

BEREAN 2.0 (12 weeks)

Acts 17:11 Now the Berean Jews were of more noble character than those in Thessalonica, for they received the message with great eagerness and examined the Scriptures every day to see if what Paul said was true.

1. Spiritual Warfare (2 – 35)

- a. Suit up and fight!
- b. Angels, Demons, Heaven, Hell
- c. Strongholds, Deliverance
- d. Mark Driscoll, Craig Groeschel

2. Worship (36- 68)

- a. The Tabernacle of Moses and David
- b. Jack Hayford - Worship His Majesty
- c. Darlene Zschech – Extravagant Worship
- d. English and Hebrew terms

3. Relationships (69 – 97)

- a. Friendships, Inner circles
- b. Conflict, communication
- c. Covenant Discipleship
- d. How to Cultivate the Good, when to Sever the Bad

Spiritual Warfare class outline

1. Study guide
2. DVD – Craig 4 parts from Supernatural series (& Halloween)
3. DVD – to Hell and back 3 stories
4. DVD – demon possession and deliverance 23 minutes
5. Spiritual inventory – Mark Driscoll 13 pages, 2 hours
6. This Present Darkness – book review
7. Movie Trailers & reviews –
Narnia, Michael, Legion, Constantine, Divination, etc

Warning signs concerning the possibility of Spiritual attacks:

1. Continuous problems with authorities in your life.
2. Feeling enticed, or recent curiosity about evil, or the occult.
3. Feeling emotionally & spiritually accused, guilty and condemned.
4. Flooded with the temptation to sin.
5. Recently caught lying to cover up more lies.
6. In the middle of malicious, slanderous Gossip.
7. Severe discouragement, depression, self loathing.
8. Feeling of intimidation, confusion and fear.
9. Extreme challenges to health, finances, or relationships.
10. Major lack of desire for prayer, reading God's word, or attending church.
11. Extreme desire / pressure to pursue ungodly friends for fun.

SPIRITUAL WARFARE - (not what you might think)

Some people ignore it or pass it off,

others think the devil is behind every problem

1. Handling conflict – passive, assertive, aggressive (passive/aggressive)

a. with family: kids, parents, siblings

b. at work – co-worker, boss, employees

c. with friends – neighbors, confronting – being confronted

2. Strongholds – addictions, unforgiveness, bitterness,

3. open doors – unresolved issues, entertainment, curiosity

Influences from worldly people (gossip, slander, rebellion)

movies, games,

4. Protection – feeding / starving influences – prayer, reading (memorizing, speaking) Gods word

Weapons of our warfare –

1. Prayer -
2. The blood of Christ –
3. The word of God -
4. Renewing your mind –
4. Love -
5. Forgiveness –
6. Our Testimony –
7. The Armor of God –
8. Repentance / confession -
9. Taking Authority –
10. Unity -

Tools of the Enemy

1. Pride -
2. Accusations –
3. Fear –
4. Doubt -
5. Discouragement / depression -
6. Division, dissention –
7. Offenses –
8. Rebellion -
9. Revenge –
10. Distractions (stress, anxiety, business) –
11. Dysfunction / lack of order -
12. Lies / deception -
13. Temptation -

1 Peter 5:8 - Be self-controlled and alert. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour.

2 Cor 11:14 - for Satan himself masquerades as an angel of light

John 10:10 - ¹⁰The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.

Gen 4:7 If you do what is right, will you not be accepted? But if you do not do what is right, sin is crouching at your door; it desires to have you, but you must master it."

John 3:6 ⁶Flesh gives birth to flesh, but the Spirit^[b] gives birth to spirit. ⁷You should not be surprised at my saying, 'You^[c] must be born again.' ⁸The wind blows wherever it pleases. You hear its sound, but you cannot tell where it comes from or where it is going. So it is with everyone born of the Spirit."^[d]

Gal 5:17 - For the sinful nature desires what is contrary to the Spirit, and the Spirit what is contrary to the sinful nature. They are in conflict with each other, so that you do not do what you want.

*"Be sober, **be vigilant**; because **your adversary, the devil**, walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour."* 1 Peter 5:8

Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ.

2 Corinthians 10:5

2 Corinthians 10:3

"For though we live in the world, we do not wage war as the world does." (NIV)

2 Corinthians 10:4

"For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds;" (KJV)

*"Therefore submit to God.' **Resist the devil** and he will flee from you. Draw near to God and He will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands [REPENT], you sinners; and purify your hearts.... Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and He will lift you up."* James 4:7:10

1 Corinthians 2:14 The natural person does not accept the things of the Spirit of God, for they are folly to him, and he is not able to understand them because they are spiritually discerned.

Rev. 12:11 - They overcame him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony;

PRIDE -

Proverbs 8:13

¹³To fear the LORD is to hate evil; I hate pride and arrogance, evil behavior and perverse speech.

Proverbs 11:2 ²When pride comes, then comes disgrace, but with humility comes wisdom.

Proverbs 13:10

¹⁰Pride only breeds quarrels, but wisdom is found in those who take advice.

Proverbs 16:18

¹⁸Pride goes before destruction, a haughty spirit before a fall.

Proverbs 29:23

²³ A man's pride brings him low, but a man of lowly spirit gains honor.

Ecclesiastes 7:8

⁸The end of a matter is better than its beginning, and patience is better than pride.

Isaiah 2:11

¹¹The eyes of the arrogant man will be humbled and the pride of men brought low; the LORD alone will be exalted in that day.

Obadiah 1:3

³The pride of your heart has deceived you, you who live in the clefts of the rocks and make your home on the heights, you who say to yourself, 'Who can bring me down to the ground?'

Fear -

2 Tim 1: ⁷For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind.

[Psalm 27:3](#)

Though an army besiege me, my heart will **not fear**; though war break out against me, even then I will be confident.

[Psalm 46:2](#)

Therefore we will **not fear**, though the earth give way and the mountains fall into the heart of the sea,

[Isaiah 35:4](#)

say to those with **fearful** hearts, "Be strong, do **not fear**; your God will come, he will come with vengeance; with divine retribution he will come to save you."

[Isaiah 41:10](#)

So do **not fear**, for I am with you; do **not** be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.

[Romans 8:15](#)

The Spirit you received does **not** make you slaves, so that you live in **fear** again; rather, the Spirit you received brought about your adoption to sonship. And by him we cry, "Abba, Father."

[1 Peter 3:14](#)

But even if you should suffer for what is right, you are blessed. "Do **not fear** their threats ; do **not** be frightened."

ACCUSATIONS –

And I heard a loud voice saying in heaven, Now is come salvation, and strength, and the kingdom of our God, and the power of his Christ: for the accuser of our brethren is cast down, which accused them before our God day and night.

Revelation 12:10

Psalm 35:20 "They do not speak peaceably, but devise false accusations against those who live quietly in the land." (NIV)

Mathew 18:¹⁵ "If your brother or sister^[b] sins,^[c] go and point out their fault, just between the two of you. If they listen to you, you have won them over. ¹⁶ But if they will not listen, take one or two others along, so that 'every matter may be established by the testimony of two or three witnesses.'^[d] ¹⁷ If they still refuse to listen, tell it to the church; and if they refuse to listen even to the church, treat them as you would a pagan or a tax collector.

[Psalm 109:4](#) In return for my love they accuse me, but I give myself to prayer.

James 1:2-4 "My brethren, count it all joy when you fall into various trials, knowing that the testing of your faith produces patience. But let patience have its perfect work, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking nothing."(NKJV)

Luke 6:27"But I say unto you which hear, Love your enemies, do good to them which hate you." (KJV)

Isaiah 54:17"But in that coming day no weapon turned against you will succeed. You will silence every voice raised up to accuse you. These benefits are enjoyed by the servants of the Lord; their vindication will come from me. I, the Lord, have spoken!" (NLT)

1 Peter 3:9 "Don't repay evil for evil. Don't retaliate with insults when people insult you. Instead, pay them back with a blessing. That is what God has called you to do, and he will bless you for it." (NLT)

1 Thessalonians 5:15 "See that none render evil for evil unto any man; but ever follow that which is good, both among yourselves, and to all men."

Proverbs 3:30 "Do not accuse a man for no reason, when he has done you no harm." (NIV)

Proverbs 11:9“The hypocrite with his mouth destroys his neighbor, but through knowledge the righteous will be delivered.” (NKJV)

1 Peter 2:1-12“So put away all malice and all deceit and hypocrisy and envy and all slander.

2 Corinthians 12:20

²⁰For I am afraid that when I come I may not find you as I want you to be, and you may not find me as you want me to be. I fear that there may be quarreling, jealousy, outbursts of anger, factions, slander, gossip, arrogance and disorder.

Rebellion

– **1 Sam. 15:23** For rebellion is like the sin of divination, and arrogance like the evil of idolatry. Because you have rejected the word of the LORD, he has rejected you as king."

Lucifer – Ezek. 28 - ““You were the seal of perfection, full of wisdom and perfect in beauty.

¹³ You were in Eden, the garden of God; every precious stone adorned you:

carnelian, chrysolite and emerald, topaz, onyx and jasper, lapis lazuli, turquoise and beryl.^[a]

Your settings and mountings^[b] were made of gold; on the day you were created they were prepared.

¹⁴ You were anointed as a guardian cherub, for so I ordained you. You were on the holy mount of God;

you walked among the fiery stones.¹⁵ You were blameless in your ways from the day you were created

till wickedness was found in you.¹⁶ Through your widespread trade you were filled with violence,

and you sinned. So I drove you in disgrace from the mount of God, and I expelled you, guardian cherub,

from among the fiery stones.¹⁷ Your heart became proud on account of your beauty,

and you corrupted your wisdom because of your splendor. So I threw you to the earth;

I made a spectacle of you before kings.¹⁸ By your many sins and dishonest trade you have desecrated your sanctuaries. So I made a fire come out from you, and it consumed you, and I reduced you to ashes on the

ground in the sight of all who were watching.¹⁹ All the nations who knew you

are appalled at you; you have come to a horrible end and will be no more.””

Rom. 13:2 - Consequently, he who rebels against the authority is rebelling against what God has instituted, and those who do so will bring judgment on themselves.

NUMBERS ¹² - Miriam and Aaron began to talk against Moses because of his Cushite wife, for he had married a Cushite. ² “Has the LORD spoken only through Moses?” they asked. “Hasn’t he also spoken through us?” And the LORD heard this. ³ (Now Moses was a very humble man, more humble than anyone else on the face of the earth.)⁴ At once the LORD said to Moses, Aaron and Miriam, “Come out to the tent of meeting, all three of you.” So the three of them went out. ⁵ Then the LORD came down in a pillar of cloud; he stood at the entrance to the tent and summoned Aaron and Miriam. When the two of them stepped forward, ⁶ he said, “Listen to my words:

“When there is a prophet among you, I, the LORD, reveal myself to them in visions,

I speak to them in dreams.⁷ But this is not true of my servant Moses; he is faithful in all my house.

⁸ With him I speak face to face, clearly and not in riddles; he sees the form of the LORD. Why then were you not afraid to speak against my servant Moses?"⁹ The anger of the LORD burned against them, and he left them.¹⁰ When the cloud lifted from above the tent, Miriam's skin was leprous^[a]—it became as white as snow. Aaron turned toward her and saw that she had a defiling skin disease,¹¹ and he said to Moses, "Please, my lord, I ask you not to hold against us the sin we have so foolishly committed.¹² Do not let her be like a stillborn infant coming from its mother's womb with its flesh half eaten away."

Numbers 16 - Korah son of Izhar, the son of Kohath, the son of Levi, and certain Reubenites—Dathan and Abiram, sons of Eliab, and On son of Peleth—became insolent^[a]² and rose up against Moses. With them were 250 Israelite men, well-known community leaders who had been appointed members of the council.³ They came as a group to oppose Moses and Aaron and said to them, "You have gone too far! The whole community is holy, every one of them, and the LORD is with them. Why then do you set yourselves above the LORD's assembly?" . . .²⁸ Then Moses said, "This is how you will know that the LORD has sent me to do all these things and that it was not my idea:²⁹ If these men die a natural death and suffer the fate of all mankind, then the LORD has not sent me.³⁰ But if the LORD brings about something totally new, and the earth opens its mouth and swallows them, with everything that belongs to them, and they go down alive into the realm of the dead, then you will know that these men have treated the LORD with contempt."

³¹ As soon as he finished saying all this, the ground under them split apart³² and the earth opened its mouth and swallowed them and their households, and all those associated with Korah, together with their possessions.³³ They went down alive into the realm of the dead, with everything they owned; the earth closed over them, and they perished and were gone from the community.³⁴ At their cries, all the Israelites around them fled, shouting, "The earth is going to swallow us too!"³⁵ And fire came out from the LORD and consumed the 250 men who were offering the incense.

Characteristics of Satan

1. **Created** by God, and **not equal** to God. (Prov 16:4)
 2. **Defies** God and **despises truth**. (John 8:44)
 3. Was given **limited power**. (Job 1:8-12)
 4. **Commands** a **hierarchy of demons**. (Eph. 6:10-12)
 5. **Masquerades** as "an angel of light." (2 Cor. 11:14-15)
 6. Came to **steal, kill** and **destroy**. (John 10:10)
 7. **Lost access** to *faithful, redeemed Christians*. (John 10:2-15, Gal. 2:20, 1 John 4:4)
 8. **Rules the masses outside God's protection**. (Eph. 2:1-3)
 9. Tries to **hide** the actual **truth** about our God. (2 Cor. 4:3-4)
 10. **Twists Scriptures** to fit his purposes. (Gen. 3:1-5)
 11. **Offers counterfeit promises** he can't fulfill. (Gen. 3:4-5)
 12. Always seeks an "opportune time" to **tempt** us. (Luke 4:13)
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Satan the Liar –

John 8: 44 You belong to your father, the devil, and you want to carry out your father's desires. He was a murderer from the beginning, not holding to the truth, for there is no truth in him. When he lies, he speaks his native language, for he is a liar and the father of lies.

2 Cor 11:13 For such people are false apostles, deceitful workers, masquerading as apostles of Christ. ¹⁴ And no wonder, for Satan himself masquerades as an angel of light. ¹⁵ It is not surprising, then, if his servants also masquerade as servants of righteousness. Their end will be what their actions deserve.

Ezekiel 28:12-15 ¹² “Son of man, take up a lamentation for the king of Tyre, and say to him, ‘Thus says the Lord GOD: “You *were* the seal of perfection, Full of wisdom and perfect in beauty. ¹³ You were in Eden, the garden of God; Every precious stone *was* your covering: The sardius, topaz, and diamond, Beryl, onyx, and jasper, Sapphire, turquoise, and emerald with gold. The workmanship of your timbrels and pipes Was prepared for you on the day you were created. ¹⁴ “You *were* the anointed cherub who covers; I established you; You were on the holy mountain of God; You walked back and forth in the midst of fiery stones. ¹⁵ You *were* perfect in your ways from the day you were created, Till iniquity was found in you.”

Taking Authority –

Mathew 18: ¹⁸ “Truly I tell you, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be ^[f] loosed in heaven. ¹⁹ “Again, truly I tell you that if two of you on earth agree about anything they ask for, it will be done for them by my Father in heaven. ²⁰ For where two or three gather in my name, there am I with them.”

Mark 1:27, "And they were all amazed, insomuch that they questioned among themselves, saying, What thing is this? what new doctrine is this? for with authority commandeth he even the unclean spirits, and they do obey him."

Mathew 16:13 When Jesus came to the region of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, “Who do people say the Son of Man is?” ¹⁴ They replied, “Some say John the Baptist; others say Elijah; and still others, Jeremiah or one of the prophets.” ¹⁵ “But what about you?” he asked. “Who do you say I am?” ¹⁶ Simon Peter answered, “You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God.” ¹⁷ Jesus replied, “Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah, for this was not revealed to you by flesh and blood, but by my Father in heaven. ¹⁸ And I tell you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not overcome it. ¹⁹ **I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven;** whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.” ²⁰ Then he ordered his disciples not to tell anyone that he was the Messiah. ²¹ From that time on Jesus began to explain to his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and suffer many things at the hands of the elders, the chief priests and the teachers of the law, and that he must be killed and on the third day be raised to life. ²² Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. “Never, Lord!” he said. “This shall never happen to you!” ²³ **Jesus turned and said to Peter, “Get behind me, Satan!** You are a stumbling block to me; you do not have in mind the concerns of God, but merely human concerns.”

Offenses – (emotional and spiritual wounds and hurts)

Matt 18:7 Woe to the world because of offenses. **For offenses must come**, but woe to that man by whom the offense comes.

Psalm 119:¹⁶⁵ Great peace have they which love thy law: and nothing shall offend them.

Mathew 11:2 And when John had heard in prison about the works of Christ, he sent two of his disciples ³ and said to Him, “Are You the Coming One, or do we look for another?”⁴ Jesus answered and said to them, “Go and tell John the things which you hear and see: ⁵ *The blind see and the lame walk; the lepers are cleansed and the deaf hear; the dead are raised up and the poor have the gospel preached to them.* ⁶ And blessed is he who is not offended because of Me.”

Psalm 55: For it is not an enemy who taunts me— then I could bear it; it is not an adversary who deals insolently with me— then I could hide from him.¹³ But it is you, a man, my equal, my companion, my familiar friend.¹⁴ We used to take sweet counsel together; within God's house we walked in the throng.

Mathew 5:23 ²³ “Therefore, if you are offering your gift at the altar and there remember that your brother or sister has something against you, ²⁴ leave your gift there in front of the altar. First go and be reconciled to them; then come and offer your gift.

EPH 6: **For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms.**

LK 14:31 "Or suppose a king is about to go to **war** against another king. Will he not first sit down and consider whether he is able with ten thousand men to oppose the one coming against him with twenty thousand?"

REV 19:11 I saw heaven standing open and there before me was a white horse, whose rider is called Faithful and True. With justice he judges and makes **war**....¹⁴ The armies of heaven were following him,

REV 12:7 And there was **war** in heaven. Michael and his angels fought against the dragon, and the dragon and his angels fought back.⁸ But he was not strong enough, and they lost their place in heaven.⁹ The great dragon was hurled down--that ancient serpent called the devil, or Satan, who leads the whole world astray. He was hurled to the earth, and his angels with him.

2 Cor. 6:7... in the power of God; with **weapons** of righteousness in the right hand and in the left; 2 Cor. 10:4 For though we live in the world, we do not wage war as the world does.⁴ The **weapons** we fight with are not the **weapons** of the world.

TOPICAL DEFINITIONS

WAR— armed conflict, hostile fighting between opposing governments involving a series of battles

PACIFIST— opposed to conflict or confrontation at any cost, a “conscientious objector”, willing to sacrifice anything for peace.

MILITARY— members of an armed force, soldiers of war, militant followers, combined group of warriors

CIVIL WAR— a separation and division within normal ranks declaring internal opposition

DECLARATION OF WAR— formal announcement of hostile opposition

INITIATIVE— ability to begin or introduce the first step. Inventiveness, resourcefulness and effectiveness in responding to challenges

OBJECTIVE— determined offense or defensive purposes. Focus of intent

STRATEGY— tactics used against the enemy

LOGISTICS— “how to” , proper use and allocation of resources

MOBILIZATION— deployment, put into action

SOLDIERS... RECRUITED INTO ACTIVE DUTY

¹TI 1:18 Timothy, my son, I give you this instruction in keeping with the prophecies once made about you, so that by following them you may fight the good fight,

2 Tim. 2: ³ Endure hardship with us like a good **soldier** of Christ Jesus. ⁴ No one serving as a **soldier** gets involved in civilian affairs--he wants to please his commanding officer.

^{PHM} 1:1 Paul, a prisoner of Christ Jesus, and Timothy our brother,

To Philemon our dear friend and fellow worker, ² to Apphia our sister, to Archippus our fellow **soldier** and to the church that meets in your home:

CHARACTERISTICS OF A GOOD SOLDIER:

1. Endures training (boot camp)
experiences a tearing down before building up some want to be general overnight
2. Understands obedience to orders by authority
3. Willing to lay down their life (foxes book of martyrs)

Doctrine of War according to Encarta Encyclopedia

The goal of military training is to equip members of the services with the basic skills and discipline needed for appropriate action under the stress of combat.

Tactics— The term *guerrilla* (Spanish, "little war") originated in the early 19th century . Lacking the numerical strength and weapons to oppose a regular army in the field, guerrillas avoid pitched battles. The tactics of guerrillas are those of harassment. Striking swiftly and unexpectedly, they raid enemy supply depots and installations, ambush patrols and convoys, and cut communication lines, hoping thereby to disrupt enemy activities and to capture equipment and supplies for their own use. Consider this analogy:

1. supply = “the word”
2. Patrols / convoys = fellowship of believers
3. Communications = prayer, preaching, etc.

Guerrillas have an ability to disappear among the civilian population, and are extremely difficult to capture.

These sneaky, covert tactics are often the type used by demonic enemies !

The overall plan devised to defeat an enemy is called strategy. The actual techniques carried out against the enemy are tactics, which consist of the procedures for winning on the battlefield, in naval battle, and in aerial combat. Once the overall strategic plan has been approved, planning cycles at lower echelons are implemented. The execution of plans, making possible the attainment of military objectives, involves functions carried out by a field commander whose tactical judgment and leadership are critical. Logistics, which involves transporting troops and furnishing continuous supplies in support of military operations, is essential to the success of the mission.

Should the church have a strategy? (mission statement)

Should the local church define its tactics? (methods or channels to carry out its mission)

The Armor ...

.Eph. 6: [13] Therefore put on the full armor of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand. [14] Stand firm then, with the belt of truth buckled around your waist, with the **breastplate of righteousness** in place, [15] and with your feet fitted with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace. [16] In addition to all this, take up **the shield of faith**, with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one. [17] Take the **helmet of salvation** and **the sword of the Spirit**, which is the word of God.

ar·mor **1.** A defensive covering, worn to protect the body against weapons. **2.** A tough, protective covering, such as the bony scales covering certain animals or the metallic plates on tanks or warships. **3.** A safeguard or protection. **4.a.** The combat arm that deploys armored vehicles, such as tanks.

SWORD:

HEB 4:12 For the word of God is living and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart.

BREASTPLATE:

Rom.4[20] Yet he (Abraham) did not waver through unbelief regarding the promise of God, but was strengthened in his faith and gave glory to God, [21] being fully persuaded that God had power to do what he had promised. [22] This is why **"it was credited to him as righteousness."** [23] The words "it was credited to him" were written not for him alone, [24] but also for us, to whom God will credit righteousness--for us who believe in him

2 Cor.5: [21] God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

HELMET:

Rom. 12:2 Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind.

1CO 2:16 "For who has known the mind of the Lord that he may instruct him?" But **we have the mind of Christ.**

SHEILD :

HEB 11:1 Now faith is being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see. [2] This is what the ancients were commended for. By faith we understand that the universe was formed at God's command,

RO 10:16 But not all the Israelites accepted the good news. For Isaiah says, "Lord, who has believed our message?" [17] Consequently, **faith comes from hearing the message**, and the message is heard through the word of Christ.

Many are defenseless: Matt. 9: [36] When he saw the crowds, he had compassion on them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd.

Matt. 10: [16] I am sending you out like sheep among wolves.

- | | |
|---|--------------------------|
| 1. Many don't study the Bible- | they have no sword |
| 2. They don't go to church enough to grow their faith - | they have no sheild |
| 3. They depend on their own good works - | they have no breastplate |
| 4. They don't know the mind of Christ - | they have no helmet |

VICTORY !!!-

RO 8:37 No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us.

LK 10:18 He replied, "I saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven. ¹⁹ I have given you authority to trample on snakes and scorpions and to overcome all the power of the enemy; nothing will harm you.

REV 12:11 They **overcame** him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony;

Zech. 4:6 `Not by **might** nor by power, but by my Spirit,' says the LORD Almighty.

PS 44:3 It was not by their sword that they won the land, nor did their arm bring them **victory**; it was your right hand, your arm, and the light of your face, for you loved them. Through you we push back our enemies; through your name we trample our foes. I do not trust in my bow, my sword does not bring me **victory**; but you give us **victory** over our enemies,

1 Cor. 15: 57 But thanks be to God! He gives us the **victory** through our Lord Jesus Christ. Therefore, my dear brothers, stand firm. Let nothing move you.

M.I.A.'S AND P.O.W.'S ???!

An alarming number of Christians are now “Missing in Action”. They begin a walk of faith and then soon disappear. No one sees them in services for worship, prayer, fellowship, or Bible study. They have forgotten that faith comes by hearing the word and we should not forsake the assembling of ourselves together. They have withdrawn from active service of any kind. They never look for opportunities to serve God or His people and are truly Missing in Action.

Others would be considered “Prisoners of War”. They are saved and belong to Christ but have let the enemy take them prisoner. They are held captive to all types of bondage in the flesh. This includes doubt, lust, pride, greed, over-indulgences, slothfulness, and the list goes on and on. Many are comfortable in their habits and refuse to grow or change. Even though the power of God is ready, willing and able to set them free, they choose to stay in bondage as prisoners of war!

SCRIPTURAL COMMAND TO FIGHT !

¹⁴ The LORD will fight for you; you need only to be still."

EX 14:19 Then the angel of God, who had been traveling in front of Israel's army, withdrew and went behind them.

²⁴ During the last watch of the night the LORD looked down from the pillar of fire and cloud at the Egyptian army and threw it into confusion. ²⁵ He made the wheels of their chariots come off so that they had difficulty driving. And the Egyptians said, "Let's get away from the Israelites! The LORD is fighting for them against Egypt."

Duet. 3 ²² Do not be afraid of them; the LORD your God himself will fight for you."

JOS 10:25 Joshua said to them, "Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged. Be strong and courageous. This is what the LORD will do to all the enemies you are going to **fight**."

Neh. 4:⁸ They all plotted together to come and **fight** against Jerusalem and stir up trouble against it. ⁹ But we prayed to our God and posted a guard day and night to meet this threat.

2 Tim. 4:7 I have fought the good **fight**, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith.

1 Tim. 6:¹² **Fight** the good **fight** of the faith. Take hold of the eternal life to which you were called when you made your good confession in the presence of many witnesses.

JOSHUA—

JOS 5:13 Now when Joshua was near Jericho, he looked up and saw a man standing in front of him with a drawn sword in his hand. Joshua went up to him and asked, "Are you for us or for our enemies?"⁴ "Neither," he replied, "but as **commander** of the army of the LORD I have now come." Then Joshua fell facedown to the ground in reverence, and asked him, "What message does my Lord have for his servant?" The **commander** of the LORD's army replied, "Take off your sandals, for the place where you are standing is holy." And Joshua did so.

GIDEON— DG 6:11 The angel of the LORD came and sat down under the oak in Ophrah that belonged to Joash the Abiezrite, where his son **Gideon** was threshing wheat in a winepress to keep it from the Midianites. ¹² When the angel of the LORD appeared to **Gideon**, he said, "The LORD is with you, mighty warrior."

² The LORD said to **Gideon**, "You have too many men for me to deliver Midian into their hands. In order that Israel may not boast against me that her own strength has saved her, ³ announce now to the people, 'Anyone who trembles with fear may turn back and leave Mount Gilead.' " So twenty-two thousand men left, while ten thousand remained. But the LORD said to **Gideon**, "There are still too many men. Take them down to the water, and I will sift them for you there. If I say, 'This one shall go with you,' he shall go; but if I say, 'This one shall not go with you,' he shall not go."

JDG 8:4 **Gideon** and his three hundred men, exhausted yet keeping up the pursuit, came to the Jordan and crossed it

DAVID— ISA 16:18 One of the servants answered, "I have seen a son of Jesse of Bethlehem who knows how to play the harp. He is a brave man and a **warrior**. He speaks well and is a fine-looking man. And the LORD is with him."

ISA 17:38 Then Saul dressed David in his own tunic. He put a coat of **armor** on him and a bronze helmet on his head. ³⁹ David fastened on his sword over the tunic and tried walking around, because he was not used to them. "I cannot go in these," he said to Saul, "because I am not used to them." So he took them off. ⁴⁰ Then he took his staff in his hand, chose five smooth stones from the stream, put them in the pouch of his shepherd's bag and, with his sling in his hand, approached the Philistine.

WEAPONS OF DEFENSE !

Eph.6:18 And **pray** in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the saints.

JUDE 1:20 But you, dear friends, build yourselves up in your most holy faith and **pray** in the Holy Spirit.

1CO 16:13 Be on your guard; stand firm in the faith; be men of courage; be **strong**.

ISA 54:16 ; no weapon forged against you will prevail... and this is their vindication from me," declares the LORD.

JER 50:25 The LORD has opened his arsenal and brought out the weapons of his wrath, for the Sovereign LORD Almighty has work to do in the land

2 Cor. 10:4 The weapons we fight with are not the weapons of the world. On the contrary, they have divine power to demolish strongholds.

JOB 1:9 "Does Job fear God for nothing?" Satan replied. ¹⁰ "Have you not put a hedge around him and his household and everything he has?"

ARENA OF BATTLE -

LK 11:17 Jesus knew their thoughts and said to them: "Any kingdom divided against itself will be ruined, and a house divided against itself will fall. ¹⁸ If Satan is divided against himself, how can his kingdom stand? I say this because you claim that I drive out demons by Beelzebul. ¹⁹ Now if I drive out demons by Beelzebul, by whom do your followers drive them out? So then, they will be your judges. ²⁰ But if I drive out demons by the finger of God, then the kingdom of God has come to you.

LK 11:21 "When a strong man, fully armed, guards his own house, his possessions are safe. ²² But when someone stronger attacks and overpowers him, he takes away the armor in which the man trusted and divides up the spoils. ²³ "He who is not with me is against me, and he who does not gather with me, scatters. "When an evil spirit comes out of a man, it goes through arid places seeking rest and does not find it. Then it says, 'I will return to the house I left.' ²⁵ When it arrives, it finds the house swept clean and put in order. ²⁶ Then it goes and takes seven other spirits more wicked than itself, and they go in and live there. And the final condition of that man is worse than the first."

ARENA— a scene where forces contend or events unfold, an ancient Roman amphitheatre used for personal battle challenges.

Principalities— Powers— Rulers - Spiritual hosts - Heavenly places—

Major Battlegrounds— air, land, sea...

1. **The mind**—thoughts, lust, depression, suicide, etc.movies, magazines, t.v.
 2. **The heart**— hurt feelings, offenses, unforgiveness ungodly relationships,
 3. **The soul**— emotional abuses, dysfunctional behavior physical body, sickness, disease.
alcohol, drugs, etc.
- we must renew our mind, guard our heart, and free our soul!

THE ENEMY'S TACTICS

^{1PE 5:8} Be self-controlled and alert. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour. ⁹ Resist him, standing firm in the faith, because you know that your brothers throughout the world are undergoing the same kind of sufferings.

^{Acts 13:8} But Elymas the sorcerer (for that is what his name means) opposed them and tried to turn the proconsul from the faith. ⁹ Then Saul, who was also called Paul, filled with the Holy Spirit, looked straight at Elymas and said, ¹⁰ "You are a child of the devil and an enemy of everything that is right! You are full of all kinds of deceit and trickery. Will you never stop perverting the right ways of the Lord? ¹¹ Now the hand of the Lord is against you. You are going to be blind, and for a time you will be unable to see the light of the sun."

Immediately mist and darkness came over him, and he groped about, seeking someone to lead him by the hand. ¹² When the proconsul saw what had happened, he believed, for he was amazed at the teaching about the Lord.

2 Cor.2:¹¹ in order that Satan might not outwit us. For we are not unaware of his schemes. (ignorant of his devises)

^{2CO 11:13} For such men are false apostles, deceitful workmen, masquerading as apostles of Christ. ¹⁴ And no wonder, for Satan himself masquerades as an angel of light. ¹⁵ It is not surprising, then, if his servants masquerade as servants of righteousness. Their end will be what their actions deserve.

^{MT 16:21} From that time on Jesus began to explain to his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and suffer many things at the hands of the elders, chief priests and teachers of the law, and that he must be killed and on the third day be raised to life. Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. "Never, Lord!" he said. "This shall never happen to you!" Jesus turned and said to Peter, "Get behind me, **Satan!** You are a stumbling block to me; you do not have in mind the things of God, but the things of men."

1. ACCUSATION—

Rev. 12:10 For the accuser of our brothers, who accuses them before our God day and night, has been hurled down.

One who brings charges against you, to point out faults, failures and shortcomings. Often using slanderous words, intending to ruin your reputation by launching a character assassination as to discredit the gospel. (gossip and here-say)

2. DECEPTION—

John 8: ⁴⁴ You belong to your father, the devil, and you want to carry out your father's desire. He was a murderer from the beginning, not holding to the truth, for there is no truth in him. When he **lies**, he speaks his native language, for he is a liar and the father of **lies**.

Being misled or ensnared by the allurements of false appearance. A fake, hoax, counterfeit, phony, fraud, or imposture.

2JN 1:7 Many deceivers, who do not acknowledge Jesus Christ as coming in the flesh, have gone out into the world. Any such person is the deceiver and the antichrist. (false teachers, religions, cults)

3. TEMPTATION—

^{MK 1:12} At once the Spirit sent him out into the desert, ¹³ and he was in the desert forty days, being tempted by Satan.

Enticement to sin or violate conscience, especially by the promise of reward, seemingly inviting or attractive. (“just one drink wont hurt”, “a little flirting is really harmless”, “ the pleasure will out way the consequences”

4. FEAR—

2 Tim. 1:7 For God did not give us a spirit of timidity, (fear) but a spirit of power, of love and of self-discipline. (sound mind) The feeling of dread and apprehension, panic, alarm, terror: the state of agitation and anxiety caused by the presence of immanent danger.

Who is your enemy?

One who intends injury toward you, or opposes your interests. A hostile force bent on hindering your progress.

Lucifer fell by his own pride and lost what we now have.

(relationship with God, blessing and promise) He’s motivated by jealousy and resentment, He knows his destiny! He will use anyone and anything to prevent Gods people from their purpose. Consider the example of a Father who sends his child to their room, puts them on restriction, and separates them from friends. Often this child will take it out on his siblings!

We often battle people when they are not the real problem. We fight with our Mother-in law, our boss, or spouse. It is important to pin blame where it belongs. Some curse the devil when it is really a flesh issue they struggle with. For example, a person doesn’t balance their checkbook and spends all day in prayer trying to rebuke the banker for charging overdraft fees. Others pray for healing in their body when they don't regulate their diet and exercise.

Jesus even experienced this with his closest disciples. Peter didn’t have the mind of God but was motivated by self centered ambitions, and Christ knew where the root problem really came from. It is vital to distinguish the difference between sin, the flesh, and the devil.

MANY GIVE CREDIT TO THE DEVIL AND REFUSE TO ASSUME RESPONSIBILITY FOR THEIR BEHAVIOR.

THE SPIRITUAL DIMENSION...

ANGELS— invisible, immortal spiritual being. An agent of God, a guardian of Christians.

DEMONS— invisible evil supernatural being. A wicked, cruel, and tormenting spirit.

SATAN— ultimate evil, fallen Archangel Lucifer, Beelzebub, Lord of Hell, ruler of demons, the devil

GHOSTS— the unseen spirit of a dead person without a physical body, haunting memory or presence (demon)

HEAVEN— eternal firmament overshadowing the universe. A place of combined celestial power, the abode of God, angels, and saved souls

HELL— place of eternal punishment for Satan, demons, and condemned souls. A place of misery, torture, anguish and separation from God.

ANGELS...

Order / Rank of power, importance

1. Seraphim—
2. Cherubim—
3. Archangels— (Gabriel, Michael)
4. Ministering Angels—

Col. 1:¹⁶ For by him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things were created by him and for him.

EZE 10:³ Now the cherubim were standing on the south side of the temple when the man went in, and a cloud filled the inner court. ⁴ Then the glory of the LORD rose from above the cherubim and moved to the threshold of the temple. The cloud filled the temple, and the court was full of the radiance of the glory of the LORD. ⁵ The sound of the wings of the cherubim could be heard as far away as the outer court, like the voice of God Almighty when he speaks.

ISA 6:¹ In the year that King Uzziah died, I saw the Lord seated on a throne, high and exalted, and the train of his robe filled the temple. ² Above him were seraphs, each with six wings: With two wings they covered their faces, with two they covered their feet, and with two they were flying.

PS 103:²⁰ Praise the LORD, you his angels, you mighty ones who do his bidding, who obey his word. Praise the LORD, all his heavenly hosts, you his servants who do his will. ^{PS 91:11} For he will command his angels concerning you to guard you in all your ways; they will lift you up in their hands, so that you will not strike your foot against a stone.

- | | |
|-------------------------|-----------|
| A. excel in strength | Heb. 1:14 |
| B. Perform His word | Acts 8:26 |
| C. Respond to his voice | Gen. 19:1 |
| D. Minister to God | Luke 1:26 |
| E. Protect the saints | |
| F. Messengers of God | |

* there are twice as many angels as demons

DEMONS ...

1/3 of the created angels fallen with Lucifer. Unclean, wicked, and at war with the saints, searching for an earthly dwelling place (a being to inhabit)

Structured in military fashion by legions. First principalities, then powers, rulers, and host of wickedness. Often manifested by deaf, mute, blind, mental disorders & disease.

Jude⁶ And the angels who did not keep their positions of authority but abandoned their own home--these he has kept in darkness, bound with everlasting chains for judgment on the great Day.

MT 25:41 "Then he will say to those on his left, 'Depart from me, you who are cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels

² When Jesus got out of the boat, a man with an evil spirit came from the tombs to meet him. ³ This man lived in the tombs, and no one could bind him any more, not even with a chain. ⁴ For he had often been chained hand and foot, but he tore the chains apart and broke the irons on his feet. No one was strong enough to subdue him. ⁵ Night and day among the tombs and in the hills he would cry out and cut himself with stones. When he saw Jesus from a distance, he ran and fell on his knees in front of him. ⁷ He shouted at the top of his voice, "What do you want with me, Jesus, Son of the Most High God? Swear to God that you won't torture me!" ⁸ For Jesus had said to him, "Come out of this man, you evil spirit!" Then Jesus asked him, "What is your name?"

"My name is Legion," he replied, "for we are many."

Oppression— To keep down by severe and unjust use of force or authority. To weigh heavily on. To overwhelm or crush.

Possession— To acquire mastery of, To gain or exert influence or control over; dominate. To cause to be influenced or controlled, as by an idea or emotion.

Exorcism— To expel (an evil spirit) by or as if by incantation, command, or prayer. To free from evil spirits or malign influences.

Mark 16:17 And these signs will accompany those who believe: In my name they will drive out demons;

SATAN ...

His demise—	His purpose—
1. I will ascend to...	1. Steal
2. I will ascend above...	2. Kill
3. I will raise...	3. Destroy
4. I will sit...	4. deceive
5. I will be like...	5. tempt
	6. accuse

ISA 14:11 All your pomp has been brought down to the grave,
along with the noise of your harps; maggots are spread out beneath you and worms cover you. How you
have fallen from heaven,
O morning star, son of the dawn! You have been cast down to the earth, you who once laid low the nations!
You said in your heart,
"I will ascend to heaven; I will raise my throne above the stars of God; I will sit enthroned on the mount of
assembly, on the utmost heights of the sacred mountain. I will ascend above the tops of the clouds; I will make
myself like the Most High." But you are brought down to the grave, to the depths of the pit.

John 10:¹⁰ The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy;

Rev. 12:⁹ The great dragon was hurled down--that ancient serpent called the devil, or **Satan**, who leads the
whole world astray. He was hurled to the earth, and his angels with him.

Rev. 20:² He seized the dragon, that ancient serpent, who is the devil, or **Satan**, and bound him for a thousand
years. ³ He threw him into the Abyss, and locked and sealed it over him, to keep him from deceiving the nations
anymore

HEAVEN ...

3 levels or references in scripture—

1. earths atmosphere, 600 miles through the clouds
2. Through the planets, milky way and the galaxy (firmament)
3. Beyond the stars, where we find... The city of God!

2 Cor. 12: ² I know a man in Christ who fourteen years ago was caught up to the third heaven. Whether it was in the body or out of the body I do not know--God knows. ³ And I know that this man--whether in the body or apart from the body I do not know, but God knows-- ⁴ was caught up to paradise. He heard inexpressible things, things that man is not permitted to tell.

REV 7:9 After this I looked and there before me was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, tribe, people and language, standing before the throne
Rev.21,&22

1. About the size of the U.S.A., 1400 square miles
2. With great mansions and houses built by a Jewish carpenter!
3. Great jasper walls 216 ft high filled with 12 jewels
4. 12 pearl gates
5. Foundation and streets of gold
6. Illuminated by the glory of God
7. A pure crystal river of the water of life
8. The tree of life with twelve fruits (one every month)
9. 24 thrones of elders (govt. order)
10. A beautiful rainbow surrounding Gods throne
11. Multitudes of worshippers, to many to number
12. Clothed in robes and crowns

a place of serving, learning, worshipping, & rewards

HELL ...

Grave—a burial or resting place for the physical body.
the soul and spirit continue existence for eternity.
Num.16:32,33 / Matt.25:41,46 / Mark 9:43-48

Sheol—Hebrew word for Abrahams bosom, O.T. dead - before Christ

^{LK 16:22} "The time came when the beggar died and the angels carried him to Abraham's side. The rich man also died and was buried. ²³ In hell, where he was in torment, he looked up and saw Abraham far away, with Lazarus by his side. ²⁴ So he called to him, 'Father Abraham, have pity on me and send Lazarus to dip the tip of his finger in water and cool my tongue, because I am in agony in this fire.'

Hades— Greek word in N.T. for Hell

Rev. 20: ¹⁴ Then death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire. The lake of fire is the second death. ¹⁵ If anyone's name was not found written in the book of life, he was thrown into the lake of fire.

Tartaros— bottomless pit, prepared for the devil and fallen angels (final)

Gahanna—lake of fire, prepared for the wicked dead

A place of :

1. Punishment
2. Torment
3. Separation from God
4. Darkness
5. Fire, heat, and smoke
6. No relief
7. Confinement behind gates, below the earth
8. Sorrow, weeping
9. Eternal decay

STRONGHOLDS

A stronghold is more than an occasional battle in life. It is more of an ongoing habit, or addiction. It is where the enemy has set up camp. It is often associated with bondage or oppression. There is a difference in oppression and possession of demons. A born again Christian has the spirit of God in him and Satan can not co-mingle in the same body or soul. Jesus said that we can not serve two masters, One of them has to go! Demons will, however, attack relentlessly as often as God permits. (Remember that God will not put on us more than we can bear). They will take over if we permit it to happen.

The dictionary says that a stronghold is a fortified place or a fortress. It is a place of survival or refuge An area dominated or occupied by a special group or distinguished by a special quality, or entity. The following scripture explains how a stronghold is created:

JAS 1:13 When tempted, no one should say, "God is tempting me." For God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does he tempt anyone; ¹⁴ but each one is tempted when, by his own evil desire, he is dragged away and enticed. ¹⁵ Then, after desire has conceived, it gives **birth to** sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, gives **birth to** death.

If a stronghold is not dealt with, it will eventually rob a person of his relationship with God

DELIVERENCE To free from bondage or restraint. To liberate, redeem or rescue.

PS 18:2 The LORD is my rock, my fortress and my deliverer; my God is my rock, in whom I take refuge.

2 Peter 2:9— the Lord knows how to rescue godly men from trials

John 8:32 Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free." They answered him, "We are Abraham's descendants and have never been slaves of anyone. How can you say that we shall be set free?" Jesus replied, "I tell you the truth, everyone who sins is a slave to sin

Steps and / or process:

1. On rare occasions it may be an instantaneous work of the Holy Spirit during prayer. This must be followed up by filling yourself with Gods word.
(memorizing and meditating)
2. Pray for wisdom to see the root of the problem.
3. Take responsibility and stop blaming others.
4. Repent and confess the sin openly
5. Forgive anyone who has hurt or offended you.
6. Cleanse your closet, your cabinet, your desk drawer, or any place that might harbor temptation for sin (booze, magazines, etc.)
7. Be accountable to a spiritual authority or friend.

MT 6:13 And lead us not into temptation, but **deliver** us from the evil one. '

1. Handling conflict – passive, assertive, aggressive (passive/aggressive)

- a. with family: kids, parents, siblings
- b. at work – co-worker, boss, employees
- c. with friends – neighbors, confronting – being confronted

2. Strongholds – addictions, unforgiveness, bitterness,

3. open doors – unresolved issues, entertainment, curiosity

Influences from worldly people (gossip, slander, rebellion)
movies, games,

4. Protection – feeding / starving influences – prayer, reading (memorizing, speaking) Gods word

Spiritual Warfare Pastor Mark Driscoll

Tuesday, February 5, 2008

Note: Both NIV and ESV are used in this lecture.

“There are two equal and opposite errors into which our race can fall about the devils. One is to disbelieve in their existence. The other is to believe, and to feel an excessive and unhealthy interest in them.”

— C. S. Lewis, *Screwtape Letters*

In each of the synoptic gospels, Satan appears as the tempter of Jesus Christ (Matt. 4:1–11; Mark 1:12–13; Luke 4:1–13). From the opening to the closing pages of Scripture, Satan is presented as an enemy of God and, subsequently, an enemy of God’s people. He is named in a variety of ways, as the following list demonstrates, with varying titles each relating to the various aspects of his work.

Satan’s Names

- Abaddon (“destroyer”) (Rev. 9:11)
- The god of this world (2 Cor. 4:4)
- Accuser (Rev. 12:10)
- Great Dragon (Rev. 12:9)
- Adversary (1 Pet. 5:8)
- Lawless One (2 Thess. 2:18)
- Apollyon (“destroyer”) (Rev. 9:11)
- Liar (John 8:44)
- Beelzebul (Matt. 12:24)
- Morning Star (Isa. 14:12)
- Belial (2 Cor. 6:15)
- Murderer (John 8:44)
- Deceiver (Rev. 12:9)
- Prince of the power of the air (Eph. 2:2)
- Devil (Luke 4:13)
- Ruler of this world (John 12:31)
- Enemy (Matt. 13:28, 39)
- Satan (Acts 26:18)
- Evil One (Matt. 13:28, 39)
- Serpent (Rev. 12:9)
- Father of lies (John 8:44)
- Tempter (1 Thess. 3:5)

Foundational to our study of Satan is to recognize that he is in no way equal to God. His knowledge, presence, and power are limited because he is an angelic being (a guardian cherub according to Ezekiel 28:14) created by God for the purpose of glorifying and serving God. However, he became proud in his heart and desired to be worshiped and exalted like God. So, he declared war on God and one-third of the angels joined his army to oppose God. Judged by God for his sin, the Serpent was then cast down to the earth (Isa. 14:11–23; Ezek. 28:1–19). Upon the earth he appeared as a serpent to tempt Adam and Eve by twisting God’s word and lying (Gen. 3:1–24). After successfully tempting Adam and Eve to sin, he was judged and cursed by God for his sin and told that Jesus

would ultimately come to completely defeat him, though Jesus would suffer physical harm in their conflict (Gen. 3:14–15).

The motivation for all of the Serpent's work is pride and self-glory instead of humility and God-glory (Ezek. 28:2; James 4:6–7). Subsequently, one of his most powerful allies in opposing God's people is their own pride. Some have speculated as to why the Serpent continues in his war against God even though Scripture is clear that ultimately he will be defeated and painfully judged. It may be that the Serpent is indeed so proud that he has deceived himself and now believes that God is a liar who can be beaten.

In his war against God, the Serpent not only has the fallen angels who are now known as demons, but also has people who are allies in his army either by demonic possession, demonic influence, or simply living according to their sinful nature and flesh (2 Pet. 2:4; Rev. 9:1; 12:3–4). Such people include false prophets who speak for the Serpent (2 Pet. 2:1), false apostles who begin ministries for the Serpent (2 Cor. 11:13), false Christians who divide churches (Gal. 2:4), and false teachers who teach heretical doctrine for the Serpent (2 Pet. 2:1). Regarding spiritual warfare as it is experienced on the personal level, 2 Corinthians 2:11 (NIV) says, "Satan might not outwit us. For we are not unaware of his schemes." Therefore, knowing Satan's tactics helps us anticipate his work and live in victory rather than as victims.

Scheme #1 – The World

What is meant by the term "world" in its negative sense? The world is an organized system in opposition and rebellion against God. Richard Lovelace says, "The world is corporate flesh and the structures it produces." In 1 John 2:16 the world is defined as the following:

- Lust of the flesh (wanting physical desires)
- Lust of the eye (wanting beautiful externals)
- Boastful pride of life (selfish ambition)

In response to the world, Scripture instructs Christians to:

- Not love it (1 John 2:15)
- Not let it shape their values (Rom. 12:2)
- Live through Jesus as crucified to the world (Gal. 6:14)

Scheme #2 – The Flesh

The flesh refers to our capacity and disposition to put self-interests above God. In short, the flesh is an internal resistance to obey God (Mark 7:21–23; Gal. 5:19–21; Col.3:5–8; James 1:14–15).

In response to the flesh, Scripture instructs Christians to:

- Recognize that they are no longer under the flesh's bondage (Rom. 6)
- Walk in conscious submission to the Holy Spirit (Gal. 5:16)
- Put to death (mortify) sinful desires (Rom. 8:13–16)

Scheme #3 – The Devil

"Where God is on one side, you may be sure to find the devil on the other."
William Gurnall, 1655

As Satan engages in combat against us he deftly uses his hands of pride and fear. With pride he tempts us to join him in arrogance and self-sufficiency apart from God's grace (Ezek. 28:17; Prov. 3:34; 8:13). Satan seeks to convince us that we are equal to God and can exist happily apart from His grace and govern our lives by our own wisdom and strength (Gen. 3:5; Isa. 13:11). If we yield ourselves to pride, we will boastfully think too highly of ourselves and think too lowly of our God. With fear he tempts us to revere him more than God and submit ourselves to his lies, accusations, temptations and the like (Isa. 8:12–13; 35:3–4; Luke 12:4–5; Rom. 8:15). If we yield ourselves to fear we will think too highly of Satan and his servants and think too lowly of God and His powerful authority. Jesus said, "Behold, I have given you authority to tread on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy, and nothing shall hurt you. Nevertheless, do not rejoice in this, that the spirits are subject to you, but rejoice that your names are written in heaven" (Luke 10:19–20). Whatever his tactics, the Serpent's ultimate goal for believers is typically a compromised and fruitless life beset by heresy and sin (1 Tim. 4:1–2; 1 John 3:7–10) and ultimately death (John 8:44; 1 Pet. 5:8).

Ordinary Demonic

Puritan Thomas Brooks, in his book *Precious Remedies Against Satan's Devices*, speaks of the ordinary demonic as Satan coming to us as our Tempter and baiting our hook with various pleasure and temptations, including:

- Sexual sin (2 Cor. 7:5)
- Marriage between Christians and non-Christians (2 Cor. 6:15)
- False religion, false teaching, false Jesus (1 Cor. 10:14–22; 1 Tim. 4:1–2; 2 Cor. 11:1–4)
- Bitterness (Eph. 4:17–5:2)
- Foolishness and drunkenness (Eph. 5:8–21)
- Idle gossip and busybodying (1 Tim. 5:11–15)
- Lies (John 8:44)
- Idolatry (1 John 5:18–21)

Extraordinary Demonic

- Torment (Acts 5:16)
- Physical injury (Matt. 9:32–33; 12:22–23; Acts 8:4–8)
- False miracles (Acts 8:9–23; 16:16; 2 Thess. 2:9–10)
- Accusation (Rev. 12:10)
- Vain regrets and condemnation (Rom. 8:1)
- General guilt vs. specific conviction
- Second person ("you" language instead of "I")
- Death, e.g., food, sex, drink, recklessness (Prov. 8:36)
- Murder/Suicide (John 8:44)
- False spirits (1 John 4:1–6)

Christus Victor

- “He has delivered us from the domain of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of his beloved Son” (Col. 1:13).
- “And you, who were dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made alive together with him, having forgiven us all our trespasses, by canceling the record of debt that stood against us with its legal demands. This he set aside, nailing it to the cross. He disarmed the rulers and authorities and put them to open shame, by triumphing over them in him” (Col. 2:13–15).
- “Little children, you are from God and have overcome them, for he who is in you is greater than he who is in the world” (1 John 4:4).
- “. . . in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord” (Rom. 8:37–39).
- “Whoever makes a practice of sinning is of the devil, for the devil has been sinning from the beginning. The reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the works of the devil” (1 John 3:8).
- “Since therefore the children share in flesh and blood, he himself likewise partook of the same things, that through death he might destroy the one who has the power of death, that is, the devil, and deliver all those who through fear of death were subject to lifelong slavery” (Heb. 2:14–15).
- “But you, O LORD, are a shield about me, my glory, and the lifter of my head” (Ps. 3:3).
- “My shield is with God, who saves the upright in heart” (Ps. 7:10).
- “The LORD is my rock and my fortress and my deliverer, my God, my rock, in whom I take refuge, my shield, and the horn of my salvation, my stronghold” (Ps. 18:2).

Spiritual Inventory

Satan is a liar (John 8:42–47) and God tells us the truth so that we can be free of Satan and his lies and our besetting sins (John 8:31–41). Therefore, it is imperative that we confess our sins, are truthful, and invite the light of God to shine into our darkest places (1 John 1:5–2:6). This process of complete and total honesty can be very painful as we name our sins and the most private and scarred portions of our soul. Your temptation may be to partially confess or withhold a few things that you feel are too embarrassing or painful to admit, but you must be completely honest with yourself and with God so that you can join God in the truth and be forgiven and restored. So, please take some time to answer the following questions truthfully on another sheet of paper, trusting that God loves you as His child and desires to make you whole and well through His grace.

_ Please read Galatians 5:19–21 and list each thing that has been a besetting and/or habitual sin for you.

_ Please read Colossians 3:5–8 and list each thing that has been a besetting and/or habitual sin for you.

_ Please read Mark 7:21–23 and list each thing that has been a besetting and/or habitual sin for you.

_ Please consider the following list and list each thing that has been besetting and/or habitual for you: bestiality, habitual lying, physically unhealthy, masturbation, lying, pornography, ongoing depression, suicidal thoughts, alcohol abuse, drug use, anger, blasphemy, violence, self-inflicted injury, rape, incest, eating disorders, mental illness, pedophilia, and anything else that comes to mind.

_ Please consider the following list of sins that may have been committed against you or by you: rape, incest, molestation, other forms of abuse (e.g., physical, sexual, mental, emotional), as well as anything else that comes to mind.

_ Please briefly explain any involvement you may have had with the occult, witchcraft, or anything spiritual other than orthodox biblical Christianity.

_ Please briefly list any of your ancestors and any activity they may have been involved in with the occult, witchcraft, other religions, drug use, alcohol abuse, sexual deviancy, rape, incest, mental illness, and anything else listed above or that comes to mind.

_ Please briefly describe your sleeping patterns, including any inability to sleep and ongoing nightmares or disturbances.

_ Please briefly list any paranormal/supernatural experiences you have had.

_ Please briefly list any voices you hear and what they generally speak to you in the exact words that you hear or think.

_ Please briefly list the main two or three things that you would like resolved immediately.

_ Please read 1 John 4 slowly and pray each part that strikes you, honestly speaking with God about the things His Holy Spirit brings to mind.

_ Please name the godly person you want to join us.

Satan and Demons in Scripture

For further insight on Satan, demons, and their involvement in our world, it would benefit you to set aside some time to read the following passages of Scripture. Since this list is exhaustive, you may wish to simply read the sections in Genesis, Isaiah, Zechariah, Luke, Acts, 2 Corinthians, Ephesians, Colossians, 1 Timothy, James, 1 Peter, and 1 John.

Genesis 3

Exodus 20:5

Leviticus 17:7–9; 19:31; 20:27; 19:31

Numbers 22–24

Deuteronomy 32:16–17

Judges 9:23–24

1 Samuel 10–12; 16:14–23; 18:10–12, 19, 28, 31

1 Kings 22:1–28

1 Chronicles 21:1–2
Job 1:6–2:10; 26:6
Psalms 106:37
Proverbs 27:20
Isaiah 14:1–23
Ezekiel 28:1–19
Zechariah 3:1–2; 13:1–2
Matthew 4:1–11, 23–25; 7:21–23; 8:14–17, 28–34; 9:32–34; 10:1, 8, 24–25; 11:18; 12:22–37, 43–45; 13:37–39; 15:21–28; 16:22–23; 17:14–23; 25:41
Mark 1:21–28, 32–34, 39; 3:10–11, 14–15, 20–30; 4:15; 5:1–20; 6:7, 13; 7:24–30; 8:31–33; 9:14–32, 38–41; 16:9, 17–18
Luke 4:1–13, 31–37; 6:17–19; 7:33; 8:1–3, 26–39; 9:1–2, 37–43; 10:17–24; 11:14–28; 13:10–17, 31–32; 22:1–6
John 6:70; 7:14–20; 8:42–52a; 10:19–21; 13:2, 27; 17:15
Acts 5:1–11, 16; 8:4–8, 9–25; 10:38; 13:9–10; 19:11–22; 26:15–18
Romans 8:37–39; 16:20
1 Corinthians 5:1–6:11; 7:5; 10:14–22
2 Corinthians 2:10–11; 4:2–4; 6:15; 11:1–15; 12:7–10
Galatians 1:8; 2:21
Ephesians 1:19b–2:3; 2:10–11; 4:17–32; 5:8–21; 6:10–20
Colossians 2:13–15
1 Thessalonians 2:18–19
2 Thessalonians 2:1–12
1 Timothy 1:18–20; 3:6–7; 4:1–2; 5:11–15
Hebrews 2:14
James 2:19; 4:1–12
1 Peter 5:8–11
2 Peter 2:1–22
1 John 2:15–27; 3:4–15; 4:1–6; 5:18–21
2 John 7
Jude 5–16
Revelation 2:8–11, 12–17; 3:7–13; 9:1–11; 12:1–17; 13:4–9, 11–15; 16:13–14; 18:2; 20:1–4, 7–15

Spiritual Warfare Trial

Step #1 – Share the gospel and make sure they are a Christian.

Step #2 – Explain the world, flesh, and devil, and how ground is given.

Step #3 – Explain our trial.

- 1 John 4:1–6
- Ephesians 6:10–18
- 1 Peter 5:8
- Explain demonic oppression, occupation, and possession

Step #4 – Explain the counselee's participation.

- Our authority is in Christ.
- You must tell the entire truth.
- Tell me everything the demon tells you, no matter how odd it may seem.
- Tell me everything you see, no matter how odd it may seem.
- Pride and fear will hinder our progress.

Step #5 – Explain confessing and canceling sin.

Step #6 – Establish the ground rules.

In the name of the Lord Jesus Christ . . .

I will be using the personal pronoun we because I stand with

_____ united with them as their brother in Jesus Christ and since the Holy Spirit lives in us we command you in the name and authority of the One True God who rules as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. You are an unwanted intruder and who is going to have to leave upon command.

In the name of the Lord Jesus Christ we . . .

- establish our authority over Satan and demons delegated to us by the Lord Jesus Christ
- bind the strong man
- command that you convey your answers to _____ and they will convey your answers to me. You will not speak to me because you are on trial and under the authority delegated to me by the Lord Jesus Christ.
- command that you not change your authority structure, hide, duplicate your identity, or change your name
- there will be no profanity
- you will answer every question directed at you clearly, concisely, immediately, completely, and truthfully
- command that you will not have any outside help or reinforcement during this trial
- command that the answers you give must stand as truth before the White Throne of the Lord God Almighty
- there will be one-way traffic only from the demon to the pit. You will not in any way bother anyone else anywhere at any time, especially those in the room and their families, including but not limited to entering another person.
- bind you by any name you give, and will name you if needed
- command that you speak only that which can be used against you
- bind you by the ground rules we lay down
- command that there will be no control of the mind, confusion of the mind, tongue, or body, that they will maintain complete self-control and there would be no harm done to them in any way
- you will take all of your associates and your collective works and effects with you
- ask you Holy Spirit to rule over all spirits and force them to cooperate according to the ground rules and punish any who seek to disobey them

Step #7 – Declarations of truth.

We claim the following declarations of truth before the White Throne of the Lord God Almighty . . .

- we claim protection from and authority over Satan and all his demons (Luke 10:18–20)
- we claim our position in Christ and that all things under Christ's authority are now under our authority (Eph. 1:18–2:8)
- we claim our victory in the Lord Jesus Christ (Col. 2:13–15)

Step #8 – Determine two or three primary areas to begin.

Step #9 – Confess sins and cancel grounds and command leaving in each area one at a time.

Take each category and have the person pray to God to confess and repent of their sins in each category. Then have them cancel any ground given, command that the named spirit and all of his works and effects and all of his servants and their works and effects be cast away to the pit for judgment by God. Then, have them request that the Holy Spirit reclaim all the ground they had given and rule in that area of their life.

Step #10 – Ask the Spiritual Inventory questions.

Often it is best to begin with addressing ancestral sin and address it first because it tends to have the deepest root in someone's life. The counselee can pray something like, "Lord Jesus, if there are any spirits who have anything to do with me, body, soul, or spirit because of my ancestral sin, I ask that you please forgive this sin and cancel any ground they have held against me."

If there are any demons working in (name) in the area of (issue), we bind all of you together along with all of your works and effects and command that you come forward.

We now command that spirit holding highest authority of all those bound and brought forward in the area of (issue) to step forward alone. We put a hedge of thorns around you, above you, and below you. You will not be interfered with by anyone.

Then address that spirit holding highest authority of the group bound and brought forward and ask them.

In the name of the Lord Jesus Christ . . .

1. What is your name?
 - a. Will that stand as truth before the White Throne of the Lord God Almighty?
 - b. You have responded to the name _____, we bind you by that name and upon command you will go to the pit bound by that name with all of your works and effects and all of your associates and their works and effects as well.
2. When did you come?
 - a. Will that stand as truth before the White Throne of the Lord God Almighty?
3. What work were you commissioned to do?
 - a. Will that stand as truth before the White Throne of the Lord God Almighty?
4. By what means do you hope to destroy them?
 - a. Will that stand as truth before the White Throne of the Lord God Almighty?
5. What habitual lies have you told them?
 - a. Will that stand as truth before the White Throne of the Lord God Almighty?
6. Who sent you?
 - a. Will that stand as truth before the White Throne of the Lord God Almighty?
7. How many associates are working under you?
 - a. Will that stand as truth before the White Throne of the Lord God Almighty?
8. What effects have you had on them?
 - a. Will that stand as truth before the White Throne of the Lord God Almighty?
9. Do you still hold any ground against (name) that would keep you from leaving him/her upon command?
 - a. Will that stand as truth before the White Throne of the Lord God Almighty?

In the name of the Lord Jesus Christ we command (demon's name) to leave (person) with all of your works and effects and all of your associates and their works and effects and go to the pit immediately. We command this in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

Then pray for the Holy Spirit to fill the areas just vacated.

This process can then be repeated through each major area.

Finally, command that the highest-ranking spirit remaining other than the Holy Spirit (if there is one) step forward and identify themselves to ensure none has been overlooked. Complete the process of cleansing. Close with a general prayer to cover anything that may have been overlooked.

Step #11 – Recommended ways to keep the trial moving.

Stop and pray to the Holy Spirit asking Him to intervene as needed and enforce the ground rules. Stop to read Scripture such as Psalm 18, Psalm 27, Psalm 31, Psalm 35, Psalm 83, etc.

Step #12 – Follow-up recommendations for the counselee.

- Keep short sin accounts with God.
- Pray offensively.
- Read Scripture.
- Do not obsess over lies and accusations.
- Be in fellowship.
- Schedule another appointment if things arise.
- Exercise the authority Christ has given you.
- Be careful to avoid arrogant pride.
- Keep a journal to record lies and accusations.
- Read the recommended resources.

Answers to Common Questions about Spiritual Warfare

Can Christians be possessed by demons?

This is one of those questions that many people answer too quickly. The problem is that the word *possess* has several meanings. According to the Merriam-Webster dictionary it can mean three things. First, *possess* can mean “own” so that a Christian would essentially belong to Satan. Second, *possess* can mean “dominate” so that a Christian would be controlled by Satan. Third, *possess* can mean “influence” so that the life of a Christian would be marked by the influences of Satan. Obviously, what one means when they use the word *possessed* matters very much when answering the question, “Can Christians be possessed by demons?”

In the first sense, the devil never *owns* a Christian. We have been rescued from the dominion of darkness and transferred into the kingdom of the Son, Paul tells us in Colossians 1:13.

In the third sense, the devil can *influence* a Christian. We are in warfare against the enemy who seeks to steal and kill and destroy (John 10:10). Even Jesus was attacked by the devil in this way according to Matthew 4:1–11 and Luke 4:1–13.

It is the second sense where there is a lot of debate among Christians.

Can demons dominate a Christian? While some teach that through personal sin,

generational sin, or even curses, demons can have authority to dominate believers, Scripture is clear that Christians are never under the ruling authority of darkness. The devil can never take authority over a Christian. Others teach that if we pray and feast on God's Word we never need fear a demonic attack. But if Jesus can be attacked, how can we say we cannot?

We believe Christians may be deceived, accused, or tempted by Satan and may yield to those attacks (though they do not have to). If believers begin to wrongly respond to such things, they may give demons influence in their lives. Apparently an evil spirit can empower, energize, encourage, and exploit a believer's own sinful desires. Examples would include Peter (Matt. 16:22–23) and Ananias (Acts 5:3). As children of God, regenerated and indwelt by the Spirit, we are responsible to and empowered by God to resist Satan and if we do we need not suffer from his influence (Eph. 6:10–18; James 4:7; 1 Pet. 5:7–9; 1 John 4:1–4; 5:1–5, 18–19).

Can sins done against me defile me?

They can. But Jesus can cleanse that aspect of sin too. For example, Matthew 8 begins with Jesus healing a leper instantaneously by his power, and ends with Jesus driving demons out of two men instantaneously by his power. The point is that whether we are physically or spiritually defiled, Jesus can cleanse us. In 1 John 1:9 we are told to confess or talk about our sin. That sin can be either sin we have committed or sin committed against us. In either case, bringing the sin to Jesus and his people will result in forgiveness of any and all guilt and cleansing of any and all defilement. This usually involves a process, not an immediate result, but the outcome is sure because "we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous. He is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the sins of the whole world" (1 John 2:1–2).

I have some questions about Satan and demons. What else can I read to learn more?

Books on the world and flesh:

- _ *Getting to No: How to Break a Stubborn Habit* by Erwin Lutzer
- _ *Sin and Temptation* by John Owen
- _ *Addiction and Grace* by Gerald May
- _ *Flirting With the World* by John White
- _ *The Enemy Within: Straight Talk About the Power and Defeat of Sin* by Kris Lundgaard

Books on the devil:

- _ For a good introduction to the demonic in the New Testament much insight can be found in *Powers of Darkness* by Clinton E. Arnold.
- _ For a practical understanding, I recommend *Three Crucial Questions about Spiritual Warfare* by Clinton E. Arnold, *Precious Remedies Against Satan's Devices* by Thomas Brooks, *The Screwtape Letters* by C. S. Lewis

WORSHIP part 2

All of creation is compelled to burst out in spontaneous praise and worship!!!!!!

Luke 19:3,7, “When he came near the place where the road goes down the Mount of Olives, the whole crowd of disciples began joyfully to praise God in loud voices for all the miracles they had seen: “Blessed is the king who comes in the name of the Lord!” “Peace in heaven and glory in the highest!”. Some of the Pharisees in the crowd said to Jesus, “Teacher, rebuke your disciples!” “I tell you,” he replied, “if they keep quiet, the stones will cry out.”

Isaiah 55:12, “You will go out in joy and be led forth in peace; the mountains and hills will burst into song before you, and all the trees of the field will clap their hands.”

Nehemiah 9:5, “Stand up and praise the LORD your God, who is from everlasting to everlasting.”

Blessed be your glorious name, and may it be exalted above all blessing and praise. (6)You alone are the LORD. You made the heavens, even the highest heavens, and all their starry host, the earth and all that is on it, the seas and all that is in them. You give life to everything, and the multitudes of heaven worship you.”

Psalms 19:1, “The heavens declare the glory of God; the skies proclaim the work of His hands.”

THE ORIGIN OF WORSHIP

In the beginning of all creation, God established his throne and set it in the heavens. Around this throne, angels were set in their place with rank and purpose. The highest of positions belonged to “Archangels”. They took leadership over the greatest of responsibilities. One of which led the host of heavens in all music, choirs of angels, and the worship of God. Most Pastors and teachers believe this was the beautiful and talented archangel we know as Lucifer. He knew his influence over others was great and soon he took the credit for himself, he took the praise, and his pride became his downfall.

Since God is the creator and sustainer of all things, He can not share His glory with any person, angel or idol. He alone is worthy of praise. It is in our very nature to worship. As we realize our own limitations and morality, we are drawn to honor and respect our creator. It is a natural response to give thanks and show appreciation for a gift. What is His gift? Life, breath, salvation, food clothes, health, time, talents, special abilities, friends, families, and on and on. Every good and perfect gift comes from God, we have a million reasons to praise Him. Unfortunately many people do not give Him the worship He is due and this leaves a void in our

own soul. Kids who don't appreciate their parents soon grow self centered and think that the world owes them something. We are no different in our relationship with God.

People shift their praise to every kind of idol. Thousands of years ago men made wooden idols, golden calves, and worshiped the creation instead of the creator. Today we worship athletes, musicians, and actors. Consider the Grammys, Oscars, Emmies, Golden Globes, Olympians, World champions, Superbowls, and World Series. It's one thing to give credit to a great accomplishment, and it's another thing to neglect the worship of God and spend a lifetime putting men on a pedestal. We create billions of trophies, crowns and medals to honor men while most people have never given God the respect, honor and praise that is due Him. Ask most people about something in the Bible and they couldn't tell you. Ask these same people about the world series in 1990, who won the most academy awards, or who sold the most albums, and they might even win a million dollars for this "trivial" information.

HISTORICAL WORSHIP AND HYMNS

Let's take a look at worship in the past. Since worship is most often associated with music, we will focus on that for now. Early music in the church was shaped by Greek, Syrian, and Hebrew influences. Ancient instruments were simple and sometimes crude. The Lute was similar to a guitar made from a gourd with many strings. The Lyre was also stringed and had arms on both sides for support (looking similar to a small harp). King David played a type of Lyre called the Kinnor that was plucked, strummed, and sometimes played with a bow. The bass psaltery was 5 feet in length made of wood and had up to 35 strings. The ancient horns were made from hollow rams horns, then later fashioned from metals like the modern trumpet. Cymbals and drums have basically remained the same for the centuries.

In the early church, believers sang from the Psalms and were accompanied by music. The New Testament even says that the disciples sang hymns (Matt 26:30). As religious church services became more organized and formal, the music took on more of a ritual characteristic. Responsive singing, like echoes, preceded the style known as chants. Pope Gregory created the first written chants and were thus called "Gregorian chants". In the middle ages, special Catholic Masses were held seasonally to celebrate certain feasts called "Holy" days. This was the birth of the cantata. The singing became more rehearsed and performance oriented as the congregation became spectators. Soon afterwards the pipe organ became popular in religious worship. Many are still used in today's churches including the world's largest. It is 64 feet long with over 30,000 pipes and cost \$105 million dollars. You might ask, "why put so much emphasis on a church organ?". That was my first thought too. I believe that sincere people will always try to express their respect and honor for God by using every resource available. Some of the most noted composers like Bach, Mozart, and Beethoven composed music considered to be sacred to Christians.

By the 18th century, musicians began to blend melodies and harmonies from the popular secular songs of the day. Hymns became more popular and congregations were encouraged to join the singing. Here are a few of the stories behind the hymns and the writers:

Martin Luther wrote “A Mighty Fortress is Our God” during the protestant reformation. He based this from Psalm 46 and once said, “After theology, there is nothing that can be placed on the same level with music. It drives out the devil and makes people cheerful. It is a gift that God gave to birds and to men. We need to remove the singing from the domain of monks and priests and set the laity to singing. It is a way to publicly express our love for God.”.

Imagine a slave ship in 1746 who’s captain is known for his debauchery, vulgarity and blasphemy. Someone gave him a book to read on the life of Christ and he soon gave his heart to the Lord. This captain, John Newton, became a Pastor and hymn writer. His most famous was “Amazing Grace, how sweet the sound, that saved a wretch like me.”.

John and Charles Wesley, founders of the Methodist church were well known for their theology and preaching . Among hundreds of hymns, in 1749 Charles wrote a great hymn entitled, “O for a thousand tongues to sing my great redeemers praise.”.

During the preaching campaign in 1886 by D.L. Moody, a young man stood to testify. He said, “I’m not quite sure about everything, but I am going to trust and I’m going to obey”. From this testimony came the hymn by John Sammis titled, “Trust and Obey”.

A man named Joseph Scriven learned that his bride to be had drowned the day before their wedding. He spent his life in Canada helping the needy and was known as “The Good Samaritan of Port Hope”. On a visit to see his sick mother he penned some words of comfort in a poem that soon became a hymn titled, “What a friend we have in Jesus, all our sins and griefs to bear”.

Fanny Crosby was a blind worshiper in the late 1880’s. In spite of her handicap she wrote 9,000 hymns and often spoke of the desire to be with the Lord and see Him face to face. She wrote “Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine”.

C. Austin Myles sat in his darkroom developing film with little to no light. While patiently waiting for the process, he remembered the story from John chapter 10 where Mary had met Jesus in the garden. She mistook Him for a gardener but soon cried out “Rabboni” (meaning master). This encounter became real for him as he wrote, “I come to the garden alone...” “and He walks with me and He talks with me, and He tells me I am His own”.

CONTEMPORARY WORSHIP

Many congregations and denominations today argue about the “authorized” expressions of our worship to God. What is commanded in scripture and what is permissible? Many adherents hold to the traditions of past generations with quiet, still, and considered by some, boring music while new converts and youth push the boundaries further. Some services even include choreographed dancing. Who is right?

In an article titled “Reformed Worship” (from the Westminster Presbyterian) the writer says many Christians violate God’s scriptural law of worship by singing man made songs and using instrumental music! He goes on to say that the Old Testament pattern was for their time in history, it is not meant as a pattern for us today. He says that the choir and the instruments were just part of the ceremony of animal sacrifice. Since we don’t offer sacrifices, we shouldn’t use these means of worship. That kind of worship, he says, is like a girl who plays with her dolls. When she grows up, she should play with her real children and throw away the dolls. According to him, that is what the church should do with Old Testament stereotypes of worship.

I could not disagree more. Not only is God the same yesterday, today, and forever, but the Bible gives meaning and purpose behind the specific acts of expressing our worship. In spite of changing instruments, the same expressions are still a vital part of our worship experience today. I believe God can and must be glorified by a diversity of praise including orchestra, brass bands, jazz ensembles, youth choirs and the list goes on and on. Different churches have different personalities. They use different methods, styles, and rhythms. The body of Christ must embrace unique cultures of music. The church should not be outdone by the celebrating heathen who party over the pleasures of sin.

I do not believe, however, that just any kind of expression is valid or honorable. Some worship services are full of chaos and spastic personal experiences where anyone could and should join in, however they feel led, and draw public attention to themselves. When the music of churches turns into a show for spectators, we have replaced true worship for half rate entertainment. Many contemporary groups today have no concept of reverence or anything sacred. Some of today’s charismatics do a good job of pouring out their heart in worship while others cross over any limits or boundaries of emotional expressions. It goes so far as shaking, falling, running or anything imaginable which usually draws all attention to the exhibitionist. Many even with sincere motives forget that God must be the center of our attention in praise and in worship. Paul addressed the Corinthian church about this kind of behavior when he said, “everything must be done decently and in order”.

SINCERE PURPOSE OR TRAGIC TRADITIONS

The following scriptures give us an inside look to traditional strongholds in peoples routine worship.

Exodus 7:14, Then the LORD said to Moses, “Pharaoh’s heart is unyielding; he refuses to let the people go. (15) Go to Pharaoh in the morning...(16) then say to him, “The LORD, the God of the Hebrews, has sent me to say to you: Let my people go, ***so that they may worship me*** in the desert.

SO MOSES TAUGHT PEOPLE TO WORSHIP (by a prescribed pattern) IN THE TABERNACLE... AND SOLOMON BUILT A TEMPLE TO WORSHIP IN (using the same pattern) BUT PURPOSE GAVE WAY TO RITUALS AND TRADITIONS -

Isaiah 1:21 “The multitude of your sacrifices- what are they to me?” says the LORD. “I have more than enough of brunt offerings, of rams and the fat of fattened animals; I have no pleasure in the blood of bulls and lambs and goats. When you come to appear before me, who has asked this of you, this trampling of my courts? Stop bringing meaningless offerings! I cannot bear your evil assemblies. Your New Moon festivals and your appointed feasts my soul hates. They have become a burden to me; I am weary of bearing them.”.

“Traditions” - **Mark 7:1** The Pharisees and some of the teachers of the law who had come from Jerusalem gathered around Jesus and saw some of his disciples eating food with hands that were “unclean”, that is, unwashed. The Pharisees and all the Jews do not eat unless they give their hands a ceremonial washing, holding to the tradition of the elders. When they come from the marketplace they do not eat unless they wash. And they observe many other traditions, such as washing of cups, pitchers, and kettles. So the Pharisees and the teachers of the law asked Jesus, “Why don’t your disciples live according to the tradition of the elders instead of eating their food with ‘unclean’ hands?” He replied “Isaiah was right when he prophesied about you hypocrites; as it is written: ***‘these people honor me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me. They worship me in vain:*** their teachings are but rules taught by men.’ you have let go of the commands of God and are holding on to the traditions of men.”.

If we surveyed most denominational churches with the question, “Why do you worship this way?” (Songbooks, choirs, organs, etc.). The response would overwhelmingly be, “because that’s the way we’ve always done it.” I believe the scripture is clear, we must have a better answer.

WHAT DO YOU MEAN “IN SPIRIT AND TRUTH”?

John 4:21 Jesus declared, “Believe me, woman, a time is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem. (22) You Samaritans worship what you do not know; we worship what do know, for salvation is from the Jews. (23) Yet a time is coming and has now come when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for they are the kind of worshipers the Father seeks. (24) God is spirit, and his worshipers must worship in spirit and in truth”.

THE HISTORY OF SAMARIA

2 Kings 17:24 The kind of Assyria brought people...and settled them in the towns of Samaria to replace the Israelites. They took over Samaria and lived in its towns (25) When they first lived there, they did not worship the LORD; (28) **So one of the priest who had been exiled from Samaria came to live in Bethel and taught them how to worship the LORD.**

2 Kings 17:29 Nevertheless, each national group made its own gods in the several towns where they settled, and set them up in the shrines the people of Samaria had made at the high places. (32) They worship the LORD, but they also appointed all sorts of their own people to officiate for them as priests in the shrines at the high places. (33) They worshiped with the customs of the nations from which they had been brought.

2 Kings 17:34 To this day they persist in their former practices. They neither worship the LORD nor adhere to the decrees and ordinances, the laws and commands that the LORD gave the descendants of Jacob, whom he named Israel. (35) When the LORD made a covenant with the Israelites, he commanded them: “Do not worship any other gods or bow down to them, serve them or sacrifice to them. But the LORD, who brought you up out of Egypt with mighty power and outstretched arm, is the one you must worship. To him you shall bow down and to him offer sacrifices. (37) You must always be careful to keep the decrees and ordinances, the laws and commands he wrote for you. Do not worship other gods. (38) Do not forget the covenant I have made with you, do not worship other gods. (39) rather, worship the LORD your God; it is He who will deliver you from the hand of all your enemies.”

2 Kings 17:40 **They would not listen, however, but persisted in their former practices.** (41) Even while these people were worshipping the LORD, they were serving their idols. To this day their children and grandchildren continue to do as their fathers did.

In Spirit means = sincerity (from the heart)
In Truth means = scripturally (God’s Way)

ENGLISH DEFINITIONS OF WORSHIP

Celebrate - To commemorate with festivity, to have a good time!

Rejoice - To be happy or make oneself glad.

Express - To squeeze out, to put into words, to reveal, or show one's feelings to someone else.

Honor - To give high regard or respect, distinguish with high rank.

Reverence - Deep respect, to fear, or stand in awe.

Sacred - Consecrated, hallowed, holy, purity.

Exalt - To raise in status, to give dignity, to praise and glorify.

HEBREW DEFINITIONS OF WORSHIP

Tahilla - To boast in the Lord

Shabach - A shout to the Lord

Hallal - To celebrate and rejoice

Barak - to kneel

Yada - To raise hands

Zamar - To worship with instruments

Halleluya - Praise the Lord

* **Prosquneo** - (Greek) To prostrate like a dog to its master

Required elements of praise: with all our “mind strength, and soul”

Mind - Conscious decision to act on what we’ve learned

Strength - With our body, kneel, jump, shout, clap, etc.

Soul - (Inward emotions of your heart) Cry, laugh, feel, hunger, seek, wait, etc.

REQUIREMENTS FOR WORSHIP - Jack Hayford

1. **ACKNOWLEDGE** - To admit the existence, reality, or truth of; to recognize as being valid, having force or power; to give thanks or gratitude. Prov. 3:6
2. **SUBMIT** - To yield or surrender to the will and authority of another. James 4:7
3. **SACRIFICE** - Forfeiture of something highly valued for the sake of something with higher value. Relinquishment of a possession, considered a loss. Psalm 116:17, Hebrews 13:15
4. **MAGNIFY** - To make bigger, to enlarge. A ‘TELESCOPE’ reaches out to gain perspective, a ‘MICROSCOPE’ draws in close to see the details. Psalm 35:27
5. **GLORIFY** - To ascribe majestic beauty and splendor. 1 Corinthians 6:19,20

These are the preparations and conditions of ones heart. You will notice that none of these requirements have to do with talent. If you have talent, then use it for His glory. God is not looking for your ability, only availability. He will give you the skills you have need of. Many do not enter in because of the age old excuse, “I wish I could sing like that”, or “that girl was just born with rhythm”. Do you really think that God is impressed? These things are most important to those who want to put on a show. This is not a spectator event and there are not prizes for first place. Many churches sing about God as though He were somewhere else. We must learn to sing TO Him, not just ABOUT Him.

APPLYING PRAISE AND WORSHIP

Praise is fast... Worship is slow! (Over simplification)

PRAISE IS AN OUTWARD ACTION - Exalt, admire, celebrate greatness. Praise says "Thank You".

WORSHIP IS AN INWARD ATTITUDE - A condition of the heart, to bow, humble, and pay ultimate respect. Worship says "I Love You".

Remember... Everybody worships something. It is our created nature. Some worship their car, home, job, kids, movie star, rock star, sports hero, a desire, or pleasures and even 'IDOLIZE' people, places, and things.

Whatever it is that you value most highly or place the greatest worth upon is what you worship. The object of my worship becomes the guide for my life. My plans, my money, my time, etc.

IDOL - The object of worship, adoration, often blindly or excessively, something visible without substance. Lev. 26:1,30; 2 Kings 17:12; 1 Chronicles 16:26

BIBLICAL WORSHIP INCLUDES:

SINGING -	EX. 15:1, EPH. 5:19
CLAPPING -	PSALM 47:1
LIFING/RAISING HANDS -	PS. 134:2; 1 TIM. 2:8
SHOUTING -	PS. 47:1; 95:1; 100:1
DANCING -	2 SAM 6:14; PS. 149:3
INSTRUMENTS -	PS. 150; PS. 33:10

MISC. REFERENCES

- 1 Chron. 25:6,7 - Trained, skilled and under direction
- 2 Chron. 20:21,22 - Judah defeats the enemy with praise
- 2 Chron. 29:29 - Kneel and bow your head in worship
- Josh. 6:1-20 - Joshua takes Jericho by praise
- Matt. 26:30 - The disciples sang hymns
- Luke 24:52,53 - Continually in praise and worship
- Rom. 15:9 - Sing as a witness to others
- 1 Cor. 14:15 - Sing in the spirit
- Eph. 5:19 - Share worship with each other
- Heb. 2:12 - Worship as a congregation
- James 5:13 - Sing in your joy
- Rev. 15:3 - Singing in heaven
- 2 Sam. 22:4 - The Lord is worthy of praise
- Ps. 7:17 - Give thanks for He is a righteous God
- Ps. 9:11 - Proclaim what He has done
- Ps. 22:3 - God inhabits the praise of His people
- Ps. 33:1-3 - Sing a new song and play skillfully
- Ps. 34:1 - Continually and at all times PTL!
- Ps. 48:1 - The Lord is great and worthy of our praise

- Ps. 57:7-9 - Have a steadfast heart to make music
- Ps. 63:1-5 - We will seek You, lift our hands and praise
- Ps. 69:30 - Glorify Him with thanksgiving
- Ps. 95:6 - Let us humble ourselves and bow down
- Ps. 96:8,9 - Worship His holiness and tremble before Him
- Ps. 100:4 - Enter His gates with thanksgiving and His courts with praise
- Ps. 107:21,22 - Tell of His works with songs of joy
- Ps. 99:9 - Exalt our holy God
- Ps. 146:1,2 - Sing praise as long as we have breath to live
- Ps. 149:1-6 - Sing a new song, rejoice and dance
- Ps. 150 - Praise Him with every instrument
- Isa. 25:1 - Proclaim His faithfulness
- Isa. 42:10-12 - Let the earth and the islands sing a new song
- Isa. 6:1-4 - A vision of heavenly, angelic worship
- Isa. 49:13 - Shout for joy and burst into song
- Isa. 61:3 - He will provide a garment of praise
- Rev. 5 - All of heaven worships the sacrificial lamb

THE ULTIMATE ACT OF WORSHIP

Matthew 2:1 After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the time of King Herod, Magi from the east came to Jerusalem (2) and asked, “Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews? We saw his star in the east and have come to worship him.”

Matthew 2:9 After they had heard the king, they went on their way, and the star they had seen in the east went ahead of them until it stopped over the place where the child was (10) When they saw the star, they were overjoyed. (11) On coming to the house, they saw the child with his mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped him. Then they opened their treasures and presented him with gifts of gold and of incense and of myrrh.

Presenting a gift or making a sacrifice is truly an act of worship. These men teach us several things about worship. First, we must seek him. We must have a desire and a hunger to really know him. Second, they bowed down. This signifies humility. Only with a humble heart can we ever experience worship. Third, they brought gifts. Something of value. God is looking for those who will commit their time, talent, and treasure to his service. There is however, an even greater act of worship

Luke 7:36 Now one of the Pharisees invited Jesus to have dinner with him, so He went to the Pharisee’s house and reclined at the table. (37) When a woman who had lived a sinful life in that town learned Jesus was eating at the Pharisee’s house, she brought an alabaster jar of perfume, (38) and as she stood behind him at his feet weeping, she began to wet his feet with her tears. Then she wiped them with her hair, kissed them and poured perfume on them. Luke 7:44 Then He turned toward the woman and said to Simon, “Do you see this woman? I came into your house. You did not give me water for my feet, but she wet my feet with her tears and wiped them with her hair. (45) You did not give me a kiss, but this woman, from the time I entered, has not stopped kissing my feet. (46) You did not put oil on my head, but she has poured perfume on my feet. (47) Therefore, I tell you, her many sins have been forgiven.

Mary poured out more than perfume that day. She poured out her heart. She was not concerned with the religious people around her or what they would think. In fact they **did** criticize her, but her attention was on Jesus. We see every aspect of worship as she wept, she gave and she honored the Lord. How many of us are willing to worship like that? Would we cry publicly over our own sins? Would we bring an offering and sacrifice our most valuable possessions? Would we humble ourselves in the midst of ridicule? The only way to get God’s attention is to give Him your wounded heart. He doesn’t show much favoritism to the pious saints but He always responds to the broken sinner.

THE POWER OF PRAISE

Sometimes our witness of the Gospel will upset and even enrage the world. Other times, the devil will seek to destroy us and our sins will hold us in bondage. We can feel trapped and imprisoned. If we will seek the Lord in the midst of these circumstances, in spite of our situation, God will set us free! Consider this story:

Acts 16:22-26 The crowd joined in the attack against Paul and Silas, and the magistrates ordered them to be stripped and beaten. After they had been severely flogged, they were thrown into prison, and the jailer was commanded to guard them carefully, Upon receiving such orders he put them in the inner cell and fastened their feet in the stocks.

About midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the other prisoners were listening to them. Suddenly there was such a violent earthquake that the foundations of the prison were shaken. At once all the prison doors flew open, and everybody's chains came loose.

Try to picture this atmosphere of praise that catches God's attention. Something great enough to reach God through the heavens and beyond the host of angelic worship. The Bible says that the earth is God's footstool. Just maybe the singing of Paul and Silas blessed the Lord and moved Him. Maybe their praise was a catchy tune! And suddenly God Himself began to tap His foot. This of course would only cause the earth to quake! The result was liberty, freedom and deliverance.

Don't you think that your praise can move God? Even in the midst of terrible circumstances. Let's learn from Paul and Silas, let's PRAISE our way to freedom!

Questions and Answers

Does worship have to be calm and quiet or is fast, loud music ok?

God did not invent opera, bluegrass, southern rock or hip hop! Nor do I think He is opposed to any particular style. Those things are our hang ups, not His. Rev. ch. 5 speaks of loud worship and shouts in heaven. The Israelites were known for their festivals and celebrations. On the other hand, there is a time for weeping, mourning and quietness. Consider the time God came to Elijah in the cave. It was a gentle and calm whisper. Let's be careful not to put God in a box made to suit our preferences.

Since God is not impressed with talent, why should musicians practice or prepare?

in 1 Chron., the musicians were under proper leadership. They were trained and skilled. Don't you think God deserves the best? The book of Psalms says to "play with excellence", Paul said, "whatever you find to do, do it with all your might". I don't believe it is honoring to God for musicians in church to throw something together in the last minute.

Can worship get too organized or mechanical? I think this booklet addresses this issue plainly.

The worst spiritual experience is for a congregation to be entertained and become spectators of a show, a ritual, or a routine.

Can worship get too emotional? Absolutely. I've seen some meetings where people were of control while claiming to be under the influence of God's Spirit. Some even get worked up into an altered state of consciousness. These extremes and abuses must not, however, keep us from expressing our emotions in worship. God created us with emotions and our whole being must be involved in the worship experience.

How can I learn to worship better? First, study the scriptures and learn to do it God's way.

Second, sing at home, in the shower, at the park or anywhere privately. Third, find a group of worshipers and join in. Don't spend your time looking around or criticizing the musicians, just enter in!

C.S. Lewis—"It is in the process of being worshipped that God communicates His presence to men."

C.S. Lewis - "The most valuable thing the Psalms do for me is to express the same delight in God which made David dance."

C.S. Lewis - "We only learn to behave ourselves in the presence of God."

Keith Green - "The only music minister to whom the Lord will say, "Well done, thy good and faithful servant," is the one whose life proves what their lyrics are saying, and to whom music is the least important part of their life. Glorifying the only worthy One has to be a minister's most important goal!"

Charles Swindoll - "We are often so caught up in our activities that we tend to worship our work, work at our play and play at our worship."

A.W. Tozer - "We can express our worship to God in many ways. But if we love the Lord and are led by His Holy Spirit, our worship will always bring a delighted sense of admiring awe and a sincere humility on our part. "

Oswald Chambers - "Worship is giving God the best that He has given you. Be careful what you do with the best you have. Whenever you get a blessing from God, give it back to Him as a love gift. Take time to meditate before God and offer the blessing back to Him in a deliberate act of worship

John MacArthur - "Worship doesn't occur in a vacuum, nor is it stimulated by artificial gimmickry. If you have to be in a church building or hear a certain kind of mood music to worship, what you're doing isn't worship. You should be able to worship God on the freeway during rush hour. But to do so, your heart must be right. You see, when we come together in the assembly of the saints to worship God, if it isn't an extension of a worshipping life, true worship won't occur.

John Piper - "Truth without emotion produces dead orthodoxy and a church full (or half-full) of artificial admirers (like people who write generic anniversary cards for a living). On the other hand, emotion without truth produces empty frenzy and cultivates shallow people who refuse the discipline of rigorous thought. But true worship comes from people who are deeply emotional and who love deep and sound doctrine. Strong affections for God rooted in truth are the bone and marrow of biblical worship."

BOOK SUMMARY "Extravagant Worship" By Darlene Zschech

1. Extravagant Worshiper

- a. Her selfless display of extravagant worship changed everyone who remembers her now
- b. imagine the depth of this woman's (Mary) tears being enough to clean the dusty feet of Jesus
- c. the cause of Christ pumping away in our veins should cause extraordinary praise to the father
- d. although music is a wonderful expression of worship, it is not in itself the essence of it
- e. your most glorious moments of worship should be off the platform when you are alone with God
- f. worship is a lifestyle, a way of life, with many facets of expression
- g. worship is a verb – to regard with great respect, honor or devotion
- h. extravagant worship is not achieved by taking shortcuts
- i. when you understand who you are in Christ, a rest enters your soul that cannot coexist with striving and struggling

2. Extravagant Worship

- a. when we, Gods people come into His presence with thanksgiving and praise, warfare is waged against our enemies.
- b. praising God with other believers releases explosive faith that frightens away the enemy
- c. Praise invades hell and excites heaven. Our praise is irresistible to God.
- d. Praise and worship breaks through all boundaries of talent and ability
- e. Praise and worship is a powerful expression of love that transcends the possibilities of music.
- f. I was twelve weeks pregnant when I found out the baby had died in my womb. The Holy Spirit said to me "sing"... and this was the last thing I wanted to do. The song that came to mind was the one we sang at my fathers funeral.
- g. no matter what you might be facing, your answer is in the arms of God.

3. Explosive Praise

- a. To mindlessly go through the motions of praise is like holding a grenade and never taking out the pin, or putting a painting by Leonardo da Vinci in a closet for storage.

- b. I have even heard praise songs referred to as the appetizers or the cocktails of the worship service. To reduce these “earth shattering victory cries” with statements like this, must sadden God’s heart.
- c. Praise and worship is prayer, it is intimate; it is intercessory; and it is powerful.
- d. The Bible doesn’t say to shout at your spouse, or your kids... it says to shout for joy! There is power in the shout!
- e. we don’t shout to get people hyped up, we do it to put action to our faith.
- f. emotional walls prevent people from entering into the richness of worship. Walls can be so confining that they do not allow the inner man to be challenged, stretched or confronted.
- g. everyone is set free when God inhabits the praises of His people.

4. Energetic commitment

- a. Obedience is one word in the Bible many Christians would like to ignore. Perhaps Abraham was eager to obey because He knew He could trust God.
- b. submission only happens when we obey even though we don’t agree with what we have been asked to do
- c. submission is habitual yielding to authority. To yield requires commitment.
- d. Obedience requires an actual follow-through and people are not great at finishing what they begin. Everyone likes quick instantaneous provision and change. Everyone wants immediate results; few people are prepared to wait, but God is a builder, not a magician!
- e. we were never called to live this supernatural life by natural means
- f. we must stand strong and say yes to God and no to ourselves, That is obedience; it requires strength and stamina.
- g. Obedience to God is not a mental discipline; it is a yielded heart to God. It is beautiful part of worship.
- h. He establishes boundaries in our lives to keep us safe because of his great love. These guidelines are actually His commitment to helping us become all that He created us to be.
- i. The goals in our lives will cost us something. The majority of people don’t pay the price that obedience requires

5. Emotional Fever

- a. creative people are driven by a passion to express their inner dreams.
- b. our greatest emotional strengths also have the potential to be our undoing!
- c. have you ever agreed with enthusiasm to sing a song or play an instrument for a special event only to spin into depression afterward because you felt you were not so great?
- d. Ps. 88 expresses a creative person’s downside where dreariness and despair go on and on.
- e. passion often releases itself in anger and negativity rather than in great things.
- f. if your negative emotions get on top of you, pessimism and passivity sets in.
- g. one of the worst effects of letting our negative emotions get on top of us is that they make us feel alienated from God.
- h. determine to be joyful and glad regardless of the circumstances around you. (Dwell on truth)
- i. surround yourself with the right people, put yourself in an environment where you are able to laugh and be lifted by others
- j. learn how to deal with disappointment. Your satisfaction for life must come from your own heart and not from applause, approval, or permission from others.
- k. commitment to building up others leads to true contentment.

6. Elegant Dreams

- a. worshipping God causes our deepest desires to come to pass.
- b. desire directs our lives and propels us toward our God given destiny.
- c. God is the ultimate dream giver, and dream fulfiller.
- d. Tommy Barnett said, “if your dream is to big, it must be from God”. If its not to big for you to fulfill, then you don’t need God.
- e. The church family that God places you in is a divine appointment.
- f. I have a definite part to play. I have to make good choices along the way, each time I do, God allows me to see a little bit of my dream.
- g. We do have to make adjustments to a degree, but in the end, we have to give it our all. All or nothing, we cant fake it. I’ve tried and I’m not good at it.
- h. It doesn’t matter where you start, trust God’s timing.
- i. Most people put their dream on the shelf because they’re too scared and too focused on their own abilities.

7. Excellence matters

- a. Jesus chose an imperfect bunch of disciples
- b. loving Christ more than life is a basic premise of our faith

- c. your worship is fueled by your testimony, your testimony matters
- d. an excellent God deserves excellent service, anything less would be demeaning
- e. incorrect perceptions of what church is or memories of what it was in the past have kept an entire generation out of the house of God.
- f. unity is a demonstration of God's love, be committed to it in the local body
- g. friendship matters – excellent relationships / serving God with my friends is a secret bonus
- h. extreme generosity matters – look for ways to go outside your comfort zone
- i. discipline and determination matter
- j. for a time, the favor of God seems to cover all sorts of lousy things in our lives, but eventually we must take responsibility for the choices in our lives if we want God to trust us with more opportunities.
- k. it just takes one excellent worshiper to break rank to give everyone else permission to do the same.

8. Educate the mind

- a. the Lord said, "you never need to perform for me"
- b. don't starve your mind for the knowledge of His truth, it may seek to be filled somewhere else
- c. the only being ever thrown out of heaven was a worshiper (Pride)
- d. the more we experience God's love, the more we think we deserve it
- e. we must do more than "hope" someone will worship, we have to lead them
- f. church is not a vehicle to present our talents and catapult us into Christian stardom!
- g. whether you are in a position of leadership or not, someone is looking to you as an example.
- h. we can't lift up His name by trying to be cool
- i. when we are in the presence of the Lord, our hearts become transparent and honest
- j. when you worship Him, the mask is removed and the truth is revealed
- k. you may not want the layers of your heart to be exposed, that's a scary thought. He wants to peel off any calloused layers so you can be restored. He will not humiliate or hurt you, He longs to restore you to wholeness.

9. Expect the unexpected

- a. if you expect nothing you will most likely have your expectation fulfilled
- b. true worship is not about stirring ourselves into an emotional frenzy
- c. it doesn't work to have a team of people leading worship if they look "zoned out", it only takes one person who looks like a zombie to be a distraction to everyone.
- d. when we audition people for the choir, first they have to be able to sing, second, they have to be able to show the joy of the Lord through their countenance
- e. extremes actually draw more attention to the worshipers than the one we worship
- f. we must ebb and flow with high praise and deep worship
- g. sovereign visitations from the Lord do happen, but don't try to manufacture them.
- h. know what your Pastor expects, keep one eye open, don't relax or sit down and dream during altar calls.
- i. distraction is a "passion killer". When the sound is too loud, it's a distraction, too soft, distracting, too warm, we get sleepy, feedback on the mics, too dark, anything can take our eyes off Jesus.
- j. don't talk too much, be genuine, no prima donnas; one girl came from a show business family and after 2 weeks she asked to be a front singer, but had to wait 3 ½ years. Then the choir director said she was too tall and sent her to the back row, and no cameras ever saw her!
- k. love the Lord more than your gift! This keeps worship in perspective.

10. Everlasting Music

Music is a powerful force, created by God to stir the core of a person like nothing else can

Songs that truly connect the spirit of man with his creator will always be birthed on the path to the throne of God.

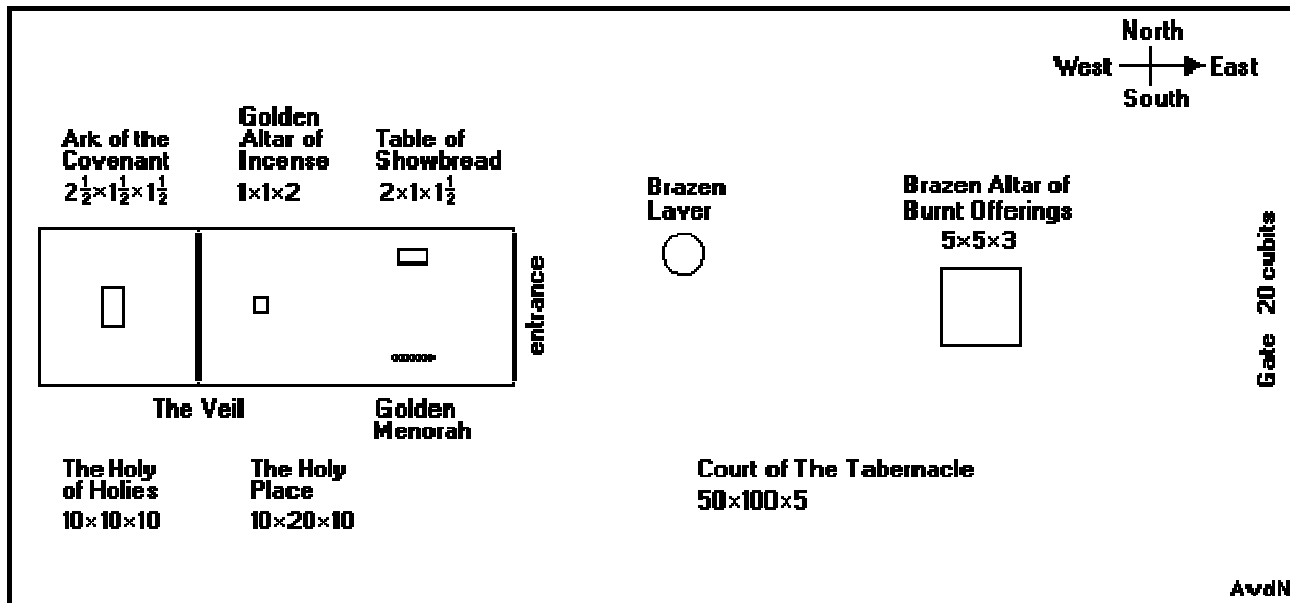
Every now and again God breathes His anointing on a song and it finds its way into the hearts of congregations all over the world.

A Christian musician must intuitively know the difference between simply playing music and touching God's heart.

If we as songwriters are trying to write the latest greatest biggest selling album, then we've totally missed our purpose.

We are not an industry or marketplace, we are His church

THE TABERNACLE -



Experience Gods' presence by learning Gods' pattern for worship.
Given to Moses and fulfilled by Jesus !

1. Scriptural foundation
2. Deliverance
3. Entering His gates
4. Bringing the sacrifice
5. Sanctification at the laver
6. Revelation from the menorah
7. The bread of life
8. Aroma of prayer
9. Seeking beyond the veil
10. Habitation with God
11. Priesthood of the believer

Scriptural foundation

EX 25:8 "Then have them make a sanctuary for me, and I will dwell among them. ⁹ Make this tabernacle and all its furnishings exactly like the pattern I will show you.

EX 40:33 Then Moses set up the courtyard around the tabernacle and altar and put up the curtain at the entrance to the courtyard. And so Moses finished the work.

EX 40:34 Then the cloud covered the Tent of Meeting, and the glory of the LORD filled the tabernacle. ³⁵ Moses could not enter the Tent of Meeting because the cloud had settled upon it, and the glory of the LORD filled the tabernacle.

HEB 9:1 Now the first covenant had regulations for worship and also an earthly sanctuary. ² A tabernacle was set up. In its first room were the lampstand, the table and the consecrated bread; this was called the Holy Place. ³ Behind the second curtain was a room called the Most Holy Place, ⁴ which had the golden altar of incense and the gold-covered ark of the covenant. This ark contained the gold jar of manna, Aaron's staff that had budded, and the stone tablets of the covenant. ⁵ Above the ark were the cherubim of the Glory, overshadowing the atonement cover. But we cannot discuss these things in detail now.

HEB 9:6 When everything had been arranged like this, the priests entered regularly into the outer room to carry on their ministry. ⁷ But only the high priest entered the inner room, and that only once a year, and never without blood, which he offered for himself and for the sins the people had committed in ignorance. ⁸ The Holy Spirit was showing by this that the way into the Most Holy Place had not yet been disclosed as long as the first tabernacle was still standing. ⁹ This is an illustration for the present time, indicating that the gifts and sacrifices being offered were not able to clear the conscience of the worshiper. ¹⁰ They are only a matter of food and drink and various ceremonial washings--external regulations applying until the time of the new order.

1CO 3:16 Don't you know that you yourselves are God's temple and that God's Spirit lives in you? ...1 Cor. 6¹⁹ Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit, who is in you

Lets take a look at the average church service on Sunday morning. We wear our best suit and sit on our favorite pew We give money in the offering, say a prayer, sing a song, read from the Bible and occasionally make a trip to the altar to have a little personal time with God.

Where did we get these traditions and what do they mean? Is there a greater purpose to the routines we repeat week after week? The 1st chapter in the book of Isaiah, confronts worshipers who are going through the motions for the sake of tradition. He says, Who asked this of you? What is the purpose of all this?

It may surprise you that most of our actions are rooted in the pattern of worship that God gave Moses for the Tabernacle. It's not enough to know what we do but why we do it.

The basic elements of worship include sacrifice, sanctification, revelation, and more. Jesus made the ultimate sacrifice, He sanctifies us, He reveals His word to us and He intercedes for us. He has fulfilled this plan for worship and gives meaning and purpose to the practice of our faith.

Deliverance -

EX 3:7 The LORD said, "I have indeed seen the misery of my people in Egypt. I have heard them crying out because of their slave drivers, and I am concerned about their suffering. ⁸ So I have come down to rescue them from the hand of the Egyptians and to bring them up out of that land into a good and spacious land, a land flowing with milk and honey

EX 14:13 Moses answered the people, "Do not be afraid. Stand firm and you will see the deliverance the LORD will bring you today. The Egyptians you see today you will never see again. ¹⁴ The LORD will fight for you; you need only to be still."

Lev.26:¹³ I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of Egypt so that you would no longer be slaves to the Egyptians; I broke the bars of your yoke and enabled you to walk with heads held high.

Jn. 8: ³² Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free."

^{JN 8:33} They answered him, "We are Abraham's descendants and have never been slaves of anyone. How can you say that we shall be set free?"

^{JN 8:34} Jesus replied, "I tell you the truth, everyone who sins is a slave to sin. ³⁵ Now a slave has no permanent place in the family, but a son belongs to it forever. ³⁶ So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed.

MK 5:1 They went across the lake to the region of the Gerasenes. ² When Jesus got out of the boat, a man with an evil spirit came from the tombs to meet him. ³ This man lived in the tombs, and no one could bind him any more, not even with a chain. ⁴ For he had often been chained hand and foot, but he tore the chains apart and broke the irons on his feet. No one was strong enough to subdue him. ⁵ Night and day among the tombs and in the hills he would cry out and **cut himself** with stones. When he saw Jesus from a distance, he ran and fell on his knees in front of him. ⁷ He shouted at the top of his voice, "What do you want with me, Jesus, Son of the Most High God? Swear to God that you won't torture me!" ⁸ For Jesus had said to him, "Come out of this man, you evil spirit!"

2 Cor 1:¹⁰ He has delivered us from such a deadly peril, and he will **deliver** us. On him we have set our hope that he will continue to **deliver** us,

Entrance

The next step in the total experience of the tabernacle is to simply show up and enter in. The word Tabernacle means "dwelling". If we are going to dwell together with God, we must meet Him where He is. There was only one way into the tent, just as it is in Heaven. Jesus is the only way, the Truth, and the Life.

Jesus said, "I will build my church," therefore, He expects believers to fellowship with one another. He also said to, "go out and compel others to come in." Let's make a new commitment to show up in God's house and enter in to the worship experience.

SONG - I WILL ENTER HIS GATES WITH THANKSGIVING IN MY HEART

I WILL ENTER HIS COURTS WITH PRAISE

I WILL SAY THIS IS THE DAY THAT THE LORD HAS MADE I WILL REJOICE

FOR HE HAS MADE ME GLAD, HE HAS MADE ME GLAD,

HE HAS MADE ME GLAD, I WILL REJOICE FOR

HE HAS MADE ME GLAD

Entering His Gates

PS 100:4 Enter his gates with thanksgiving and his courts with praise;
give thanks to him and praise his name.

PS 122:1 I rejoiced with those who said to me, "Let us go to the house of the LORD." Our feet are standing in your gates, O Jerusalem.

MT 7:13 "Enter through the narrow gate. For wide is the gate and broad is the road that leads to destruction, and many enter through it.
14 But small is the gate and narrow the road that leads to life, and only a few find it.

LK 13:22 Then Jesus went through the towns and villages, teaching as he made his way to Jerusalem. 23 Someone asked him, "Lord, are only a few people going to be saved?" He said to them, 24 "Make every effort to enter through the narrow door, because many, I tell you, will try to enter and will not be able to. 25 Once the owner of the house gets up and closes the door, you will stand outside knocking and pleading, 'Sir, open the door for us.'

"But he will answer, 'I don't know you or where you come from.'

JN 10:1 "I tell you the truth, the man who does not enter the sheep pen by the gate, but climbs in by some other way, is a thief and a robber. 2 The watchman opens the gate for him, and the sheep listen to his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. 4 When he has brought out all his own, he goes on ahead of them, and his sheep follow him because they know his voice. 5 But they will never follow a stranger; in fact, they will run away from him because they do not recognize a stranger's voice." 6 Jesus used this figure of speech, but they did not understand what he was telling them. 7 Therefore Jesus said again, "I tell you the truth, I am the gate for the sheep.

JN 14:6 Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.

Heb.10:25 Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another

Rev. 3:20 Here I am! I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in and eat with him, and he with me.

A Sacrifice is the forfeiture of something highly valued for the sake of something with higher value. There is a difference between offerings and sacrifices. Consider the chicken and the pig who gave breakfast to the farmer. If they served bacon and eggs, one would give an offering while the other has to make a sacrifice!

Animal sacrifices seem so primitive, so brutal, bloody and cruel. But let's take a look at what really happened and why. We cannot give an offering to appease the consequence of sin. This requires a sacrifice. The Bible says without the shedding of blood, there is no remission for sin. Sin cannot be taken lightly, it cannot be negotiated, there must be consequences. The second thing to understand about the animal sacrifice is that it was not violent and cruel. It was done in a humane and respectful manner. It was a kosher killing. The meat was not wasted and the animals death was not in vain.

SONG: WE BRING THE SACRIFICE OF PRAISE INTO THE HOUSE OF THE LORD

WE BRING THE SACRIFICE OF PRAISE INTO THE HOUSE OF THE LORD

AND WE OFFER UP TO YOU THE SACRIFICES OF THANKSGIVING

AND WE OFFER UP TO YOU THE SACRIFICES OF PRAISE

Bringing a sacrifice -

GE 22:2 Then God said, "Take your son, your only son, Isaac, whom you love, and go to the region of Moriah. **Sacrifice** him there as a burnt offering on one of the mountains I will tell you about."

GE 22:8 Abraham answered, "God himself will provide the lamb for the burnt offering, my son." And the two of them went on together.

GE 22:12 "Do not lay a hand on the boy," he said. "Do not do anything to him. Now I know that you fear God, because you have not withheld from me your son, your only son."

LEV 9:7 Moses said to Aaron, "Come to the altar and **sacrifice** your sin offering and your burnt offering and make atonement for yourself and the people; **sacrifice** the offering that is for the people and make atonement for them, as the LORD has commanded." So Aaron came to the altar and slaughtered the calf as a sin offering for himself. ⁹ His sons brought the blood to him, and he dipped his finger into the blood and put it on the horns of the altar; the rest of the blood he poured out at the base of the altar.

HEB 10:8 First he said, "Sacrifices and offerings, burnt offerings and sin offerings you did not desire, nor were you pleased with them" (although the law required them to be made). ⁹ Then he said, "Here I am, I have come to do your will." He sets aside the first to establish the second. ¹⁰ And by that will, we have been made holy through the sacrifice of the body of Jesus Christ once for all. Day after day every priest stands and performs his religious duties; again and again he offers the same sacrifices, which can never take away sins. ¹² But when this priest had offered for all time one sacrifice for sins, he sat down at the right hand of God. ¹³ Since that time he waits for his enemies to be made his footstool, ¹⁴ because by one sacrifice he has made perfect forever those who are being made holy.

HEB 13:15 Through Jesus, therefore, let us continually offer to God a sacrifice of praise--the fruit of lips that confess his name. ¹⁶ And do not forget to do good and to share with others, for with such sacrifices God is pleased.

RO 12:1 Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God--this is your spiritual act of worship.

Then there was the ceremonial washing. The priest stood before the bronze laver, otherwise known as the wash basin, and cleaned himself from the sacrifice. This washing was the beginning of what we know today as water baptism. The Bible speaks of the washing of the water of the word, which means that He cleanses us and sanctifies us from those things in the world that make us unclean. This world brings on feelings of a dirty heart. Sometimes through secular music, movies, inappropriate jokes, or a hundred other sources. We become impure and need a spiritual bath.

A ceremony or ritual will never change us, but if we let God's word purify our minds and hearts then these outward examples can represent the inward work. The Bible says, without Holiness, no man can see God.

SONG:

O THE BLOOD OF JESUS

O THE BLOOD OF JESUS

O THE BLOOD OF JESUS

IT WASHES WHITE AS SNOW

Sanctification

¹⁸ "Make a bronze basin, with its bronze stand, for **washing**. Place it between the Tent of Meeting and the altar, and put water in it. ¹⁹ Aaron and his sons are to wash their hands and feet with water from it. ²⁰ Whenever they enter the Tent of Meeting, they shall wash with water so that they will not die.

PS ^{51:7} Cleanse me with hyssop, and I will be clean;
wash me, and I will be whiter than snow.

JN ^{3:22} After this, Jesus and his disciples went out into the Judean countryside, where he spent some time with them, and baptized. ²³ Now John also was baptizing at Aenon near Salim, because there was plenty of water, and people were constantly coming to be baptized. An argument developed between some of John's disciples and a certain Jew over the matter of ceremonial **washing**.

Jn. ^{13:5} After that, he poured water into a basin and began to wash his disciples' **feet**, drying them with the towel that was wrapped around him. He came to Simon Peter, who said to him, "Lord, are you going to wash my **feet**?" Jesus replied, "You do not realize now what I am doing, but later you will understand." "No," said Peter, "you shall never wash my **feet**." Jesus answered, "Unless I wash you, you have no part with me." "Then, Lord," Simon Peter replied, "not just my **feet** but my hands and my head as well!"

Jn. 15: ³ You are already clean because of the word I have spoken to you.

1CO ^{6:9} Do you not know that the wicked will not inherit the kingdom of God? . ¹¹ And that is what some of you were. But you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God.

Eph. 5: ²⁶ to make her holy, cleansing her by the washing with water through the word, ²⁷ and to present her to himself as a radiant church, without stain or wrinkle or any other blemish, but holy and blameless.

Illumination / Revelation

By reading and praying we are truly asking for a revelation from God. Our human understanding of God has basically left us in the dark. Inside the inner courtroom there was no fluorescent light or halogen bulbs to reveal the table of bread only a few feet away. The priest would light a seven branch lampstand called the Menorah. It represented light, and the light revealed the rest of God's plan. Didn't he tell us that we are the light of the world? Let's let our light shine before men.

SONG:

THY WORD IS A LAMP UNTO MY FEET

AND A LIGHT UNTO MY PATH WHEN I FEEL AFRAID

THINK I'VE LOST MY WAY STILL YOU'RE THERE RIGHT BESIDE ME

AND NOTHING WILL I FEAR AS LONG AS YOU ARE NEAR

PLEASE BE NEAR ME TO THE END

Revelation—

EX 25:31 "Make a **lampstand** of pure gold and hammer it out,

EX 25:37 "Then make its seven lamps and set them up on it so that they light the space in front of it. ³⁸ Its wick trimmers and trays are to be of pure gold. ³⁹ A talent of pure gold is to be used for the **lampstand** and all these accessories.

PS 119:105 Your word is a **lamp** to my feet and a light for my path.

2SA 22:29 You are my **lamp**, O LORD; the LORD turns my darkness into light.

PR 6:23 For these commands are a **lamp**, this teaching is a light,

MT 16:15 "But what about you?" he asked. "Who do you say I am?"

MT 16:16 Simon Peter answered, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God."⁷ Jesus replied, "Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah, for this was not revealed to you by man, but by my Father in heaven.

MT 5:14 "You are the light of the world. A city on a hill cannot be hidden. ¹⁵ Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. ¹⁶ In the same way, let your light shine before men,

JN 16:12 "I have much more to say to you, more than you can now bear. ¹³ But when he, the Spirit of truth, comes, he will guide you into all truth. He will not speak on his own; he will speak only what he hears, and he will tell you what is yet to come. ¹⁴ He will bring glory to me by taking from what is mine and making it known to you

AC 9:17 Then Ananias went to the house and entered it. Placing his hands on Saul, he said, "Brother Saul, the Lord--Jesus, who appeared to you on the road as you were coming here--has sent me so that you may see again and be filled with the Holy Spirit." ¹⁸ Immediately, something like scales fell from Saul's eyes, and he could see again.

Next was a table of 12 loaves of unleavened bread. They called this the Showbread. It was an offering that the priests ate once a week. When we pray the Lord's prayer, we recite the words "give us this day our daily bread," but what does that really mean? Each of us have needs and desires. We also have a "God shaped vacuum" in our soul that can only be filled by Him. Unfortunately, we try to get our needs met through other people and material things, but to no avail.

The more we meditate on heavenly things, the more he fills us. And The more he fills us with Himself, the less we hunger for the things of the world.

SONG: HUNGRY I COME TO YOU FOR I KNOW YOU SATISFY

I AM EMPTY BUT I KNOW YOUR LOVE DOES NOT RUN DRY

AND SO I WAIT, FOR YOU, SO I WAIT, FOR YOU

I'M FALLING ON MY KNEES OFFERING ALL OF ME

JESUS YOU'RE ALL THIS HEART IS LIVING FOR

Bread of life -

^{LEV 24:5} "Take fine flour and bake twelve loaves of **bread**, using two-tenths of an ephah for each loaf. ⁶ Set them in two rows, six in each row, on the table of pure gold before the LORD. ⁷ Along each row put some pure incense as a memorial portion to represent the **bread** and to be an offering made to the LORD by fire. ⁸ This **bread** is to be set out before the LORD regularly,

Exod. 25: ³⁰ Put the **bread** of the Presence on this table to be before me at all times.

Matt. 4: ² After fasting forty days and forty nights, he was hungry. ³ The tempter came to him and said, "If you are the Son of God, tell these stones to become **bread**." Jesus answered, "It is written: 'Man does not live on **bread** alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.' "

MT 6:11 Give us today our daily **bread**.

JN 6:35 Then Jesus declared, "I am the **bread of life**. He who comes to me will never go hungry, and he who believes in me will never be thirsty.

MT 26:26 While they were eating, Jesus took **bread**, gave thanks and broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take and eat; this is my body."

John 6:51 I am the living **bread** that came down from heaven. If anyone eats of this **bread**, he will live forever. This **bread** is my flesh, which I will give for the life of the world."

⁵⁸ This is the **bread** that came down from heaven. Your forefathers ate manna and died, but he who feeds on this **bread** will live forever."

According to the dictionary, atmosphere is created by a dominant tone. It is an attitude related to the surroundings, or a mood enhanced by distinctive feelings in a specific setting. It was important to present a sacred environment, but there must have been a terrible odor from the sacrifices going on in the outer court. The burning incense was a sweet smelling aroma lifted up to bless the Lord. The scripture teaches us that our prayers are offered up to God in very much the same way. As God listens, he receives our requests and our thanksgiving as an aroma sent up for his approval.

A praying church is a church with a pleasant, and inviting atmosphere.

SONG: PRAYER GENTLY LIFTS ME

TO HIGHEST HEAVEN

FROM EARTH'S CONFUSION

TO JESUS' BREAST; MY SIN AND WEAKNESS,

MY DOUBT AND SORROW, ARE LOST FOR EVER IN SWEETEST REST.

Aroma of Prayer

EX 30:1 "Make an altar of acacia wood for burning **incense**.

EX 30:7 "Aaron must burn fragrant **incense** on the altar every morning when he tends the lamps. ⁸ He must burn **incense** again when he lights the lamps at twilight so **incense** will burn regularly before the LORD

²⁵ Then take them from their hands and burn them on the altar along with the burnt offering for a pleasing **aroma** to the LORD, an offering made to the LORD by fire.

Lev. 6: ¹⁵ The priest is to take a handful of fine flour and oil, together with all the incense on the grain offering, and burn the memorial portion on the altar as an **aroma** pleasing to the LORD.

LK 1:8 Once when Zechariah's division was on duty and he was serving as priest before God, ⁹ he was chosen by lot, according to the custom of the priesthood, to go into the temple of the Lord and burn **incense**. ¹⁰ And when the time for the burning of **incense** came, all the assembled worshippers were praying outside.

AC 10:4 Cornelius stared at him in fear. "What is it, Lord?" he asked.

The angel answered, "Your **prayers** and gifts to the poor have come up as a memorial offering before God.

1TI 2:1 I urge, then, first of all, that requests, **prayers**, intercession and thanksgiving be made for everyone--

1TI 2:8 I want men everywhere to lift up holy hands in prayer,

HEB 5:7 During the days of Jesus' life on earth, he offered up **prayers** and petitions with loud cries and tears

Rev.5: ⁸ And when he had taken it, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb. Each one had a harp and they were holding golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of the saints

REV 8:3 Another angel, who had a golden censer, came and stood at the altar. He was given much incense to offer, with the **prayers** of all the saints, on the golden altar before the throne. ⁴ The smoke of the incense, together with the **prayers** of the saints, went up before God from the angel's hand.

Moving any further through the tabernacle was a very sacred honor. There was a separation, or curtain, also called the veil. This veil was three feet thick and was intended to preserve the boundaries of the ordinary from the supernatural. Today there are many types of veils in this world. It is something created by the world to mask or cover a genuine experience with God. We must pursue God beyond a surface relationship. Only through prayer, Bible study, and perseverance can we experience the intimate relationship God desires to have with each of us.

SONG:

OPEN THE EYES OF MY HEART LORD

OPEN THE EYES OF MY HEART

I WANT TO SEE YOU I WANT TO SEE YOU

TO SEE YOU HIGH AND LIFTED UP

SHINING IN THE LIGHT OF YOUR GLORY

POUR OUT YOUR POWER AND LOVE

AS WE SING HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY, I WANT TO SEE YOU

Seeking beyond the veil

Exod. 30:⁶ Put the altar in front of the **curtain** that is before the ark of the Testimony--before the atonement cover that is over the Testimony--where I will meet with you.

EX 40:¹ Then the LORD said to Moses: ² "Set up the tabernacle, the Tent of Meeting, on the first day of the first month. ³ Place the ark of the Testimony in it and shield the ark with the **curtain**.

EX 34:³³ When Moses finished speaking to them, he put a **veil** over his face. ³⁴ But whenever he entered the LORD's presence to speak with him, he removed the **veil** until he came out. And when he came out and told the Israelites what he had been commanded, ³⁵ they saw that his face was radiant. Then Moses would put the **veil** back over his face until he went in to speak with the LORD.

2CO 3:¹² Therefore, since we have such a hope, we are very bold. ¹³ We are not like Moses, who would put a **veil** over his face to keep the Israelites from gazing at it while the radiance was fading away. ¹⁴ But their minds were made dull, for to this day the same **veil** remains when the old covenant is read. It has not been removed, because only in Christ is it taken away. ¹⁵ Even to this day when Moses is read, a **veil** covers their hearts. ¹⁶ But whenever anyone turns to the Lord, the **veil** is taken away.

PS 63:¹ O God, you are my God, earnestly I seek you; my soul thirsts for you, my body longs for you, in a dry and weary land where there is no water. I have seen you in the sanctuary and beheld your power and your glory.

PR 8:¹⁷ I love those who love me, and those who seek me **find me**.

Jer.29:¹³ You will seek me and **find me** when you seek me with all your heart. ¹⁴ I will be found by you," declares the LORD, "

Heb.11:⁶ And without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him.

1 Cor. 13:¹² Now we see but a poor reflection as in a mirror; then we shall see face to face. Now I know in part; then I shall know fully, even as I am fully known.

The climax of the Tabernacle experience is to reach the Holy of Holies. Once a year on Yom Kippur, (the day of Atonement) the high priest and only the high priest could enter. Only he could enter for the purpose of asking forgiveness of sins for the Nation of Israel. Once he went beyond the veil, he came face to face with the Ark of the Covenant. This was a chest covered in pure gold. On top were two angels overshadowing the entire box. This was known as the mercy seat, the very place God rested. This was the most incredible, spectacular and supernatural sight to ever see.

Today, our heart is God's very own ark of the covenant. Inside dwells His presence, His protection, His laws, and the testimony of His provision.

SONG:

AWESOME IS THE SIGHT OF YOUR HOLINESS MAJESTIC IS YOUR PURITY

YOUR RIGHTEOUSNESS SHINES BRIGHTER THAN THE SUN ON ME ON ME

FOR HOLY, HOLY, HOLY IS THE LORD OF HOSTS GLORY, GLORY, GLORY TO HIS

MATCHLESS NAME WORTHY, WORTHY, WORTHY IS THE LAMB

THAT WAS SLAIN FOR ME

Habitation with God

EX 40:34 Then the cloud covered the Tent of Meeting, and the glory of the LORD filled the tabernacle. ³⁵ Moses could not enter the Tent of Meeting because the cloud had settled upon it, and the glory of the LORD filled the tabernacle. In all the travels of the Israelites, whenever the cloud lifted from above the tabernacle, they would set out; ³⁷ but if the cloud did not lift, they did not set out--until the day it lifted.

Lev.26:¹¹ I will put my dwelling place among you, and I will not abhor you. ¹² I will walk among you and be your God, and you will be my people.

Ezek. 37:²⁶ I will make a covenant of peace with them; it will be an everlasting covenant. I will establish them and increase their numbers, and I will put my sanctuary among them forever. ²⁷ My dwelling place will be with them; I will be their God, and they will be my people.

EX 33:14 The LORD replied, "My Presence will go with you, and I will give you rest." Then Moses said to him, "If your Presence does not go with us, do not send us up from here. ¹⁶ How will anyone know that you are pleased with me and with your people unless you go with us?"

ISA 6:1 In the year that King Uzziah died, I saw the Lord seated on a throne, high and exalted, and the train of his robe filled the temple.

1CO 3:16 Don't you know that you yourselves are God's temple and that God's Spirit lives in you?

Eph.2:²¹ In him the whole building is joined together and rises to become a holy temple in the Lord. ²² And in him you too are being built together to become a dwelling in which God lives by his Spirit.

Matt.18:²⁰ For where two or three come together in my name, there am I with them."

The actual duties were performed by ministry of the priest. This was a highly honored position because they were to represent God to the people and present the people to God. Today it must still be a highly honored position, however, it is not limited to a select few. All believers serve a specific function in ministry. Each one is unique but equally important. One may sing, one may cook, another may type, and still another may teach, but none is more important than any other.

The Apostle Paul compares the spiritual body to the physical body in 1 Cor. ch.12. Here we see the need to recognize each complimentary part, so let's look for opportunities to serve the body of Christ.

SONG: LORD PREPARE ME, TO BE A SANCTUARY PURE AND HOLY, TRIED AND TRUE

WITH THANKSGIVING, I'LL BE A LIVING SANCTUARY FOR YOU

AS WE WORSHIP IN THE SANCTUARY LET YOUR PRESENCE FLOW THROUGH ME

IN ONE BODY, IN THE HOLY SPIRIT A LIVING WORSHIP TO YOU

Priesthood of the believer

Exod. 40:13 Then dress Aaron in the sacred garments, anoint him and consecrate him so he may serve me as priest. ¹⁴ Bring his sons and dress them in tunics. ¹⁵ Anoint them just as you anointed their father, so they may serve me as priests. Their anointing will be to a priesthood that will continue for all generations to come

HEB 4:14 Therefore, since we have a great high priest who has gone through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold firmly to the faith we profess. ¹⁵ For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are--yet was without sin. ¹⁶ Let us then approach the throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need. Every high priest is selected from among men and is appointed to represent them in matters related to God, to offer gifts and sacrifices for sins.

HEB 7:11 If perfection could have been attained through the Levitical priesthood (for on the basis of it the law was given to the people), why was there still need for another priest to come--one in the order of Melchizedek, not in the order of Aaron? ¹² For when there is a change of the priesthood, there must also be a change of the law.

HEB 8:1 The point of what we are saying is this: We do have such a high priest, who sat down at the right hand of the throne of the Majesty in heaven, ² and who serves in the sanctuary, the true tabernacle set up by the Lord, not by man.

1PE 2:9 But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people belonging to God, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light. ¹⁰ Once you were not a people, but now you are the people of God;

1 Peter 4:¹⁰ Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others, faithfully administering God's grace in its various forms.

Before the children of Israel could worship in the desert there had to be a deliverance from Egypt. Egypt symbolized bondage. Today many people can't worship because of the bondage in their own life. The Lord waits with power to set us free from the bondage of sin. True worship only happens when we have the freedom to do so. A Spanish proverb says bad habits are first cobwebs and then cables. Many are controlled by

Addictive behaviors such as gambling, smoking, drinking, eating disorders, or illicit sex and feel out of control. Others struggle with emotional oppression such as depression, anxiety, fear, loneliness or anger.

These things become our own personal Egypt. When God gets us out of Egypt, it's only half the battle. Then He has to get Egypt out of us. Consider these steps to experience freedom:

1. Pray for God to reveal the source or the root of the problem.
2. Take responsibility for changing. Stop blaming others.
3. Forgive any offenses. Release any bitterness.
4. Memorize key verses for specific issues.
5. Be accountable through counsel and leadership.

The journey through the desert (to the Promised Land) could have been accomplished in forty days. Because they clung to old habits of the past, the journey took 40 years.

The same is true with us. Unless we lay down our baggage, we will never be free to worship the way God intended.

Exodus 25:8-9

"Then have them make a sanctuary for me, and I will dwell among them. Make this tabernacle and all its furnishings exactly like the pattern I will show you".

GLOSSARY OF TERMS :

1. **Bondage**— the state of subjection to a force, power, or influence. To be restrained or bound so much as to be enslaved.
Deliverance— to set free, or loose from restraint. To hand over or surrender from one thing to another. To secure something promised or desired.
2. **Boundary**— border, limit, or perimeter,
Enter - to come or go into, to gain admission, to become a participant, or join in.
Gate— means of access or passageway,
3. **Sacrifice**— forfeiture of something highly valued for that of something of greater value. A voluntary loss for a greater purpose
offering— a gift or presentation, something freely bestowed with no expectation of return.
altar— an elevated place to make a sacrifice or bring an offering. (*to alter is to change from one state to another*)
blood— the only means to carry life from one place to another. The only possible transmission of a living spirit.
4. **Sanctification**— to separate or set apart for a sacred use, to consecrate make holy, or purify.
washing— to cleanse by removing dirt or stains. To rid of corruption or guilt. To separate by immersion in water.
cleanse— To free from dirt, defilement, or guilt; purge or clean.
laver— bronze wash basin made from women's looking glass (mirror)
5. **Revelation**— to make known, disclose, or reveal something not previously understood. Manifestation of divine truth.
Menorah— a seven branch lampstand used in Jewish ceremony. Each branch represents a day of creation.
6. **Sustenance**— something, especially food, that maintains, supports or carries on life.
showbread— the bread put out for show to represent sustenance.
7. **Aroma**— a pleasant odor, fragrance, aura, sensed by smell
Prayer— a reverent petition made to God through communication. An act of communion and confession.
atmosphere— a distinctive intangible quality, creating an inviting surrounding. Ambiance or climate.
incense— an aromatic substance burned to create a perfume in the air.
8. **Seek**— to try to discover, locate, or search for.
veil— a covering to protect, separate or conceal
preserve— to maintain in safety, or protect from injury, peril or harm. To maintain in perfect or unaltered condition. To prevent decaying or spoiling.
9. **Habitation**— a place of abode or residence. The place where something is most likely to be found.
glory— majestic beauty and splendor. Magnificent eminence, the radiance (reflection) of his presence.
presence— The state or fact of being present, current existence. The immediate surroundings of a sovereign.
10. **Priesthood**— one having authority to administer the spiritual or perform religious rights. A representative of God to the people and representing the people to God.
duty— a course of action required by a position. The compulsion felt to meet an obligation.
serve— to work for, wait on, and prepare. Assist aid and promote the interest of another. To meet the needs and satisfy something not your own. **minister**— a representative serving as an agent to carry out specified orders or functions.

OTHER TERMINOLOGY -

Atonement— Amends or reparation made for an injury or wrong. reconciliation between God and man
One day a year (Yom Kippur)

Temple— A building dedicated to religious ceremonies or worship . A shrine or sanctuary (a permanent expansion of the tabernacle)

Court— open ground partially or completely enclosed by walls or buildings; a courtyard. The place of residence of a sovereign or dignitary

Sacred— worthy of absolute respect, dedicated to a deity. Blessed and consecrated.

Holy— pure and undefiled, unmixed, free from impurities.

Ark— a shelter or container, used to carry valuables

Covenant— contract, agreement which obligates both parties. A promise and arrangement of terms for a relationship.

Commandment— a law or code of conduct, a system of rules to regulate behavior.

Testimony— a witness or declaration of events, spoken or written to corroborate proof and facts.

Pattern— a model, plan, diagram, or original design, often replicated or copied

Manna— food miraculously provided by God (spiritual nourishment) something of value a person receives unexpectedly.

Provision— something prepared or supplied that is necessary for existence. To make resources available.

Protection—taking measures for safeguard. To defend or shield from harm and free from threat.

Shadow— an imperfect imitation or copy. A mirrored image or reflection. a forerunner of something that is to come.

Priesthood references :

Luke 1: - In the time of Herod king of Judea there was a priest named Zechariah, who belonged to the priestly division of Abijah; his wife Elizabeth was also a descendant of Aaron. ⁶ Both of them were righteous in the sight of God, observing all the Lord's commands and decrees blamelessly. ⁷ But they were childless because Elizabeth was not able to conceive, and they were both very old.

⁸ Once when Zechariah's division was on duty and he was serving as priest before God, ⁹ he was chosen by lot, according to the custom of the priesthood, to go into the temple of the Lord and burn incense. ¹⁰ And when the time for the burning of incense came, all the assembled worshipers were praying outside. ¹¹ Then an angel of the Lord appeared to him, standing at the right side of the altar of incense. ¹² When Zechariah saw him, he was startled and was gripped with fear. ¹³ But the angel said to him: "Do not be afraid, Zechariah; your prayer has been heard

Scriptural Summary & Application:

1. DELIVERENCE—^{JN 8:34} Jesus replied, "I tell you the truth, everyone who sins is a slave to sin. .³⁶ So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed

2. ENTER IN—^{PS 100:4} Enter his gates with thanksgiving and his courts with praise

3. SACRIFICE—^{RO 12:1} Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God--this is your spiritual act of worship

4. SANCTIFICATION—^{ICO 6:9} Do you not know that the wicked will not inherit the kingdom of God? .¹¹ And that is what some of you were. But you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God.

5. REVELATION—^{PS 119:105} Your word is a **lamp** to my feet and a light for my path.

6. DAILY BREAD—^{JN 6:35} Then Jesus declared, "I am the **bread of life**. He who comes to me will never go hungry, and he who believes in me will never be thirsty.

7. PRAYER—^{Rev.5: 8} And when he had taken it, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb. Each one had a harp and they were holding golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of the saints

8. SEEKING HIM—^{Jer.29:13} You will seek me and **find me** when you seek me with all your heart. ¹⁴ I will be found by you," declares the LORD, "

9. HABITATION—^{EX 40:34} Then the cloud covered the Tent of Meeting, and the glory of the LORD filled the tabernacle

10. PRIESTHOOD—^{IPE 2:9} But you are a chosen people, a royal **priesthood**, a holy nation, a people belonging to God, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light.

DAVIDS TABERNACLE—

Acts 7:44-50 -

Acts 15:15-17 -

TEMPLE RITUALS / meaningless traditions - knowing what but not why!

Isa. 1:11— "The multitude of your sacrifices— what are they to me?" says the LORD. "I have more than enough of burnt offerings, of rams and the fat of fattened animals; I have no pleasure in the blood of bulls and lambs and goats.

NEGLECT & ABUSE OF THE SACRED

^{2CH 26:19} Uzziah, who had a censer in his hand ready to burn incense, became angry. While he was raging at the priests in their presence before the incense altar in the LORD's temple, leprosy broke out on his forehead. ²⁰ When Azariah the chief priest and all the other priests looked at him, they saw that he had leprosy on his forehead, so they hurried him out. Indeed, he himself was eager to leave, because the LORD had afflicted him.

^{2CH 26:16} But after Uzziah became powerful, his **pride** led to his downfall. He was unfaithful to the LORD his God, and entered the temple of the LORD to burn incense on the altar of incense. ¹⁷ Azariah the priest with eighty other courageous priests of the LORD followed him in. ¹⁸ They confronted him and said, "It is not right for you, Uzziah, to burn incense to the LORD. That is for the priests, the descendants of Aaron, who have been consecrated to burn incense. Leave the sanctuary, for you have been unfaithful; and you will not be honored by the LORD God."

^{2CH 26:21} King Uzziah had leprosy until the day he died. He lived in a separate house --leprosy, and excluded from the temple of the LORD

RELATIONSHIPS part 3

The root word for relationship is relate. If we don't relate, we have no interaction. God made man for the purpose of having a relationship with him. The only way for God to relate to us was to make us in his image and to come in the form of a man; (or common likeness) Jesus. He relates to us and with us in the every way. Jesus was a man who learned and grew. He rejoiced with men and was rejected by men. He experienced every emotion we do, he worked a job for a living and dwelt with his family. He had brothers, sisters, cousins, aunts and uncles. Yes, God can relate to us and with us on every level.

It is very important how we relate to each other. It is a direct reflection of how we relate to God. If we cant get along with people, then we have a problem with God. These people are made in Gods image. The Bible says "if we say we love God and hate our brother, we are a liar." It is not an option to withdraw socially and live a lifestyle of isolation. Although we might separate for a time or purpose, it must not be a lifestyle with all people, all of the time. People bring out the best and the worst of us. They are a mirror of who we are. If we don't want to deal with our own problems, we will reject and repel everyone around us. People can bless us, encourage us, comfort us and provide for us, but we must be accountable to them. Accountability is a lifelong exchange. It is a "checks and balance" to refine our character and personality. God even uses the most hard to get along with people to teach us some of lives most valuable lessons.

Healthy relationships are much more valuable then accomplishments. Unfortunatly in todays society, most relationships are dysfunctional where people are confused, disappointed and frustrated with family members, co-workers or friends. Without exception, those who turn to some sort of addictive or distructive behavior, do it because of dysfunctional relationships.

Some are guilty of using people and loving things. We must use things (for their purpose) and love people. Things come and go, they're bought and sold, they rust and decay, but people last a lifetime. A thing that is broken or lost can be replaced, but broken relationships are hard to mend and can not be replaced with another one. Jesus said on the day of judgment that many will brag about accomplishments, but he will be concerned about their relationships. The saddest words for all eternity will be, "depart from me, I never knew you"! When Christ dwelt together with his friends, two sisters were among them. Martha was worried about things needed for preparation but Jesus commended her sister for persuing the relationship at hand.

God created planets, oceans, galaxies and great things we can barely imagine. His greatest and most treasured prize, was and is, us! He said everything else would pass away, even heaven but we will live with him forever. We are valuable to him and must value relationships with each other.

Elijah / Elisha

1KI 19:19-20 So Elijah went from there and found Elisha son of Shaphat. He was plowing with twelve yoke of oxen, and he himself was driving the twelfth pair. Elijah went up to him and threw his cloak around him. Elisha then left his oxen and ran after Elijah.

PAUL / TIMOTHY

AC 16:1 He came to Derbe and then to Lystra, where a disciple named Timothy lived, whose mother was a Jewess and a believer, but whose father was a Greek. [2] The brothers at Lystra and Iconium spoke well of him.

JOHN / JESUS

[2] So she came running to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one Jesus loved,[23] One of them, the disciple whom Jesus loved, was reclining next to him.

JESUS / DISCIPLES

[15] I no longer call you servants, because a servant does not know his master's business. Instead, I have called you friends, for everything that I learned from my Father I have made known to you.

DAVID / JOHNATHON

1 Sam. 20:[17] And Jonathan had David reaffirm his oath out of love for him, because he loved him as he loved himself.

Elijah / Jezebel

1KI 19:1-3 Now Ahab told Jezebel everything Elijah had done and how he had killed all the prophets with the sword. So Jezebel sent a messenger to Elijah to say, "May the gods deal with me, be it ever so severely, if by this time tomorrow I do not make your life like that of one of them."

Elijah was afraid and ran for his life.

PAUL / ALEXANDER

2TI 4:14 Alexander the metalworker did me a great deal of harm. The Lord will repay him for what he has done. [15] You too should be on your guard against him, because he strongly opposed our message.

JOHN / DIATROPHESE

3JN 1:9-10 I wrote to the church, but Diotrefes, . . . , will have nothing to do with us. So if I come, I will call attention to what he is doing, gossiping maliciously about us. . . he refuses to welcome the brothers. He also stops those who want to do so and puts them out of the church.

JESUS / PHARISEES

MT 23:15 "Woe to you, teachers of the law and Pharisees, you hypocrites! MT 23:33 "You snakes! You brood of vipers! How will you escape being condemned to hell?"

DAVID / ABSOLOM—

2SA 15:[6] Absalom behaved in this way toward all the Israelites who came to the king asking for justice, and so he stole the hearts of the men of Israel.

DEFINING THE ELEMENTS OF RELATIONSHIPS

- 1. Trust**— Firm reliance on the integrity, ability, or character of a person or thing. Custody; care. Something committed into the care of another; The condition and resulting obligation of having confidence placed in one. Reliance on something in the future; hope
- 2. Security**— Freedom from risk or danger; safety. Freedom from doubt, anxiety, or fear; confidence. Something that gives or assures safety,
- 3. Communication**— transmission. The exchange of thoughts, messages, or information, as by speech, signals, writing, or behavior. Interpersonal rapport. The art and technique of using words effectively and with grace in imparting one's ideas.
- 4. Common ground (or goals)** - Belonging equally to or shared equally by two or more; joint. Of or relating to the community as a whole; mutual, habitual, consistent, thoughts, ideas, or values. Not distinguished by superior individuality.
- 5. Codependency**— Contingent on, and unable to function without another. Relying on, or requiring the aid of another for absolute support. Hanging or clinging so as to blend identity and cloud boundaries. Leaving no room for individual identity or responsibility. (opportunistic organism; sponge)
- 6. Boundaries**— Something that indicates a border or limit. Predetermined consequences for certain behavior.
- 7. Enabling**— To supply with the means, knowledge, or opportunity; make able. To make feasible or possible. To give legal power, capacity, or sanction to. To make operational; activate.

RELATIONSHIPS: PURSUING & SEVERING

We all must decide who to have relationships with. They will affect us and we will affect them. We must make the choice. If we only settle for relationships with people who choose us, we will be disappointed with the outcome. For example, we choose our neighbors and the neighborhood we live in. We choose our job, our spouse, or friends, etc. Some are good to pursue, some must be severed before they cause permanent damages. Consider these references:

AM 3:3 Do two walk together unless they have agreed to do so?

Heb. 10:[25] Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another

AC 2:42 They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. All the believers were together and had everything in common. Selling their possessions and goods, they gave to anyone as he had need. Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people.

JAS 4:4 You adulterous people, don't you know that friendship with the world is hatred toward God? Anyone who chooses to be a friend of the world becomes an enemy of God.

2CO 6:14 Do not be yoked together with unbelievers. For what do righteousness and wickedness have in common? Or what fellowship can light have with darkness? What harmony is there between Christ and Belial? What does a believer have in common with an unbeliever? What agreement is there between the temple of God and idols? For we are the temple of the living God. As God has said: "I will live with them and walk among them, and I will be their God, and they will be my people." "Therefore come out from them and be separate, says the Lord.

so·cial Living together in communities. Of or relating to communal living (having things in common). Of or relating to society. Living together in organized groups or similar close aggregates. Inclined to seek out or enjoy the company of others; sociable. Spent in or marked by friendly relations or companionship.

dis-social - withdrawn, hermit, isolated - *could develop into...*

social phobia - afraid of social settings for fear of rejection or harm, often stems from negative self image and unfavorable comparisons

anti-social - against or hostile towards society -
could develop into...

anti social personality disorder - one who manipulates people without conscience

so·ci·e·ty The totality of social relationships among human beings. A group of human beings broadly distinguished from other groups by mutual interests, participation in characteristic relationships, shared institutions, and a common culture. An organization or association of persons engaged in a common profession, activity, or interest. Companionship; company.

com·pat·i·ble Capable of existing or performing in harmonious, agreeable, or congenial combination with others. Capable of orderly, efficient integration and operation with other elements in a system with no modification or conversion required.

con·flict A confrontation based on a difference of incompatible ideas, or interests. Often initiated with the intent to convince or change instead of learning, embracing and growing. A clash with the opposition, or simultaneous functioning of mutually exclusive impulses, desires, or tendencies.

JACOB / LABAN (Both)—

GE 31:36, 42 Jacob was angry and took Laban to task. "What is my crime?" he asked Laban. "What sin have I committed that you hunt me down? . . . But God has seen my hardship and the toil of my hands, and last night he rebuked you."

NOAH / HAM—

GEN 9:22,24,25 Ham, the father of Canaan, saw his father's nakedness and told his two brothers outside. . . . When Noah awoke from his wine and found out what his youngest son had done to him, he said, "Cursed be Canaan! The lowest of slaves will he be to his brothers."

ABRAHAM / SARAH—

GEN 16:5 Then Sarai said to Abram, "You are responsible for the wrong I am suffering. I put my servant in your arms, and now that she knows she is pregnant, she despises me. May the LORD judge between you and me."

MOSES / ARRON, MIRIAM—

NU 12:1-2 Miriam and Aaron began to talk against Moses because of his Cushite wife, for he had married a Cushite. "Has the LORD spoken only through Moses?" they asked. "Hasn't he also spoken through us?" And the LORD heard this.

JOB / SAME FRIENDS—

JOB 42:7 After the LORD had said these things to Job, he said to Eliphaz the Temanite, "I am angry with you and your two friends, because you have not spoken of me what is right, as my servant Job has. Why do you think God created man (humans) ? -

Read Gen1 & 2 - What did God do to provide for man? Why did he provide for them?

Why is it not good for man to be alone?

What benefits are there to having relationships? What are some of the responsibilities ?

Gen. 4 What are some potential problems that develop in relationships ?

Who should we pursue in relationship? _____ and _____

Who should we avoid relationships with ? _____
(at what level?)

JACOB / ESAU (Both)—

GE 33:4-5 But Esau ran to meet Jacob and embraced him; he threw his arms around his neck and kissed him. And they wept. Then Esau looked up and saw the women and children. "Who are these with you?" he asked.

NOAH / SHEM, JAPHETH—

GEN 9:23 ,26, 27 But Shem and Japheth took a garment and laid it across their shoulders; then they walked in backward and covered their father's nakedness. Their faces were turned the other way so that they would not see their father's nakedness. . .(Then Noah said) "Blessed be the LORD, the God of Shem! . . . (and) May God extend the territory of Japheth"

ABRAHAM / LOT—

GE 13:8-9 So Abram said to Lot, "Let's not have any quarreling between you and me, or between your herdsmen and mine, for we are brothers. Is not the whole land before you? Let's part company. If you go to the left, I'll go to the right; if you go to the right, I'll go to the left."

MOSES / JETHRO—

EX 18:17, 19, & 24 (Jethro said) "What you are doing is not good. . . . You cannot handle it alone. Listen now to me and I will give you some advice, and may God be with you. . . . Moses listened to his father-in-law and did everything he said.

JOB / AND FRIENDS—

JOB 2:11-12 When Job's three friends, . . . heard about all the troubles that had come upon him, they set out from their homes and met together by agreement to go and sympathize with him and comfort him. When they saw him from a distance, they could hardly recognize him; they began to weep aloud, and they tore their robes and sprinkled dust on their heads.

GOOD - BAD—

- | | |
|---|----------------|
| 1. We love God but cant get along with people. | 1 John 4:20-21 |
| 2. We are very sociable and have lots of friends, but neglect our relationship with God. | James 4:4 |
| 3. We have trouble accepting ourselves, thus reject and criticize others, while inwardly blame God. | Jer. 18:4-7 |
| 4. We pick only the relationships we are comfortable with and avoid others. | Gal. 4:16 |
| 5. We have no intimate friends and live on the surface (superficially). | |
| 6. We reject others who are not like us. | Mk. 9:38-40 |
| 7. We love God but don't obey His word. (Don't respect his boundaries) | Jn. 14:23 |
| 8. We enable people to use or abuse us. | |
| 9. We value things, events, or accomplishments over relationships. | Matt. 7:22-23 |
| 10. We blame God and people for broken relationships and the lack of them. | |
| 11. Our expectations are unrealistic or often self centered. | Lk. 10:38-42 |
| 12. We give, serve, and sacrifice, but do not recognize or meet our own needs. | |
| 13. We manipulate or excuse scriptures that make us uncomfortable. | 2 Peter 3:16 |
| 14. We cant trust people and / or often do not trust God. | Matt. 6:25-34 |

COMMON DIFFICULTIES IN RELATIONSHIPS . . .

Get a dictionary and define the following words:

Jealousy_____

Envy_____

Discord_____

Accountability_____

What are some things I have done to hurt relationships in the past?_____

How can I develop a better relationship with God?

Why does a social environment at church sometimes bring out the worst in people ?

Does God really want to be my friend ? Why does He expect me to get along with His other children ?

What's the problem with being a member of a club ? What's the benefit ?

Friendships

We all have friends. Some have more than others. They come in different varieties and if we don't recognize the **levels of intimacy** we will frustrate our relationships. Some people believe that honoring these levels is showing favoritism and not being fair. I have learned however that healthy relationships have healthy boundaries. Consider this example:

You meet a perfect stranger and all of the sudden they share the most personal details of their life. It makes you feel uncomfortable because you don't know how to handle this information. Should you give advice? Should you comfort them? Is there more to the story that would change your perspective? Yes, there is always more. So why do they tell you this? I believe they are searching for acceptance and validation. This can only come by those closest to you, not from any "passer by". This kind of person usually doesn't have close friends and has a hard time letting people get close to them. Have you ever shared something with a family member hoping to get some comfort when all they do is correct or lecture? Perhaps the level of intimacy is not there and as a result they can not really understand how you feel.

Lets look at the four levels:

- 1. Acquaintances** - we have the most of these, it is someone you recognize by face and possibly share a common interest. don't see them on a regular basis.
- 2. Casual friends** - someone you know by name and probably eat a meal together from time to time. probably only known for a few weeks or months.
- 3. Close friends** - you know where they live, their phone number and their kids names, you may even work together. this is the kind of friend you call when you run out of gas
- 4. Intimate friends** - only have a few in your lifetime. someone you would **choose** to be with if you were stuck in traffic together for 8 hrs. you are committed to build each others character.(best man or brides maid). must have known them for years.

Recently a friend of mine came to visit. I've known him for 12 years and he made an observation about my personality. It was a correct assessment but not very flattering. If it came from an acquaintance it would have probably been offensive. I knew that he was being honest and he would still be loyal to our friendship regardless of my response. He had earned the right to share this kind of information. If you're like me, maybe you have tried to share something to quick in a relationship and miscommunicated your intentions. Sometimes we assume that our family members are in our "inner circle" and can handle personal details. That is ideal, but not always the case. Prov. 27:10 says "better a neighbor nearby than a brother far away".

Label the following Biblical relationships in the four categories: (1,2,3,or 4)

- | | |
|--------------------------|------------------------------|
| ___ Jesus and Nicodemus | ___ Jesus & John the Baptist |
| ___ Jesus & 12 disciples | ___ Jesus Peter, James, John |
| ___ Jesus and the masses | ___ Elijah and Elisha |
| ___ David and Jonathan | ___ Cain and Abel |
| ___ Ruth and Naomi | ___ Paul and Barnabas |
| ___ Paul and Timothy | ___ Paul and Mark |
| ___ Martha and Mary | ___ Jesus and his family |
| ___ Moses and Jethro | ___ Moses and Arron |
| ___ Jacob and Esau | ___ Sampson & Delilah |

BIBLICAL FRIENDSHIPS

PR 17:17 A friend loves at all times, and a brother is born for adversity.

PR 27:17 As iron sharpens iron, so one man sharpens another.

PR 18:24 A man of many companions may come to ruin, but there is a friend who sticks closer than a brother.

ECC 4:8 There was a man all alone; he had neither son nor brother. There was no end to his toil, yet his eyes were not content with his wealth. "For whom am I toiling," he asked, "and why am I depriving myself of enjoyment?" This too is meaningless-- a miserable business! Two are better than one, because they have a good return for their work: If one falls down, his friend can help him up. But pity the man who falls and has no one to help him up! Also, if two lie down together, they will keep warm. But how can one keep warm alone?

Though one may be overpowered, two can defend themselves. A cord of three strands is not quickly broken.

1JN 2:9 Anyone who claims to be in the light but hates his brother is still in the darkness. [10] Whoever loves his brother lives in the light, and there is nothing in him to make him stumble. [11] But whoever hates his brother is in the darkness

MT 17:1 After six days Jesus took with him Peter, James and John the brother of James, and led them up a high mountain by themselves.

MT 26:36 Then Jesus went with his disciples to a place called Gethsemane, and he said to them, "Sit here while I go over there and pray." [37] He took Peter and the two sons of Zebedee along with him, and he began to be sorrowful and troubled. [38] Then he said to them, "My soul is overwhelmed with sorrow to the point of death. Stay here and keep watch with me."

COMMUNICATION...

Watching Jesus communicate and the disciples respond can teach us many things. Do you remember him saying over and over that "the son of man must be persecuted and crucified?" Even after his persistence they seemed to not hear him. He also repeated the phrase "are you so dull, that you still don't understand"? The disciples, like most of us were not the best listeners and had to be told the same thing several times. A sales manager once told his retail staff that "telling is not selling." In other words people don't come to you to hear your information. They come to get their needs met. This is true spiritually, emotionally and every other way.

We must listen to peoples needs. Only then can we communicate effectively. This disciples eventually got the message. Jesus communicated with parables, also called "word pictures." It would have been easiest to talk about carpentry because that was his occupation. Instead he catered the message to the audience. Illustrations included shepherds, farmers, land owners and more, but never carpenters. It wasn't for his benefit, it was for others'. Most of us seem to be talking for our own benefit. People really don't care to hear what we've got to say, they want to hear something that will address their needs.

com·mu·ni·cate - commune, interact, inform, report, reveal, impart, transmit, spread...

To convey information about; make known; impart. **b.** To reveal clearly; manifest. To have an interchange, as of ideas. **2.** To express oneself in such a way that one is readily and clearly understood. To be connected, one with another.

First: you must have information, acquire facts, and knowledge to be able to share it with others.

"knowledge is power", communications as a field is one of the highest paid and sought after professions...

* Television, radio, satellites, computers, news press, pagers, cell phones, etc.

I WANT TO KNOW WHAT YOU KNOW, I WANT YOU TO KNOW WHAT I KNOW, BUT...

every word in the English language has an ave. of three different definitions!

HOS 4:6 my people are destroyed from lack of knowledge. "Because you have rejected knowledge, I also reject you as my priests; because you have ignored the law of your God, I also will ignore your children.

Second—Determine how you will handle the information you have... ask:

- a. what are you thinking?
- b. how do you feel?
- c. what can we do about it?

The scripture says we must rightly divide the word, and speak the right word in due season. This is knowing what and when to apply information.

Styles and types :

1. body language— sometimes we don't have to say a word!
2. verbal— 90% of arguments come from the tone of voice we use
3. gestures— finger pointing, hands on hips, etc.
4. writing— making lists or leaving notes
5. music— choice of songs express feelings
6. art— pictures in the living room, personal sketches
7. hobbies— where and how we spend our time
8. career choice / work habits— no ambition or choosing to work overtime

Healthy communication is a regular event, don't wait for a conflict to practice it. It includes:

1. Not raising your voice
2. Not mumbling or walking away while talking
3. No sarcasm or cursing
4. No talking or hollering from room to room.
5. Identify yourself on the phone and never hang up on someone, without saying goodbye
6. look people in the eyes, don't roll your eyes in disapproval.
7. don't interrupt or cut someone off
8. use the "drive through window":
 - a. let them speak until their done
 - b. repeat what you heard (for clarity)
 - c. do not change their order

- d. take turns, speak one at a time
 - e. one issue at a time don't mix issues
9. set appointments to discuss serious things, don't catch them off guard
 10. Don't raise an issue and drop it, always seek a solution
(unresolved issues always raise up later and are often camouflaged)
 11. Use "emotional word pictures" I feel like.... when you ...
 12. Don't lecture after finding resolutions to problems
(set healthy boundaries and stick to them)

If we respect ourselves and we respect others, we will develop good habits

ne·go·ti·ate To confer with another or others in order to come to terms or reach an agreement.

To arrange or settle by discussion and mutual agreement.

To succeed in going over or coping with.

To succeed in accomplishing or managing.

The pursuit of a "WIN / WIN" relationship

Ester negotiated with the King on behalf of the Jews

Jacob negotiated with Laban for a wife

Paul negotiated with the courts for his right to preach

Abraham negotiated with the angel over Sodom and Gamora

Nehimiah negotiated for the rebuilding of the walls

Negotiation is essential for a healthy give and take relationship. There are times however when this tactic is ***not acceptable***. When boundaries are set in regards to scriptural principles, ethics, laws, etc. there can be no negotiation (consequenses must result).

scriptural example	contemporary example
Moses and Pharoh	physical abuse in a relationship
Adam & Eve in the garden /	Christian marrying non-Christian?
John the Baptist and Herod	Adultery

CONFLICT

Years ago, a large statue of Christ was erected high in the Andes on the border between Argentina and Chile. Called "Christ of the Andes," the statue symbolizes a pledge between the two countries that as long as the statue stands, there will be peace between Chile and Argentina. Shortly after the statue was erected, the Chileans began to protest that they had been slighted -- the statue had its back turned to Chile. Just when tempers were at their highest in Chile, a Chilean newspaperman saved the day. In an editorial that not only satisfied the people but made them laugh, he simply said, "The people of Argentina need more watching over than the Chileans."

French novelist and playwright Alexandre Dumas once had a heated quarrel with a rising young politician. The argument became so intense that a duel was inevitable. Since both men were superb shots they decided to draw lots, the loser agreeing to shoot himself. Dumas lost. Pistol in hand, he withdrew in silent dignity to another room, closing the door behind him. The rest of the company waited in gloomy suspense for the shot that would end his career. It rang out at last. His friends ran to the door, opened it, and found Dumas, smoking revolver in hand. "Gentlemen, a most regrettable thing has happened," he announced. "I missed."

How to turn a disagreement into a feud:

1. Be sure to develop and maintain a healthy fear of conflict, letting your own feelings build up so you are in an explosive frame of mind.
2. If you must state your concerns, be as vague and general as possible. Then the other person cannot do anything practical to change the situation.
3. Assume you know all the facts and you are totally right. The use of a clinching Bible verse is helpful. Speak prophetically for truth and justice; do most of the talking.
4. With a touch of defiance, announce your willingness to talk with anyone who wishes to discuss the problem with you. But do not take steps to initiate such conversation.
5. Latch tenaciously onto whatever evidence you can find that shows the other person is merely jealous of you.
6. Judge the motivation of the other party on any previous experience that showed failure or unkindness. Keep track of any angry words.
7. If the discussion should, alas, become serious, view the issue as a win/lose struggle. Avoid possible solutions and go for total victory and unconditional surrender. Don't get too many options on the table.
8. Pass the buck! If you are about to get cornered into a solution, indicate you are without power to settle; you need your partner, spouse, bank, whatever.

CAUSES AND SOLUTIONSto conflict

1. Spiritual Issues:

Cain had a problem with God and took it out on his brother!

- a. - wickedness Jer. 17:9
- b. - self centeredness Isaiah 53:6
- c. - pride Prov.13:10

2. Single issue people:

- a. narrow minded
- b. extreme crusader
- c. no balance

3. Devisive personality : Titus 3:9-11

4. Hurting and wounded spirit, hurts and wounds others.

5. Political people

- a. power struggles
- b. resisting the established authorities
- c. self appointed positioning

6. Poor leadership:

- a. failure to recognize a problem
- b. withdrawal from responsibility or blaming others
- c. ignoring and not validating a persons issue
- d. crying uncle or giving in to pacify
- e. using a bribe or "pay off" (negotiating truth)

Steps to handle conflict:

1. See conflict from God's perspective:

- a. being Godly is more important than being right
- b. he has given the ministry of reconciliation

2. look at yourself

- a. 2 out of 3 people are fired from personality conflicts not from inadequate work performance.
- b. 4 out of 5 people leave a church from personality conflict, not from moral or scriptural conflict.

3. Deal immediately with a situation :

- a. clear up any confusion
- b. respond to hurt feelings
- c. delays cause a snowball effect.

4. Speak the truth :

- a. always in love - Eph. 4:15
- b. with gentleness - Prov. 15:1

5. Follow the scriptural process:

- a. never deal with hearsay or guesses - Duet. 19:15
- b. establish the facts -
- c. approach them privately - Prov. 25:9
- d. use a mediator - Matt.18:16
- e. you may need to dissolve the relationship - Amos 3:3

Degrading stages of a conflict :

1. Remedy stage -

GOOD

- a. recognition of a problem
- b. commitment to solve it
- c. the belief that it can be solved
- d. honest, open communication

2. Repositioning stage -

not Good

- a. protecting myself
- b. generalizing every issue
- c. develop a questioning spirit
- d. nervous, cautious, selective communication

3. Rights stage -

BAD

- a. take sides
- b. label people
- c. shift from solutions to "winning"
- d. overstate and distort the truth and the facts

4. Removal and Revenge -

WORSE

- a. the goal is to divorce yourself from the situation
- b. choose a leader to defend the cause
- c. never trust the opposition

DO's and

Don'ts

1. Agree on a time and place to talk it out -
2. Assertively, honestly express your feelings -
3. "depersonalize", focus on the problem -
4. select a neutral referee
5. keep a positive mature attitude
6. search for solutions -
7. focus on specifics and keep it simple -
8. Be open and available -
9. Be patient and work it out -
10. Forgive and forget -
11. Write down specific solutions
12. Schedule another meeting to follow up

- Catch the other person off guard
- passively suppress your feelings
- make it into a personal attack
- get your friends to side with you
- be negative and vindictive
- search for someone to blame
- generalize and exaggerate
- Be silent and superior
- walk out and demand results
- hold grudges and demand guarantees
- Leave with vague ideas and misunderstandings
- Wait indefinitely

HOW HEALTHY ARE MY RELATIONSHIPS ?

WITH MY MOTHER? BEST FRIEND? SPOUSE?
(substitute a name where we use the term friend)

- ___ 1. I can't really trust my closest friends
- ___ 2. My family doesn't love me when I make mistakes
- ___ 3. My friends don't love me as much as I love them
- ___ 4. I worry a lot about my relationships
- ___ 5. My closest friend has stabbed me in the back
- ___ 6. I am reluctant to show my true feelings
- ___ 7. I am afraid my spouse will leave me.
- ___ 8. I am afraid my parents will divorce.
- ___ 9. There are some things I just can't tell my friends
- ___ 10. People at church only see one side of me
- ___ 11. I worry that I don't measure up to people's expectations
- ___ 12. I've been burned by my best friend before
- ___ 13. I usually only depend on myself
- ___ 14. I don't feel comfortable being intimate or romantic
- ___ 15. I have a hard time talking to strangers
- ___ 16. I feel like people talk about me too much
- ___ 17. I am nervous when people tell me their personal problems
- ___ 18. I don't like being in large crowds
- ___ 19. I don't like being alone very long
- ___ 20. I feel empty when I'm not in a close relationship
- ___ 21. I avoid conflicts and arguments as much as possible
- ___ 22. People have a hard time understanding me
- ___ 23. People get tired of me easily
- ___ 24. I tend to yell, slam doors, and walk away in an argument
- ___ 25. I don't feel like my friends would risk their life for me
- ___ 26. I am not close with my parents
- ___ 27. I feel alone
- ___ 28. People don't respect my privacy
- ___ 29. I go through friendships a lot
- ___ 30. I don't like to make new friends
- ___ 31. I often make excuses for my friends

- 1. Why should we invest our lives in other people ?
- 2. Why don't we usually do it ?
- 3. How will most people respond when we invest in them ?
- 4. What kind of people are most likely to respond to outreach ?
- 5. What is the difference in Functional and Dysfunctional people ?
- 6. What does God's word teach about the world's behavior and the churches' ?
- 7. How do you earn the right to speak into someone's life ?

1. QUALITY TIME

Eph. 5:15,16
Luke 9:51

see the time mngt. Survey
Set priorities
don't just give left overs

Have time/ make time ?

2.GENUINE APPRECIATION

Rom. 14:1, 22 Rom. 15:2,7
1 Cor. 10:24,33

learn temperaments
and spiritual gifts surveys

respect individualism, don't try
to conform them to your image

3. COMMAN BOND

Acts 16:22-26
1 Sam. 20:4,17,41,42

shared experiences (history)
Include them in personal
Stuff
overcoming crisis
together

4. MUTUAL INVESTMENT

Rom. 14:19
Matt.25:27

outer circles give and
expect nothing in return,
inner circles have healthy
expectations of each other
passive— feel used
aggressive—take advantage
assertive— healthy give & take (receive rather than take)

The disciples limited themselves by not wanting the inconvenience of peoples problems...

- | | |
|--|------------------------------|
| 1. No children | Matt. 19:13 |
| 2. No hungry people | Luke 9:12 |
| 3. No outsiders | Luke 9:49 |
| 4. No one who rejects us | Luke 9:53,54 |
| 5. Narrow minded thinking
“ “ | Luke 9:43-45
ch. 10:19,20 |
| 6. Put tasks ahead of people | Luke 10:38-42 |
| 7. They forgot that peoples needs are not a distraction from ministry,
IT IS THE MINISTRY ! | Luke 10:29-37 |

DISCIPLESHIP - the ultimate relationship : * it can not happen in a classroom....
then where? how?

Reproduction - to produce consecutively; like bearing
offspring. we can only reproduce after our own kind...
children are like their parents in what ways ?
real leaders, lead leaders / "wanna be" leaders, lead followers !

Multiplication - to increase in number by reproducing oneself
Can we become Christian by osmosis ?
" " " evolving ?
Can we "make" someone a believer ?
Can you make them a disciple ?

The natural requirement for continued existence !

Adam- Gen1:27,28
Noah - Gen 9:1
The church- Matt. 28:19

The word Christian means _____ ?

The disciples were first called Christians at Antioch - Acts 11:26 because:

1. They said what He said
2. They did what He did
3. They became what He imparted

Impartation - to share, distribute, or grant. The original meaning was used to exhort those with two outer tunics to give one to someone who is without.

Demonstration - to show clearly; to prove or make clear by reasoning or evidence; to explain with many examples; to show publically; (demonstrate by a protest how you feel, demonstrate a new car by a test drive)

I can give a man a fish and feed him for a day, or I can teach him to fish and feed him for a lifetime.

More things in life are "Caught" than "Taught"

The process:

1. You watch me do "it"
 2. We do "it" together
 3. I watch you do "it"
 4. You do "it" and someone else watches . . .
-

1. Jethro to Moses
 2. Moses to Joshua
 3. Paul to Timothy
 4. Elijah to Elisha
 5. Abraham to Lot
 6. Naomi to Ruth
 7. Eli to Samuel
 8. TD Jakes to Dejon Sanders
 9. Harlan Sanders to Dave Thomas
 10. Journeyman to Apprentace
 11. OB 1 Canobe to Luke Skywalker
 12. Bald Monk to Kung Fu
(David Carodine)
-

The ave. church ministry instructs people in a classroom, entertains people with good music or fellowship activity, and sometimes involves others in duties or tasks. This is a spectator sport at best!

We must share a lifestyle day by day through the thick and thin of Christianity (in our homes, at work, etc.) .

We reproduce what we are, not just what we say we are !

What are your 5 favorite sermons ?

Who are your 5 most influential Christians ?

What do we really remember?

What will really last for eternity?

1. Has hunger / desire

1 Peter 2:2,3

1. Feeds

John 21:15

2. Receives

Matt. 21:22

Mrk 9:37

Jn. 1:11,12

2. Gives

. David gave Solomon plans / money

. Naomi gave wisdom to Ruth

. Noah gave his sons protection

3. Follows

1 Cor. 11:1

Heb. 13:7

3. Leads

1 Chron. 13:1

Matt. 15:14

4. Learns

1 Sam. 2:26

Luke 2:52

4. Teaches

Heb. 5:12

Matt. 28:19,20

Titus 2:3,4

5. Submits

Eph. 5:21

1 Sam 15:22

5. Imparts

Rom. 1:11

2 Kings 2:9

2 Tim. 1:5

6. Serves

Jn. 12:26

Mrk. 10:43-45

6. Delegates

Exod. 18:18,21

Acts 14:23

7. Seeks / pursues

1 Kngs 19:20

7. Empowers

Mrk. 6:7

Acts 1:8

8. Imitates

1 Thess. 1:5-7

Phil. 4:9

8. Exemplifies (is an example)

1 Tim. 4:12

1 Ptr. 2:21

FUNCTIONAL PEOPLE

1. ORDER

established roles in the home, at work, etc

Jesus organized the 5,000 in groups before he fed them

2. COMMUNICATION

Matt.5:37 yes means yes...

2 Cor. 1:16-20 (Liv. Bible)

say what you mean and mean what you say !

3. INDIVIDUAL RESPONSIBILITIES

Gal. 6:2—carry others burdens

Gal. 6:5— carry your own load

4. TRUST & SECURITY

establish moral absolutes

no situational ethics

learn benefits and consequences

* Functional people do have issues, but they find a way to work through them.

DYSFUNCTIONAL PEOPLE ...

1. CHAOS / CONFUSION

Corinthian church...

those who don't know outer from inner circles

2. MISUNDERSTANDINGS

some enable others live in denial when confronted with truth, try to
“level” the playing field by diverting.

3. MANIPULATION

Jezebel to Elijah

Jacob to Esau / Laban to Jacob

4. LACK OF HEALTHY BOUNDARIES

Judges 21:25— do what's right in your own eyes
David, Absalom, & Tamar ?

* Dysfunctional people choose **not** to work through their issues, they prefer crisis
ANGER MANAGEMENT !@#*

Goes from

UNREALISTIC EXPECTATIONS

what do I expect from this relationship?
are these expectations communicated?

to

UNRESOLVED ISSUES

do I let things go until I explode?
do I talk daily about my frustrations?

Which bring

OFFENSES

has someone crossed a personal boundary?
do they think it is real or perceived?

Turn into

ANGER

Do I talk it out, or act it out?
what is unacceptable behavior?

And explodes with

RAGE

do I have fits of uncontrolled actions?
did someone make me act this way?

* Cain had a problem with God and took it out on his brother ! (Gen. 4:6-8)

- **depression is usually anger turned inward /**
- **We feel like we have no control**

5 parts to the relationship puzzle :

like ingredients in a recipe. Leave something out and you ruin the dish! Don't use the right amount and you'll make me sick !

1. Isolation— sometimes, we need time alone
Mark 1:35 Jesus got away by himself (vacation)
Moses went up to the mountain.
(not a lifestyle but a regular encounter)

2. Separation— sanctification, set apart
James 4:4 Saul gave into peoples will and missed
out w/ God
2 Cor. 6:17 do we choose popularity or respect
bad company corrupts good character

3. Moderation— balance, temperance, avoid extremes
Ecc. 7:18
Phil. 4:5 children need mercy and discipline
Dan. 5:27 our lives are weighed in the balance
don't be mediocre and lukewarm, but
healthy, wise, and stable

4. Liberation— if you love something, set it free . . .
2 Cor. 3:17 we're free from sin, pride, oppression,
and ourselves, we should also release
others to live in freedom. Quit controlling!

5. Integration— go on someone else's "turf"
Luke 14:23 care enough to pursue them
don't always expect them to come to you

ADDITIONAL TEXT ON DISCIPLESHIP -

When we're uncertain about our relationship with God, we can evaluate by using the following Criteria. This is how we know we are his disciples.

<u>John 13:34,35</u>	loves God and people
<u>John 15:8</u>	bears fruit, has character
<u>Luke 14:27</u>	bears his cross, endures
<u>Matt. 16:24</u>	denies himself, has discipline
<u>John 8:31</u>	abides, stays connected
<u>John 14:15,21,23,24</u>	obeys Gods word

MENTORING

DO'S

DON'TS

1. Be real, be yourself	be a phony
2. Listen, empathize	ignore, dismiss
3. Embrace honesty, truth	hide your life, confuse the facts to make yourself look good
4. Be patient, wait for growth	get in a hurry
5. Be consistent	break promises be undependable
6. Encourage, affirm	Lord over / put down
7. Pray, study	leave religion to discover revelation an institutional approach
8. See the big picture	get hung up on personal preferences (Rom. 14)

SUGESTED THINGS TO DO TOGETHER

- | | |
|---|--------------------------|
| 1. Go to a ball game | 34. look at old pictures |
| 2. Have devotions | 35. go to a park |
| 3. Go bowling | 36. have a cookout |
| 4. Work on a service project | 37. make a quilt |
| 5. Go to a movie or rent a video | 38. |
| 6. Go on a walk or a hike | 39. |
| 7. Ride bikes | 40 |
| 8. Go to the mall | 41. |
| 9. Help a homeless person | 42 |
| 10. Build a model airplane | 43. |
| 11. Play computer games | 44. |
| 12. Collect stamps | 45 |
| 13. Wash a car | 46. |
| 14. Visit a college | 47. |
| 15. Read a book of the Bible | 48. |
| 16. do a chore for someone | 49. |
| 17. Cook a meal | 50. |
| 18. Go fishing | |
| 19. Fly a kite | |
| 20. Take some kind of lessons together | |
| 21. Attend a concert | |
| 22. Play video games | |
| 23. Go bungee jumping | |
| 24. Put a puzzle together | |
| 25. Read a novel and discuss it | |
| 26. Plan a birthday party for someone | |
| 27. Play golf, or driving range | |
| 28. Go to a museum | |
| 29. Go camping | |
| 30. Go hunting with a camera | |
| 31. Fix a meal and deliver to a shut-in | |
| 32. Play board games, cards | |
| 33. Exercise | |
| 34. | |
| 35. | |

SUGESTED QUESTIONS WHEN IN DOUBT

1. What is your earliest memory?
2. If you could star in a movie, what would it be about?
3. If you could give your parents anything for Christmas, what would it be?
4. What gets you really depressed?
5. Have you ever broken the law?
6. What was your favorite tv show when you were 8 yrs old?
7. If you could live any time in history, when?
8. If you could be a famous person, who would it be?
9. If you inherited a million \$ what would you do?
10. What is your pet peeve?
11. What's the funniest joke you've ever heard
12. What do your friends think about your family?
13. What's the best age to get married?
14. What makes you really mad?
15. When was the first time you fell in love?
16. What would be the ideal vacation?
17. When is the "Prime" of life?
18. What do you want in your eulogy?
19. What is something your really proud of?
20. Is there a day in your life you wish you could do over?
21. Who is your favorite relative? Why?
22. How do you think Christians should be different ?
23. Is there a skill or hobby you would like to learn?
24. What do you think of inter-racial marriages?
25. What's the best movie you've ever seen?
26. Do you have dreams often? What are they?
27. What is the scariest thing that ever happened to you?
28. What is your greatest fear?
29. If you could live anywhere, where would it be?
30. Where are your ancestors from?
31. What do you like to read?
32. Would you ever consider being a cop or fireman? Why?
33. How has life been fair / unfair to you?
34. What's your favorite food?

Reasons for bad (separated) Relationships

Personal / flesh,

(personality conflicts or character issues ?)

unjustified

Most of us justify broken relationships, but are unjustified before God. See conflict resolution pages

1. Selfishness—

James 3:¹⁴ But if you harbor bitter envy and **selfish ambition** in your hearts, do not boast about it or deny the truth. ¹⁵ Such "wisdom" does not come down from heaven but is earthly, unspiritual, of the devil. ¹⁶ For where you have envy and **selfish ambition**, there you find disorder and every evil practice. . . .^{JAS 4:1} What causes fights and quarrels among you? Don't they come from your desires that battle within you?

^{Proverbs 18:1} An unfriendly man pursues selfish ends; he defies all sound judgment.

Phil. 2:3-5

Ps. 119:36

Gal. 5:19,20

2. Pride—

^{PR 13:10} **Pride** only breeds quarrels, but wisdom is found in those who take advice.

Dan. 5:²⁰ But when his heart became arrogant and hardened with **pride**, he was deposed from his royal throne and stripped of his glory. ²¹ He was driven away from people and given the mind of an animal;

^{ICO 4:6} Now, brothers, I have applied these things to myself and Apollos for your benefit, so that you may learn from us the meaning of the saying, "Do not go beyond what is written." Then you will not take **pride** in one man over against another. ⁷ For who makes you different from anyone else? What do you have that you did not receive? And if you did receive it, why do you boast as though you did not?

3. Misunderstandings— (disagreements)

Acts 15:³⁹ They had such a sharp **disagreement** that they parted company. Barnabas took Mark and sailed for Cyprus, ⁴⁰ but Paul chose Silas and left, commended by the brothers to the grace of the Lord.

Reasons for bad (separated) Relationships

(James 4:4 / 2 Cor. 6:14 / Matt 18:15-17)

Scripturally justified

1. Immorality—

1 Cor.. 5: 9-11 I have written you in my letter not to associate with sexually immoral people-- ¹⁰ not at all meaning the people of this world who are immoral, or the greedy and swindlers, or idolaters. In that case you would have to leave this world. ¹¹ But now I am writing you that you must not associate with anyone who calls himself a brother but is sexually immoral or greedy, an idolater or a slanderer, a drunkard or a swindler. With such a man do not even eat.

*Who do we want to come to our church? Will we allow prostitutes, drug dealers, cult members, etc?
What kind of behavior will we not allow "in the church"? Are we expecting sinners to act like saints?
Are we making excuses for saints who act like sinners?*

2. Divisiveness— Prov. 6:16,19

Titus ^{3:9} But avoid foolish controversies and genealogies and arguments and quarrels about the law, because these are unprofitable and useless. ¹⁰ Warn a **divisive** person once, and then warn him a second time. After that, have nothing to do with him. ¹¹ You may be sure that such a man is warped and sinful; he is self-condemned.

^{RO 16:17} I urge you, brothers, to watch out for those who cause **divisions** and put obstacles in your way that are contrary to the teaching you have learned. Keep away from them.

3. Heresy -

^{2PE 2:1} But there were also false prophets among the people, just as there will be false teachers among you. They will secretly introduce destructive **heresies**, even denying the sovereign Lord who bought them--bringing swift destruction on themselves.

We must differentiate between cardinal doctrine & personal convictions (debatable issues). Authority of scripture, deity of Christ, Or methods of baptism, tongues, Etc. / Read Rom.ch. 14...

COVENANT RELATIONSHIPS . . .

Defined - promise, contract, mutual obligation, vow of commitment, sealed with a price (something of great value)

Scriptural examples:

Abraham / God	Gen.15:18, 17:4
Noah / God	Gen. 6:18
Jonathon / David	1 Sam. 20:17
Jesus / Disciples	Luke 22
Disciples / other disciples	Acts 2:42...

What is the difference in a “congregation” And a “community” of believers?

Congregation meets 1time a week in a corporate setting.
Community meets from house to house on a daily basis

Congregation hears public announcements
Community shares personal needs

Congregation is formal and cautious
Community is relaxed and trusting

Congregations campaign and vote
Communities appoint leaders and empower them

Congregation describes an official gathering of people
Community describes a way of living in harmony

Congregation lives by structure, titles and positions
Community lives by shared responsibility

Congregation has a visible, outward expression
Community is an internal belief system

Congregations have teachers and students in a classroom
Communities have examples and mentors

Congregations set policies and enforce rules
Communities listen and reach mutual goals