rev 22:5).

NOTES:

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