



HOW GOD WILL TRANSFORM YOU



**God's five Scriptural keys to transfigure you
from sin's slave to the Image of Christ**



**God
Leads**



**Faith Comes
by Hearing**



**Faith
Accesses
Grace**



**Grace Does
Righteousness**



**Righteousness
Transforms
You**

Scientia

How God Will Transform You

**God's Five Scriptural Keys
to Transfigure You from Sin's Slave to the
Image of Christ**

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Real Reality Books
Portage, Wisconsin

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This book is written to those who are born again. It's about where God wants to take you once you're born again.

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How God Will Transform You

TABLE OF CONTENTS

[Don't Miss Out](#)

[Warning!](#)
[Transfigured](#)

[God's Plan to Set You Free](#)
[Five Keys](#)
[What Happened?](#)
[Transformed](#)
[Join God's Family](#)

[The Good News](#)
[Much More](#)
[Five Keys](#)
[Key #1: God Speaks](#)

[How God Speaks](#)
[He Will Bring It To Your Remembrance](#)
[Through His People](#)
[Totally Yielded](#)
[How to Find Jesus](#)
[How to Recognize God's Voice](#)
[Satan's Tricks](#)
[Key #2: Faith Comes](#)

[Faith Is Not Making-Believe](#)
[Jesus Authors Faith](#)
[Faith is Substance and Evidence](#)
[Faith Can Be a Fruit](#)
[Faith Can Be a Gift](#)
[Faith by Hearing](#)
[Satan's Tricks](#)
[Pressing Toward God's Goal](#)
[Key #3: Faith Gives Access to Grace](#)

[Means of Grace](#)
[Works Spring From Grace—Not the Other Way Around](#)

[Satan's Tricks](#)

[Getting Closer](#)

[Key #4: Grace Does Works of Righteousness](#)

[Grace Works](#)

[Don't Get the Works Before the Grace](#)

[Righteousness is Real](#)

[The Narrow Way](#)

[Righteousness is Necessary](#)

[Yielding](#)

[Truth Will Set You Free](#)

[Christ, Your Wisdom](#)

[Satan's Tricks](#)

[One More Key](#)

[Key #5: God's Righteousness Transforms You](#)

[The Overcomers](#)

[Progressive and Habit-Forming](#)

[Descent into Darkness](#)

[Step #1 They Won't Listen to God](#)

[Step #2 They Become More Faithless](#)

[Step #3 The Flesh Acts](#)

[Step #4 They Sow Satan's Weeds](#)

[Step #5 They Become More Enslaved to Sin](#)

[The Upward Spiral from Glory to Glory into the Light](#)
[Answers](#)

[Christ Formed Within and the Carnal Nature Dead—How?](#)

[Create in Me a Clean Heart](#)

[Sweeping Out the Darkness](#)

[The Parable of the Sower](#)

[Refining Gold](#)

[Why Must You Yield?](#)

[Discerning the Body of Christ](#)

[Fitting into Christ's Body](#)

[Do You Love Jesus?](#)

[Now What Do You Do?](#)

[Book Club, Small Group Study, or Homeschool Questions](#)

[Free Stuff](#)

[About the Author](#)

Don't Miss Out

If you desire truth, read this book. If you hunger and thirst for righteousness, read this book. If you want to be transformed into all that's good and right, read this book. I'm not saying I have taken hold of all this, but God showed me how to take hold of all this and more. And He led me to write this book so others would not miss what they really want. Take a look at what I've written. See if the Holy Spirit testifies within you to its truth. If it does, take it seriously, and join me on an adventure with God. Remember what Paul said to the Philippian church.

Not that I have already obtained all this, or have already been made perfect (complete), but I press on to take hold of that for which Christ Jesus took hold of me. Brothers, I do not consider myself yet to have taken hold of it. But one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, I press on toward the goal to win the prize of God's heavenly calling in Christ Jesus. ~ Philippians 3:12-14 *Berean Study Bible*

I'm just like you. I want truth, righteousness, goodness, and transformation. I'm pressing toward the mark of my high calling in Christ Jesus. I haven't taken hold of it fully. It's just that God has shown me a little bit about how very high that calling is and how you and I can take hold of it.

The truths in this book are simple, but they may show you God's plan from a different angle. As a diamond sparkles differently when you turn it and look from a different angle, so it is with God's Kingdom. A child can understand the words in this book. However, the spiritual truths are deep and must be understood through the eyes of the Spirit. Sometimes, children have an advantage since they aren't carrying around as many preconceived ideas. You can read the book in an evening, but it may

take several readings and much prayer for you to absorb what God is telling you.

Warning!

But their minds were closed. For to this day the same veil remains at the reading of the old covenant. It has not been lifted, because only in Christ can it be removed. And even to this day when Moses is read, a veil covers their hearts. But whenever anyone turns to the Lord, the veil is taken away. ~ 2 Corinthians 3:15-16 *Berean Study Bible*

The religious people of that day closed their minds. They had their theologies. Those theologies explained the Scripture, so they never saw the Scripture. They only saw their old theologies. They had it all worked out just how Messiah would come, so when He came, He didn't look like their preconceived ideas. And they missed Him.

So, did God preserve this writing in Paul's Second Letter to the Corinthians so we could point our fingers at those religious people of that day? Or is He also warning us?

He is also warning us.

We all hold opinions about what the Bible is saying. We have our doctrines and theologies. If you look around, you see people who don't agree with you about your doctrines. They make different assumptions and interpret Scripture differently. They come to different conclusions. They never see Scripture as it's written.

And neither do we. We have inner strongholds in our minds. We have built worldviews that seem more real than real reality. Our worldviews filter out parts of reality and confirm our biases toward the lies we believe.

When you look at life through the strongholds of your worldview, you don't feel like you're filtering anything. You don't feel like you're confirming biases toward lies you believe. You feel like you're looking at reality as it really is. I have the same problem. This book is largely about how you can break out of the limits of your strongholds through the power of the Holy Spirit.

But whenever anyone turns to the Lord, the veil is taken away.

The Bible says whenever anyone turns to the Lord, the fleshly veil is taken away. As long as we turn ourselves toward the Lord, we can see reality. The Holy Spirit pulls the veil away from our eyes. When we focus on our own understanding, we focus on the veil and we can't see. The veil of our sinful flesh, everything we think we know, keeps us from seeing reality as it is.

Here's the problem. As you read this book, it's going to talk about things like salvation, faith, hope, grace, and many other familiar topics. Your mind is going to say, "Oh, I know all about this." Then, you'll see something you never considered before. And it's about a subject you think you know all about. It's about a subject you've closed your mind on. Your mind is convinced it knows all about this subject, so there's nothing to add.

And yet, now you see something that doesn't quite fit comfortably into your worldview.

How does your mind react? Your mind doesn't say, "That conflicts with my belief system that I've constructed." Your mind says, "That conflicts with reality." Your mind sees your belief system as reality. There may be parts where your mind is open, but there are parts of your inner worldview where your mind is closed. You have closure. You see no need for God to show you anything more. It's just like the religious people of long ago.

But their minds were closed.

So what does your mind do when it runs into this conflict between truth and the old theology, doctrine, or worldview? Your mind might ignore the truth and cast it aside without giving it any serious thought. It's as if you never heard it. Your mind doesn't even process it. On the other hand, your mind might fight against the truth, deny it, and justify its own worldview. Of course, your mind won't call your worldview a worldview. The worldview seems like reality. Your mind may try to take the truth and fit it into your current worldview. Jesus talked about that when He talked about putting new wine into old wineskins.

No one sews a patch of unshrunk cloth on an old garment. If he does, the new piece will pull away from the old, and a worse tear will result. And no one pours

new wine into old wineskins. If he does, the wine will burst the skins, and both the wine and the wineskins will be ruined. Instead, new wine is poured into new wineskins.~ Mark 2:21-22 *Berean Study Bible*

Let me give you a quick preview of what you will read in this book, and you'll understand why I quoted that passage of Scripture. Some are born again and yet don't want to know Jesus Christ or their Heavenly Father. They pray and are active in their church. They walk carefully to stay away from sin, but they don't want to know God. Many don't even think it's possible to know God in any real way. They have a form of religion. They believe in God, but they don't believe God can be active and alive in their lives leading them moment by moment in every situation.

Jesus is real and knowable. The Father is real and knowable through Christ. The Holy Spirit is real and knowable. Anyone can check this out. All who seek Christ in persistence and sincerity find Christ. Christ reveals Himself to every person, even those who don't seek Him. Some are in denial. They call themselves atheists or agnostics. However, they know. God has revealed Himself to them. And God has revealed everything that can be known about the Godhead. That means they know about the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. (see Romans 1:19) No one has an excuse. (see Romans 1:20) Christ is the Light, and He lights every person who comes into the world. (see John 1:9) He shines His light and reveals truth to those who aren't born again from the outside in. He shines His light and reveals truth to those who are born again from the inside out. Christ leads, teaches, and corrects ALL who follow Him. God speaks through the Bible and every means of divine revelation found in the Bible.

The Light came into the world, but people loved darkness rather than light because their deeds were evil. (see John 3:19) God created us to be joined to Him in a holy union. He designed our spirits, minds, and bodies to be joined to Him. He designed us to flow in the Anointing of the Holy Spirit. When Jesus said, "their deeds were evil" He is talking about sin. Sin is either slipping or stepping off the Pathway to life. Jesus Christ is the Pathway to Life, and He's the truth or light that shines on that Pathway. (see John 14:6)

All of this wouldn't make much difference if God wasn't doing something with it. Little by little God is changing us. He's forming us

into the image and likeness of Christ. How is He doing this? He has five keys. First, God speaks. God leads. (see Hebrews 3:15) When God leads and we listen, God's faith comes. (see Romans 10:17) Jesus is the spoken word of God, which is why Jesus authors and finishes our faith. (see Hebrews 12:2) Faith accesses grace. (see Romans 5:2) Grace says God's words and does God's acts through us as we yield. (see Hebrews 12:28) When God moves and we yield, the Holy Spirit changes us. (see Romans 6:19) These five keys are the focus of this study, and we'll explain the five keys in more detail in the next session.

I'll go into some depth on all of this in this short book.

As you read this book, you may question what you read. That's good. It's unwise to accept anything without knowing whether it's true or false. At the same time, question what you've always believed to be true. Ask the Holy Spirit, "How do I know this is true?" Make sure those beliefs came from divine revelation and not from theological rationalizations about what God has revealed. Put your questions before the Lord with prayer, and wait on Him for His wisdom and understanding to flow through you.

Transfigured

God's Plan to Set You Free

God has great plans for you. His plans are beyond what you could ever imagine. He will give you blessings beyond what you could ask for or even think about. And He's revealed exactly how you can enter into His coming blessings. God has given you a simple Path to freedom. He spelled it out in Scripture. God's Path is easy for you to understand, but it won't always be easy for you to walk.

This Path will cost you dearly. It's the Path of love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, and faith. Love will cost you all your hate and fear. Joy will cost you all your depression and self-pity. Patience will cost you all your impatience. Kindness will cost you all your cruelty. Goodness will cost you all your bad habits and evil. Faith will cost you all your doubts and false assumptions. Who wants that nonsense anyway?

Five Keys

I hope you're born again into God's family. If not, that's the first step. God will give you the five keys in the Bible. These five keys will open one door after another for you. You will walk in the Spirit to your transfiguration. You will walk with these five keys from the Bible.



These are the five keys by which you were born again. You aren't finished when you're born again. You're just getting started. Now, you must live your life by the same five keys. This is the Royal Law of Liberty that fulfills God's Law. These are the keys to your

transformation, which is what salvation is all about. God saved you from sin, death, and futility. God saved you to righteousness, holiness, life, and glory. Sin starts a downward spiral toward commonness and uncleanness. Righteousness is God's righteousness. We created beings can only self-generate self-righteousness. In contrast, God's righteousness is God (His grace) doing His works through you as you yield to His righteousness. Righteousness starts an upward spiral toward holiness. Holiness isn't an action. Holiness is a transformation in what you are. The Holy Spirit will completely form Christ in you, and the fleshly, rebellious nature will be gone. You'll understand it completely before you finish this book.

Unfortunately, Satan has redefined every important word. He redefined words like "the word of God," "faith," "grace," "love," "righteousness," and "holiness." The Bible defines ALL these words, and we'll look at the real definitions for these words according to the Bible.

Look at the proud one; his soul is not upright—but **the righteous will live by faith.** ~ Habakkuk 2:4 *Berean Study Bible*

The New Testament writers quoted Habakkuk 2:4 in Romans 1:17, Galatians 3:11, and Hebrews 10:38. The King James translation says, "**The just shall live by faith.**" If you walk in the Spirit, you live your life by the faith of God. The faith of God isn't human faith. You live by faith using these five Scriptural keys. Knowing about them isn't enough to do anything. You must live them moment by moment. They aren't restricted to the moment when you were born again and never to be followed again. These keys are for every moment of every day until God completely transforms you into the image and likeness of Christ.

You'll repeatedly use these five keys. Each time you use these five keys the Holy Spirit will use these keys to transfigure you. Human weakness might wish for instant gratification. You may be impatient. However, God's way isn't instant. God's way is sure and steady. You need to exercise patience. Each time you use these five keys, you take a step in the Spirit. The Holy Spirit is transforming you from glory to glory into the image of Christ.

If you picture yourself peeling off the layers of an onion, you understand what the Holy Spirit is doing in you. Onions don't have many layers, but you have many layers. Each layer is so thin you hardly notice the difference when the Holy Spirit removes a layer. Sometimes,

you experience a breakthrough, and you notice the change. Most of the time, you remove a thin layer, and you hardly notice the change. In every moment, the Holy Spirit allows you to use God's five keys and remove another layer. You make progress in the spiritual realm if you don't give up. Even though progress is slow, you'll understand God's wisdom when He's finished forming you into the image and likeness of Christ. Keep on keeping on. The best is yet to come.

What Happened?



God has given you a simple Path to freedom.

God's Path is easy for you to understand,
but it won't always be easy for you to walk.

You were born a slave. You aren't alone. Everyone is born a slave. It wasn't your fault. It wasn't my fault. You inherited it, but you aren't stuck with it. God has a plan to set you and me free.

Do you not know that when you offer yourselves as obedient slaves, you are slaves to the one you obey, whether you are slaves to sin leading to death, or to obedience leading to righteousness? ~ Romans 6:16
Berean Study Bible

Your first ancestors were Adam and Eve. They obeyed Satan instead of obeying God, and that started the problem. When Adam and Eve obeyed Satan, a spiritual law said, "Whoever you yield yourself as a servant to obey, that's whose servant you are." Adam and Eve became slaves of Satan. Sin came to live in them in what's called the fleshly or carnal nature. Their children were born as slaves. Their grandchildren became slaves. And so every person from then until now has done what's wrong. Sin lived in all of them. Satan was their slave master. Death and sorrow entered into the world because of sin. All the trouble in the world comes because of sin. Every generation tried to be perfect, but no one did what's right without sinning. That includes you. Sin lives in you. You can't perfectly obey God because of the sin that lives in you, but God has a plan to set you free.

"There is no one righteous,
not even one.

There is no one who understands,
no one who seeks God.
All have turned away,
they have together become worthless;
there is no one who does good,
not even one.” ~ Romans 3:10-12 *Berean Study Bible*

Many slaves don't know they are slaves. Some Christians even willingly remain in slavery after coming to Christ. They serve Satan gladly. Satan tells them they are free, and they believe the lie. They aren't committing murder, but they aren't living their lives in the fountain of continual wisdom flowing with power from God's Throne either. Many can't even imagine what that would be like. They're just doing whatever they want to do. In their minds, they do everything right. In their minds, they are the most righteous people they know. They decide what's right and what's wrong. Or, they may try to fulfill the Law of Moses. However, they can't follow God's Law because they are slaves of Satan. And, deep within, they know they are hypocrites and liars.

God set Adam and Eve over His whole creation. When they obeyed and became servants of Satan, Satan became ruler over everything else. Death and destruction rippled through the animals, plants, rocks, mountains, and stars. Creation fell into Satan's hands. And yet, God doesn't allow Satan to do anything he wants. He's still under God's control. Even so, the creation you see around you isn't nearly as beautiful and perfect as what God created.



Sin: Stepping or slipping off God's path.

In plain English, sin is doing what you want to do instead of what God wants you to do. God is love, so sin is anything that isn't love.

For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord. ~ Romans 6:23 *King James Version*

God knew all about what Satan was going to do before Satan did it. God knew what Adam and Eve would do before they sinned. God knew they wouldn't do what He told them to do. And He had a plan to make something wonderful from what Satan ruined. He could look ahead and

see the choices every person would make. He knew the choices you would make.

Why did God create our universe when He knew Satan would tempt mankind and the entire creation would fall into Satan's hands? Why did God create Lucifer when He knew Lucifer would rebel against Him?

“What is man that You are mindful of him, Or the son of man that You take care of him? You have made him a little lower than the angels; You have crowned him with glory and honor, And set him over the works of Your hands. You have put all things in subjection under his feet.” ~ Hebrews 2:6b-8a *New King James Version*

God made Adam and Eve a little lower than the angels, but He had greater plans for the world. He's been patient for thousands of years as He guides us in His plan for His creation. Look at how high your calling is.

Do you not know that we will judge angels? ~ 1
Corinthians 6:3 *Berean Study Bible*

You can't picture the glory God is going to reveal in you and me. You can't imagine it. It's too high for your mind, but you will see it.

I consider that our present sufferings are not comparable to the glory that will be revealed in us. ~
Romans 8:18 *Berean Study Bible*

God will reveal that glory in you and me. God will reveal it in us. You can't speculate about it. You have to wait until God reveals it. God shows you what you need to do right now to receive this glory. You must avoid the pitfalls.

Transformed

God is love. He created you to be joined to His love. If everyone listened to God and obeyed God, we would all love each other. We would always treat each other right. We would always be good. We would never be bad. And yet, you see people do bad things sometimes. People sin. Sin is what separates you from God. God created you to be joined to Him and to be free to serve Him. The problem is sin and our slavery to sin. You have a slavery problem, but God will set you free.

God wants to set you free now. Not only does God intend to set you free, but He also intends to transform you.

Do not be conformed to this world, but be **transformed** by the renewing of your mind. ~ Romans 12:2a *New King James Version*

The Greek word translated as “transformed” is “metamorphoo.” A caterpillar in a cocoon transforms into a butterfly. It goes into the cocoon as a caterpillar and comes out as a butterfly. We call that metamorphosis.



Transfigure: transform into something more beautiful.

In plain English, God wants to make you like Jesus Christ.

“Metamorphoo” is the word the Bible uses to describe the time Jesus was transfigured on the mountain. Jesus went up the mountain with Peter, James, and John and was transfigured before them.

And was **transfigured** before them: and his face did shine as the sun, and his raiment was white as the light.
~ Matthew 17:2 *King James Version*

The Holy Spirit wants to transfigure you into the image and likeness of Christ with power and authority. According to Romans 12:2a, God will transfigure you by renewing your mind. The Holy Spirit will give you a new mind, and that will transform you into the image and likeness of Christ.

How will the Holy Spirit transform you? By renewing your mind. You are warring against evil princes and powerful beings in the spiritual realm. You’re fighting a spiritual battle over your mind.

God doesn’t want you to just change your mind. He wants you to exchange your mind for His mind. God doesn’t just want you to change your life. He wants you to exchange your life for His Life. This is a new kind of Life that you’ve never known. It’s more wonderful than anything you can imagine.

So how will God do this? And what is your part in what God is doing? Let’s get the answers to those questions.

Join God's Family

First, God exists, and whoever wants God finds God. Everyone knows this because God shows them. He speaks to every person through the things He has created. Some people argue with atheists and try to present evidence that God exists, but atheists already know. They're just experts at ignoring God and denying reality.

No one can come to Me unless the Father who sent Me draws him ~ John 6:44 *New King James Version*

You probably don't remember the first time God spoke to you about this, but you may remember many times when you stood in wonder when you saw the beauty of creation. Your sense of wonder was streaming from the voice of God. You could sense the great wisdom of the Creator God. Not only that, if you read the Bible, God speaks to you directly through the Bible. Suppose you meet a Christian who is speaking by the Holy Spirit. As this Christian tells you about Jesus Christ, God is speaking to you. As you read this book, God is speaking to you directly through this book. God speaks to everyone regardless of whether they're born again.

Even though the creation fell into the hands of Satan and is now imperfect, it still shows you the majesty of God. As you look at the stars on a clear night and feel that sense of awe, you're experiencing God speaking to you of His greatness. The heavens are declaring the glory of God as God speaks to you through them so you have a sense of praise and admiration. When you watch a beautiful butterfly and see the artwork of the wings and see its beautiful dance, you're fascinated and captivated because God is showing you just a glimpse of His brilliance. Then, as God paints a glorious sunset, you stand amazed in wonder at the glory and extravagance of your God. In the same way, God sends a Christian to lift you and encourage you and show you God's glory, so God sends the creation He has created to cheer you and fill you with respect.

God speaks to you through your intuition. For example, He shows you that some things look like someone designed them and built them. If I told you this book just popped together by chance one day, you wouldn't

believe me. You would know I was lying. You would know an author wrote this book and someone made the illustrations and pictures in this book. You know a painter painted the paintings in an art gallery. When you look at a building, you know someone built it. When you look at the complex and beautiful cells that make up any living plant or animal, you know only God could have engineered and built them.



Intuition: the ability to understand something immediately, without the need for conscious reasoning.

In plain English, intuition is one of the ways God can show you truth. You know even though you can't explain how you know except God showed you.

You know these things because the Light of Christ reveals them to you. Christ is the Light. Christ lights every person who comes into the world. ALL knowledge is hidden in Christ. Before a person is born again, Christ's Light shines on them from the outside. After a person is born again, Christ's Light is in them shining out from them. You look at a product, and you know someone designed and built it. God shows it to you. You call it intuition since you know without using conscious logic.

God's Light shines in the darkness, but the darkness doesn't eagerly embrace it and hold tightly to it. The darkness tries to shield itself from the Light. When those who walk in darkness continually refuse to accept the Light or let the Light destroy their darkness, God eventually lets them have their darkness. Then, they become increasingly deaf and blind. They didn't want the truth, so they believe the lies that come their way.

When you see how beautiful and complex even the simplest cell is, you know it's designed. It has tiny but powerful computers and robots in it, and everything works perfectly. It's more complicated than a city or a jet plane. It has more code written in it than we can put into our best computers. You know someone designs and builds cities. You know someone designs and builds airplanes. You know Someone designed and built the simplest cell. And only God could have designed and built the cell.

You know God exists by intuition. You know it's Him speaking to you by intuition. You know the Bible is God's word without error because God tells you this through your intuition.

Some people reject what God shows them. Those people say, “There is no God.” God calls them “fools.” They are foolish for many reasons.

For what may be known about God is plain to them, because **God has made it plain (revealed it)** to them. For since the creation of the world God’s invisible qualities, His eternal **power** and divine nature, have been clearly seen, being understood from His workmanship, so that men are **without excuse**. ~ Romans 1:19-20 *Berean Study Bible*

God shows you He’s the designer and builder of everything. He reveals it to you. Everyone knows it. You don’t have to depend on imagination. You don’t need to make assumptions. You don’t have to invent stories. God doesn’t say “they should have figured it out.” God says He revealed it to them. He revealed it to you. God makes it known to you. He shows you that He exists, but He also shows you His invisible qualities. He shows you a lot about Himself. He wants to make peace with you and have a relationship with you.

When God shows you something, you can’t miss it. You can’t miss it, but you can dismiss it. You can ignore it. If you ignore God, you darken your thinking. If you shut God out, you shut out God’s Light. If you ignore God’s voice, you become irrational. That would be foolish, so open your mind to God.

Don’t ignore God’s voice. Don’t shut out God’s Light.



Fallacy: faulty reasoning; misleading or unsound argument.

In plain English, a fallacy is something that tricks your mind or makes you think a lie is the truth.

You may wonder about what I’m going to say next, but you’ll understand it if you understand how rational thought works. To be rational, we must base our thoughts on truth. The human mind has no method to reason to truth. The human mind can only make bare claims, reason in a circle, or support claims with unproved proofs. It can’t reason to truth. All truth is hidden in Christ. That’s why atheists are irrational. Humanists are irrational. It’s not that they don’t receive truth just like everyone else does. It’s just that they don’t acknowledge the truth came from Christ. So they have some measure of truth, but they

can't tell the truth from the false claims that come from fallen human minds or demons. They refuse to acknowledge God, so they have to think with lies and fallacies instead of truth. To them, everything becomes relative. They can't see absolutes. Without truth, there are no absolutes. Depending on how much they have blocked out the Light of Christ, they can't tell right from wrong, truth from lies, or reality from make-believe. Unfortunately, Christians who don't acknowledge the leading and teaching of Christ have the same problem. And we will all suffer from this problem somewhat until the Spirit of Christ fully transforms us into the image and likeness of Christ.

For although they knew God, they **neither glorified Him as God nor gave thanks to Him**, but they **became futile in their thinking and darkened in their foolish hearts.** ~ Romans 1:21 *Berean Study Bible*

When you listen to God and believe He exists, that gets you ready for your first step with God. As soon as you realize God exists and that He's holy, righteous, and good, you also realize you have sin in yourself. You begin to hunger and thirst for righteousness. You want the sin gone. You know you aren't clean, and you know you aren't worthy to stand in God's presence. You know you need Jesus to save you from your sin and your sinful nature.

The first step you take with God is when you're born again by the Holy Spirit. Being born again is where you start. Just as your natural life began with your natural birth, your spiritual life begins with your spiritual birth. Those of us who know Jesus Christ have been born again by the Spirit. If you aren't born again, you need to know how to be born again. Without being born again, you can't understand anything important. You must be born again.



You must be born again.

The Good News

You're born again as soon as you believe Jesus paid the price for your sins. Adam and Eve disobeyed God and obeyed Satan. Jesus Christ never once obeyed Satan, and He always obeyed His Father. That's how Jesus overcame death. He was obedient through life, through His suffering, and even to the point of laying down His life. It's not hard to understand.

The Father calls you. God speaks to you. He calls you. He shows you that you can't be perfect. If you do wrong, God shines His Light on that. You know you did wrong right away. God shows you that you need Him because He loves you. He shows you that you're lost without Him. Then, He shows you the answer to all your problems. You hear about what Jesus did for you. You hear about how He paid the price to set you free from sin. When you hear this, you're hearing God's voice telling you the good news. God may speak through a person, this book, or the Bible.



When you listen to God's voice, the faith of God comes to you so you can believe. When you believe, you're born again into God's family by grace.

Here's a Bible verse that tells you about being born again.

Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with
God **through our Lord Jesus Christ** ~ Romans 5:1
King James Version

When God justifies you, He acquits you. God declares you innocent. You know you've done things you shouldn't have done. And yet, God declares you innocent. He can do this because His Son, Jesus, paid for your sins on the cross. Jesus paid your debt, so God can declare you debt-free. God loved you so much that He gave His unique Son so when you believe in His Son, you won't die, but you'll have His Life in you that never ends.



Justified: declared innocent; acquitted

In plain English, God is your judge, and He declares you not guilty because Jesus took your punishment by dying on the cross.

God says you're innocent when you don't deserve to be called "innocent." It's not that you haven't ever done anything wrong. Jesus paid the price of everything you did wrong. Then, the Father forgave you. The Father made peace with you. He gave this to you as a gift. You can't buy it. You don't have any goodness of your own to pay for it, but you don't have to pay for it. It's free. God justifies you. He declares you innocent because of your faith. And He gave you His faith as another gift. By faith, you're born into the Kingdom of God. You become part of God's family. You were a slave of Satan, but now you're a child of God. When you were born again by the Spirit, God was starting His work in you.

For at just the right time, while we were still powerless, Christ died for the ungodly. Very rarely will anyone die for a righteous man, though for a good man someone might possibly dare to die. But God proves His love for us in this: **While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.** ~ Romans 5:6-8 *Berean Study Bible*

You're born again based on nothing but what Jesus Christ has done. You're born again based on the blood of Jesus. God even gave you the faith to believe. God gave you His faith by speaking to you in your innermost being. You recognize His voice because He created you. You were born as a baby. Being born again has nothing to do with works of righteousness. You just had to receive God's gift. God won't force Himself on anyone, but anyone who wants to can come to God. When you're born again, you've started on the Path to your transfiguration. You're on the Path to growing up.

Jesus answered and said to him, "Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God." Nicodemus said to Him, "How can a man be born when he is old? Can he enter a second time into his mother's womb and be born?" Jesus answered, "Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born of water *and the Spirit*, he cannot enter the kingdom of God. That

which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. Do not marvel that I said to you, 'You must be born again.' The wind blows where it wishes, and you hear the sound of it, but cannot tell where it comes from and where it goes. So is everyone who is born of the Spirit." ~ John 3:3-8 *New King James Version*

You were born again when faith came to you. You can't work up faith. Faith isn't making yourself believe. Faith isn't assuming since that would be make-believe. Faith isn't make-believe. Faith isn't faking it until you make it. In a world of fakers, faith is real. You need the real faith of God.



Rhema: God's utterance; God's spoken words

In plain English, God speaks to you in many ways. He speaks through the Bible, through people, and through His creation.

Real faith comes to you when you hear, and you hear when God speaks to you.

that if you confess with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. For with your heart you believe and are justified, and with your mouth you confess and are saved. ~ Romans 10:9-10 *Berean Study Bible*

God's speaking is called His "rhema." "Rhema" means utterance. Utterance means a spoken word. God speaks to you through Scripture. God also speaks to you through Christians who yield to the Holy Spirit. God can speak to you any way He wants to. When God speaks to you, He provides His faith to you.

That's how you are born again. God speaks to you. You hear Him and acknowledge Him, and His faith comes to you. Jesus Christ authors God's faith in you. God's faith opens the door to God's grace, and God's grace speaks through you to confess that Jesus is now your Lord. That changes your heart. You were born again by the flowing water of the Holy Spirit. If you think of flowing water or the wind, the Holy Spirit is like that. He flows. You can feel His presence. You can hear Him whisper.

Whoever believes in Me, as the Scripture has said: 'Streams of living water will flow from within him.' **He was speaking about the Spirit**, whom those who believed in Him were later to receive. For the Spirit had not yet been given, because Jesus had not yet been glorified. ~ John 7:38-39 *Berean Study Bible*

God Speaks and faith comes



When God gives you His faith, you're born into God's Kingdom by the springing fountain of the Holy Spirit. Your spirit changes as it unites with the Holy Spirit.



You are a three-part creature. You are spirit, soul, and body. Your soul is your mind. Your soul is your life.

And the very God of peace sanctify you wholly; and I pray God your whole **spirit and soul and body** be preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. ~ 1 Thessalonians 5:23 *King James Version*

You have a **spirit, soul, and body**. The Greek word translated as "soul" is also translated as "mind," "heart," or "life." God created you as a three-part creature. You are **spirit, mind, and body**.



Soul: the mind, life, and heart of a person.

In plain English, your soul is your mind and your life. God created your spirit to rule over your soul. God created your soul to rule over your body.

Once you're born again, the Holy Spirit joins your spirit and begins to lead you. He speaks to you through the Bible. And He speaks to you

through every means of divine revelation mentioned in the Bible. Now you are in a battle, fighting for your mind and life.

God wants your soul for Life. Sin wants your soul for death. The Holy Spirit is working in you to transform your mind. Sin is working through the flesh of your body to stop God's transformation.



As soon as you're born again, you quickly find you still have a fleshly nature.
Your fleshly nature still wants to sin.
That new Person born within you cannot sin.
The new Person is Christ in you. Christ never sins.

As soon as you're born again, you quickly find you still have a fleshly nature. Your fleshly nature still wants to sin. That new Person born within you cannot sin. The new Person is Christ in you. Christ never sins. He lives in you, and He can't sin. He is your hope of glory.

To them God has chosen to make known among the Gentiles the glorious riches of this mystery, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory. ~ Colossians 1:27
Berean Study Bible

What do you do about your troublesome, rebellious fleshly nature? If you follow the flesh, you head toward death. If you follow Christ, you head toward Life. So, what are you going to do? You identify with the Christ in you. That's who you ARE. You are NOT your carnal nature anymore. You HAVE a carnal nature, but you owe nothing to your carnal nature. You don't have to obey it even though your carnal nature wants to have its way. And so, your battle begins.

Much More

Notice the words, "**much more**" in the following passage.

Therefore, since we have now been justified by His blood, **how much more shall we be saved from wrath through Him!** For if, when we were enemies, we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, **much more, being reconciled, we shall be saved by his life.** Not only that, but we also rejoice in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have

now received reconciliation. ~ Romans 5:9-11 *Berean Study Bible*

You have been justified, acquitted. You shall be saved. God acquits you and joins Himself to you, but He's saying He has more for you than that. Romans 5:9-11 says you shall be saved from wrath through Him.

What causes the wrath of God? Your sin. When you sin, your sin causes the wrath of God. God saved you from sin. God saved you to righteousness. Righteousness is a gift that comes from God to you. And, as you'll see, **God's gift of righteousness leads to your transfiguration.**



Five Keys

You're born to grow up. God has a way to transfigure you after you're born again. It's simple. It's easy to understand. You're learning to know the difference between God's voice and all the others and to yield to His Spirit in willing obedience and submission. Your part is to listen and yield to God. When you listen to God, God puts His faith into you. God's Spirit flows through you and does God's work. If you resist God's Spirit, He lifts from you.

The Bible calls it walking in the Spirit. If you're walking in the Spirit, you are walking from where you are to somewhere else. You aren't walking in place and going nowhere. You're walking toward your transfiguration.

So I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh. For the flesh craves what is contrary to the Spirit, and the Spirit what is contrary to the flesh.

They are opposed to each other, so that you do not do what you want. ~ Galatians 5:16-17 *Berean Study Bible*

If you're walking in the Spirit, you must stay on the Pathway or you'll walk to the wrong place. You'll take a wrong turn. To avoid that, the Bible gives you a robust view of how to walk in the Spirit to your transfiguration.

Since we live by the Spirit, let us walk in step with the Spirit. ~ Galatians 5:25 *Berean Study Bible*

God will transform you. You must walk day by day in the same way you were born into God's family. When you were born again, you came alive by the power and authority of the Spirit. Now that the Holy Spirit has brought you to life, keep in step with the Holy Spirit as He leads you. You can only do this by yielding to His power. Scripture gives you God's way in these five keys:



Here are the five keys from Scripture.

Key #1: "Today if you should hear His voice, do not harden your hearts," from Hebrews 3:15

Key #2: "So then faith *comes* by hearing, and hearing by the word of God," from Romans 10:17

Key #3: "We have gained access by faith into this grace in which we stand," from Romans 5:2

Key #4: "Let us have grace, by which we may serve God," from Hebrews 12:28

Key #5: "Righteousness leading to holiness," from Romans 6:19

When you're born again, you're born again by these five keys. The Father calls you and brings you to Christ. You hear His voice and His faith comes. His faith opens the door to His grace. His grace confesses that Jesus is your Lord, and you open your mouth and confess Jesus. A Holy Seed is planted in you, and you will never be the same. Your spirit is transformed and joined to the Holy Spirit.

You've gone over these five keys lightly in regard to being born again. In the following chapters, you'll see how each of these keys works to transform you into the image and likeness of Christ with authority and power so you can rule with Christ in the Kingdom of God.

Study these keys and give them some thought. You could state the five keys as two keys, but you would miss a lot if you did. You could just say, "The Holy Spirit leads me, and I'm learning to listen and yield myself to God in willing submission and obedience." However, you can have a much more complete and wonderful picture of what's happening when you see the five keys in Scripture.



Walking in the Spirit: Walking in God's will.

In plain English, you're listening to God's leading and yielding to His Spirit. You're allowing God to do His works and say His words through you instead of doing your own works and saying your own words.

God leads you moment by moment and takes you through these five keys each moment. These five keys fit a composite lock. You must fit each one of these keys into God's lock in the exact order and method God designed. Satan has plans and tricks to stop you, but God gives you specific ways to overcome each one of Satan's tricks. This has been a mystery God hid in plain sight for ages, and now He's revealing it to you. It's all in the Bible.

Key #1: God Speaks



How can you know God's will?

I am the LORD your God, who teaches you for your benefit, who directs you in the way you should go. ~
Isaiah 48:17b *Berean Study Bible*

When the Biblical translation says “*word*,” the original language says “*a spoken statement*.” God speaks to you. The Spirit leads you. Everyone who seeks Christ finds Christ. Christ leads, teaches, and corrects every person who follows Him.

Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every *word* that proceeds from the mouth of God. ~ Matthew 4:4b
New King James Version



The Word of God: God's Rhema or Logos.

In plain English, whenever the English Bible says “word,” the original language says “statement.” God speaks to you. He leads and teaches you through the Bible and every means of divine revelation mentioned in the Bible.

Without Christ, you have no wisdom. You might have rationalized wisdom, but rationalized wisdom doesn't have the truth. Without Christ, you can't have truth, knowledge, or understanding. Without Christ, you can have strong opinions but not truth. You can't be righteous without Christ. Without Christ, you can only be self-righteous. The good news is you can have everything through Christ if you will give yourself to Him.

Whoever belongs to God hears the *words* of God. The reason you do not hear is that you do not belong to God.
~ John 8:47 *Berean Study Bible*

God speaks to you through the Bible. We say the Bible is God's word, and that means God speaks to you through the Bible. It's God speaking to you. And you will never find an error in the Bible. If you ask God about the Bible, He tells you that you can believe it.

The Bible is the standard by which you can judge any other form of revelation. If someone claims to have a revelation or a Word from God you check it against the Bible. If the supposed "revelation" conflicts with the Bible, it isn't a revelation from God. If someone teaches a theology, you check that theology against the Bible. If it conflicts with the Bible, the theology isn't true. And yet, a supposed "revelation" or theology that doesn't conflict with the Bible might also be false. The Holy Spirit will reveal if a revelation is from God. The Holy Spirit will tell you whether a theology is true or false. You may have to withhold judgment until God gives you a firm revelation.

When the Bible speaks about itself, it uses the word "Scripture" rather than "word." The Word is God speaking. The Word is the Living Christ. It's easy to misunderstand Scripture when you don't understand the meaning of the words in Scripture. In this case, many people misunderstand the meaning of "word." They say, "This Bible verse says 'word,' and 'word' means 'Bible.'" That's not true. They change what the Bible is saying when they say that. When they change what the Bible is saying, they confuse it. The Bible is one of many ways God speaks to you, but the Bible doesn't even tell you what the Bible is. The Bible never lists the books that make up the Bible. We accept the 66 books as being the Bible, but have you ever asked the Holy Spirit? I've asked the Holy Spirit, and the Holy Spirit assures me these are the 66 books of the Bible. You know the Bible is God's Word without error because God speaks to you through intuition, His creation, and those who speak by the power and authority of the Holy Spirit. God tells you the Bible is His Word without error.

The Bible says, "Scripture cannot be broken," but some people say the Bible is only the Old Testament. Others say the Bible includes the Apocrypha. Others imagine other ideas. The Bible doesn't identify what books are in the Bible. God doesn't tell you what books are in the Bible through the Bible. God does tell you what books are in the Bible, but He doesn't use the Bible to tell you. And your fallen human mind doesn't figure it out. You need to know Jesus Christ personally. The Holy Spirit must lead you and teach you.



When the Biblical translation says “word,”
the original language says “a spoken statement.”
God speaks to you. The Spirit leads you.
Everyone who seeks Christ finds Christ.

You can't have **truth, knowledge, wisdom, and righteousness** without Christ since God has hidden ALL truth, knowledge, wisdom, and righteousness in Christ. God will reveal truth, knowledge, and wisdom to you if you ask Him. He will give you righteousness and keep you from anything wrong or evil. Your responsibility is to hear and yield yourself to God's Spirit.

How God Speaks

How does God speak? God has many ways of speaking, but He always speaks from the spiritual realm. The spiritual realm is higher than the natural realm. It's not higher in altitude but it's higher in authority. Scripture talks about the inner man. That may be speaking about the soul and spirit. And there may be more dimensions. Scripture talks about the heavenlies, heaven, and the heaven of the heavens. God has a lot to teach us about these matters.

God speaks to our spirits, which communicate with our minds. Our minds are our souls. Satan seems to speak to our bodies, which communicate with our minds.

We already said He speaks to you through the Bible. He also speaks to you through every means of divine revelation found in the Bible. Romans 1 tells you He speaks through His creation. God can also speak to you through a word of wisdom, a word of knowledge, prophecy, and testimony. If you hear a testimony, you are listening to God's voice. If you hear someone read the Bible, you are hearing God speaking out loud. God can speak to you through visions and dreams. God speaks to you through your intuition. In the First Book of Kings, Elijah heard God in a still small voice. Christians often speak of hearing a peaceful inner voice or receiving a strong impression from the Holy Spirit. God can speak to you that way, too.

But whoever listens to me will dwell safely, and will be
secure, without fear of evil. ~ Proverbs 1:33 *Berean
Study Bible*

God never conflicts with Himself. You will never observe anything in science that will conflict with Scripture. However, you will hear people say the word “science” as they tell lies that conflict with Scripture. God will never give you a dream, vision, or prophecy that conflicts with Scripture. You might hear someone claim to have a dream, vision, or prophetic word that does conflict with Scripture. If you hear about someone like this, you know they’re wrong. They think they have a revelation, but they don’t.



He Will Bring It To Your Remembrance

God also speaks to you by bringing teaching, Bible verses, testimonies, or any of His statements and revelations to your mind. That’s different from you remembering. He brings them before you. Anyone who walks with Christ experiences this. Don’t forget to thank Him and glorify Him when He speaks to you this way.

For example, your fleshly nature may be trying to draw you into sin. It tells you lies. It tells you to do things you shouldn’t do. Then, the Holy Spirit brings a memory to your mind. It may be some truth from a Bible teacher you heard long ago. It might be a verse of Scripture like this:

So you too must count yourselves dead to sin, but alive to God in Christ Jesus. Therefore do not let sin reign in your mortal body so that you obey its desires. ~ Romans 6:11-12 *Berean Study Bible*

It might be this verse:

Therefore, brothers, we have an obligation, but it is not to the flesh, to live according to it. For if you live according to the flesh, you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live. For all who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God. ~ Romans 8:12-14 *Berean Study Bible*

God may bring a word you heard long ago in a church service. You don't remember anything about the church service. And yet, the Holy Spirit brings a word of truth from that service to your mind. The Holy Spirit may speak to you this way:

That's your flesh lying to you. You don't have to do it.
You don't owe anything to your flesh. Listen to Christ
and walk in His righteousness.

Through His People

God speaks through those who follow Christ.

You know that when you were pagans, you used to be led off to the idols that **could not speak**. Therefore I am informing you that no one **speaking by the Spirit of God** says, "Jesus is cursed," and no one can say, "Jesus is Lord," **except by the Holy Spirit**. ~ 1 Corinthians 12:2-3 *Holman Christian Standard Bible*

Idols can't speak, but God speaks through people. That's what God is telling you in this Bible verse. If you've ever heard anyone say "Jesus is Lord," you were listening to the Holy Ghost speaking through that person.



Oracle of God: the mouthpiece of God.

In plain English, God speaks through you. You yield your mouth to God, and He says His words through you.

God commands you to speak as His mouthpiece.

If anyone speaks, let him speak as **the oracles of God**.
~ 1 Peter 4:11a *New King James Version*

The oracle of God is the mouthpiece of God. That is, God speaks directly through you. God wants to speak His words through you. He wants you to yield your mouth to Him so He can speak through your mouth. He wants you to stop resisting Him.

Totally Yielded

God wants you to speak and act by His leading and power. God wants you to trust Him so much that you never depend on your own mind,

authority, or righteousness. God wants you to love and trust Him so much that you never listen to ungodly people.

It might seem like you can't do this, but God will finish His work in you. You can't do this by your own efforts. You must listen to God's voice and yield yourself to Him in willing submission and obedience. Then, God will say His words and do His acts through you. Righteousness will spring up in you as you grow up in Christ. The Holy Spirit is forming Christ in you and the old rebellious nature of your flesh is dying away.

If you speak by the Holy Spirit, Christ is speaking through you. You are speaking the living Christ with power. This is the living Word coming from your mouth. The living Word coming out of you can cause faith to come to an unbeliever or a believer. God can plant the Seed of the living Word in the heart of whoever hears you. Unbelievers need to come to Christ. God can use you for that. Believers need to have Christ formed in them. God can use you for that.

How to Find Jesus

Someone may be thinking, "How do I find Jesus? How do I hear His voice?" Here's the answer. You can't make a mistake if you sincerely want Jesus and His righteousness. God knows your heart better than you do. He knows if you want Him. He knows if you're willing to follow His leading. He knows if you harden your heart. He knows if you want your own way more than you want His way. If you want to keep doing what you've always done, you'll have trouble hearing God's voice. If you want to keep sinning, you'll have trouble hearing God's voice. If you want to remain as you are, you'll resist God's transforming power. You can't fool God. That's bad for you if you're trying to fool God. It's bad for you if you're trying to fool yourself. It's good if you're sincere.

You need to want to find Jesus. Ask God to give you a burning desire to know Him. Ask God to fill you with a burden for His righteousness. Persist in prayer until you have that desire and burden. God will answer that prayer. When you receive it, continue to ask God to intensify it. Ask every day. Never stop asking.

If you sincerely, persistently, and wholeheartedly seek God, you will find Him through Jesus Christ. If you love truth and hate lies, you will listen to Jesus. Read the Bible, and God is speaking to you. Pray, and

God is speaking to you. Meditate on Jesus and direct your thoughts toward Him, and He's speaking to you. Acknowledge Him when He speaks. Thank Him and glorify Him.

How to Recognize God's Voice

God's voice is distinct. You intuitively know it, but you can get confused. Sin can dull your senses. The voices of the world can make so much noise you find it hard to tell one voice from the other. When you seek God continually, His voice becomes increasingly clear. His voice always flows in love, joy, peace, patience, gentleness, goodness, kindness, and faith. His voice always points the way to righteousness. For instance, God's voice will never lead you to disobey any of the Ten Commandments. That makes it distinct from worldly or ungodly voices.

Would you know if a deceiver tricked you with false revelation? Yes. Although, Satan may deceive you for a while. Anyone following Christ is going to have some missteps. Deceivers come falsely claiming to be speaking by the Holy Spirit, and you may accept what they say. Godly people come truly speaking by the Holy Spirit, and you may reject what they say. However, If you are seeking the mind of God, God will bring you back to the truth. It will be a temporary setback.

Let me qualify that. If you want your own way instead of God's way, a deceiver can easily trick you with false revelation. Sometimes, you may forget to listen or you might doubt God's ability to give you wisdom. If you do that, you get nothing from the Lord. You might think you already know, so you have trouble hearing Christ. If you're sure you're right, you won't accept correction from anyone who speaks the truth from the Holy Spirit. If you listen to ungodly voices, that blocks your spiritual senses. It makes it hard to know the difference between God's voice and all the other voices.

The ungodly voices may seem neutral. Most ungodly voices try hard to seem neutral. They say they are secular. They say "secular" means neutral. There is no neutral. They say they are unbiased. Humans are always biased. Whoever is not for Christ is against Christ. Ungodly voices may say they are science. They may say they have evidence. Ungodly voices may say they give you objective truth. They may say they bring you the news. They may say they are entertaining you. Ungodly voices may even say they are Christian. And yet, they are not filled with

the Spirit of Christ. They are ungodly. They will make it hard for you to hear God.

God is much too wise to leave discernment in the hands of fallen humans, so He provides the discernment. However, He also knows our hearts better than we do. He spots hypocrisy right away. Here's the main point. He won't force Himself on anyone. If someone just wants to avoid hell but doesn't want to yield to the love and righteousness of God, then God isn't going to force Himself on that person. That person will wobble. That person will shake. That person won't overcome the fleshly weakness even though he or she may have been born again.

If discernment depended on me, I would be lost. I bring nothing to Christ except to yield. Yielding is defined as not hardening my heart against God. "Today, if you hear His voice, don't harden your heart." God is well able to communicate. Can you imagine anything that could stand in the way of the Almighty God communicating with you if you sincerely want to follow Him and obey Him?

Satan's Tricks

Satan will try to convince you God doesn't speak. He has many ways of denying Christ. He has many ways of denying that the Holy Ghost will lead you into all truth. The enemy will try to convince you that you can listen to God's voice but also listen to other voices. You can't worship idols and worship God. You will confuse yourself. You must trust Jesus Christ and Him alone.

Who are the idols? Do you trust these idols? They wouldn't lie to you, would they?

Who are the idols? Do you trust your intellect? Do you trust the intellectuals? The scientists? The news media?

Who are the idols? Do you trust the education systems? The teachers? The professors? Experts? Authorities?

Who are the idols? Do you trust your political party? A denomination? The government agencies? The medical establishment? Celebrities?

Who do you trust? God is exposing all of these idols to show you that you can't trust them. That doesn't mean some of them can't be a blessing from God sometimes. It means God is God. It means God hid

all truth, wisdom, and knowledge in Christ. God has called you to a personal bond with Christ that excludes all others. Listen to God only. Trust Him.

You must listen to God's voice alone. Many false voices are telling you clever lies, but you must know the difference between lies and truth. The false voices can't make the true voices false, but they will try to deceive you. Only the Holy Spirit can show you what is true and what is false.

Through Scripture, God set the order of multiple apostles and prophets who receive His revelation. Scripture shows the safety of multiple ministries who seek the mind of God together. Although, even with multiple ministries, those ministries can easily fall into groupthink. They can begin to look to ungodly counselors in the news and education systems instead of listening exclusively to the voice of God. This is even true if God has called and set those ministries. However, the double-minded man will receive nothing from the Lord. Those set by God must abandon ungodly counselors. The false-prophet system of education and media skillfully presents lies as truth. It started creating a warped view of reality by simply leaving God out. It has gradually conditioned the world to accept bald-faced lies with each new lie more terrible than the one before. By using a variety of sophisticated mind-control and hypnotic techniques, the false-prophet system captivates many. If those God set to receive revelation together are seeking God but also standing in the counsel of the false-prophet system, they will stagnate or go off course. They won't receive fresh Oil from the Throne.

The Israelites made the mistake of following God plus following idols. They tried to stand on both sides of God's high wall. They couldn't do it.

James the apostle said the double-minded person will receive nothing from the Lord. If you try to be double-minded, you won't get anything from God. If you try to follow God plus something else, God won't give you His wisdom. You need a pure mind, a mind totally dedicated to God and listening to God's voice alone. You need to keep praying for God to renew your mind. You need to ask God to show you who is speaking His words to you by His Spirit and who is speaking from weak human craftiness and trickery.

God's goal is to transfigure you into the purity of Christ. If you have any impure thought, word, or deed, that must go. You must love God with your whole heart. You can't continue to have a divided heart that listens to God plus other messages that don't come from God. You will become the product of the voices you hear. If you listen to lying voices, those voices will confuse and deceive you. If you listen to the Holy Spirit, He will lead you into all truth.



The false voices can't make the true voices false,
but they will try to deceive you.

Only the Holy Spirit can show you what is true and what is false.

You can divide the ungodly messages into two types. You can see godless sources everywhere, and they know how to speak as if they had authority. You can also see that godly men and women sometimes make mistakes. Some godly people hold ideas that didn't come from God. You see the godless voices and you see the confused godly voices. Those are the two sources of ungodly ideas. You need to know the difference between false and true messages. God will show you the difference between truth and error as you continue to walk with Him. Whoever sincerely wants to do God's will is going to know the difference between God's voice and all the others.

When I say "godless," I don't mean these people have no god. They just don't know God. They don't stand in God's presence and receive His Truth. Many of them are religious. They are self-righteous. They have forms and rituals but don't know the King of kings and Lord of lords intimately. They don't walk in the righteousness of Christ.

Godless thinkers have captured every place of power and influence, so it's almost impossible to avoid them. The media and education systems are mostly captive to godless people. If you can imagine the many different types of media and education, they work together and act as one coordinated false-prophet system. You get some information from them, but you have to be on guard against the lies they tell. You need the Holy Spirit to know who you can trust. The false-prophet system uses sophisticated ways to persuade, coerce, and manipulate anyone foolish enough to stand in the council of their godless voices. They will deceive you and destroy you if you listen to them or watch them.



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The media and education systems
are mostly captive to godless people.

The news services are parts of the media, and so are the people giving their opinions. The large social media companies are controlling the message through censorship and lying messages. Nearly every movie and entertainment on TV or in the theater tells stories that spread ungodly ideas. Novels do the same. The great-false-prophet system will corrupt your mind and control your thinking by telling you compelling, entertaining, and emotional stories. They use fear, shock, and emotion to control you if you listen to them or read their propaganda. Magazines use a variety of techniques to manipulate you. Many churches also proclaim the same false philosophies. Satan has many ways to trick you. Satan offers you candy, but the candy has poisonous ideas hidden in it. The Holy Spirit leads you away from liars and cheaters.

Satan says the human mind can find truth without the benefit of divine revelation. God says all knowledge, wisdom, and understanding are hidden in Christ. The great false-prophet system tells the same lies from many sources. The great false prophet makes righteousness look silly or bigoted. It makes evil seem normal. It makes sin look cool or correct. It celebrates perversions of every kind. It falsely accuses those who are innocent. It says wickedness is good. It says goodness is wicked. It makes fake science into a god and casts a shadow of doubt on the Almighty God's ability to do anything. It blurs the line between reality and make-believe. It promotes rebellion. Those who follow the false prophet are self-righteous but love violence and every evil thing.

And yet, many Christians get their information from the great false-prophet system. Many Christians get their information from other Christians who follow the great false-prophet system. They sincerely love Jesus, but their source of information is corrupt. No one can listen to the messages of the great false prophet without being affected.

Can a man take fire to his bosom, And his clothes not be
burned? Can one walk on hot coals, And his feet not be
seared? ~ Proverbs 6:27-28 *New King James Version*

False Prophet System

Humanism
Rationalism
Old Earth Stories
Scientism
Evolutionism
Marxism
Darkness is Light
Socialism
Globalism

If you try to divide yourself and listen to both the Holy Ghost and the many messengers of the ungodly, you become double-minded. Then, you find it hard to tell the difference between God's voice and all the other voices. You don't mature in Christ. You don't overcome sin. You become self-righteous and proud. The message of this age exalts the human intellect, but that message is vapor. Your intellect needs the flowing wisdom of Christ to be rational. And the culture keeps drifting further from Christ. That's why the world is so crazy.

The thoughts of the ungodly have no substance. Once a mind embraces humanism, rationalism, and naturalism, it loses touch with reality. That mind can no longer discern between light and darkness, good and evil, or reality and make-believe. You can see this happening around you where those who claim to be the most intelligent have lost their minds.

These ungodly messages often dress in religious clothes. Virtually every cult quotes the Bible. Some Bible teachers are false teachers who don't know Jesus Christ. They can be very convincing. Many of them are well-educated. They know their Bible inside and out. Some have many degrees. They have arguments prepared so they can twist every part of Scripture. They love to debate. They feed their egos. You will see false gifts, false prophecy, and false testimony. You will see false apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors, and teachers. You will see true apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors, and teachers who make mistakes. Some of them claim they heard from God when God didn't tell them anything. It's easy for you to recognize the false voices that contradict Scripture. You need the Holy Spirit to detect those who interpret Scripture by the fallen human intellect or with doctrines from demons.

Christian Bible teachers sometimes misinterpret Scripture. They can hit the target in much of their teaching but miss the mark by miles in another part of their teaching. And they can stubbornly resist correction. They especially resist correction after they have become successful and popular.

If you ask God for wisdom, He will help you discern truth from error among your brothers and sisters who are trying to follow Christ. Not every word that comes out of the mouth of a Christian is from God. Apostle James said, "We all make many mistakes." Satan and the fallen human mind try to imitate God's voice through the Bible and every means of divine revelation mentioned in the Bible. Even though we're born again, we Christians can misinterpret the Bible. I can think God is leading me when the strongholds in my mind are deceiving me. We're in the interim between the promise and the full possession of the promise. As you direct your mind toward Christ the Holy Spirit will continue to form Christ in you until that day when no one can trick you.



If you disagree with another Christian on any matter,
you can both go to Christ and ask Him to correct and instruct you.

No one is above God's correction.

You and I need to be open to discussing our beliefs with other Christians who may see things differently. I need to open myself to correction and consider that I might be wrong. If you disagree with another Christian on any matter, you can both go to Christ and ask Him to correct and instruct you. No one is above God's correction. It's easy for fallen humans to think they have such complete and correct doctrine that God can't teach them anything. God says you don't understand those things you think you understand. God gave you the Holy Spirit to lead you into ALL truth.

And if anyone thinks that he knows anything, he knows
nothing yet as he ought to know. ~ 1 Corinthians 8:2
New King James Version

You need to open your mind to God so He can teach you and correct you. You will hear many convincing messages that sound perfect but are not right. God will show you what's right and what's wrong if you ask Him. If you want to do God's will, you will know God's voice when you hear it. You'll see that God's voice is different from all the others. God will help you avoid the pitfalls of the many worldly voices.

It's wonderful that you have Jesus Christ leading, teaching, and correcting you, but that's just the first key God has given you. God intends to fully transfigure you into the likeness and image of Jesus Christ. God's already shown you a little bit of His vision for you. As you

walk with Him, He'll show you more. It's higher and deeper than you know. To go deeper, you'll need all five keys. You need to know how to insert each key in sequence into God's puzzling lock. You need to know how to avoid Satan's deceptions and pitfalls. Satan will be working against you all the way, but God has given you a way to escape Satan's schemes.

Key #2: Faith Comes



You must have faith, and it must be real faith. How can you have real faith to believe?

So then faith *comes* by hearing, and hearing by the *word* (Christ in you leading you) of God. ~ Romans 10:17 *New King James Version*

Faith Is Not Making-Believe

Faith comes by hearing and hearing by God speaking. The faith God puts in you when you hear His voice is real. You can't have real faith by pretending something is true. You can't have real faith by making yourself believe since that would be make-believe "faith." God's faith is solid because God gives you His faith when you listen to God speaking. Jesus Christ is the spoken Word of God. You hear Christ when the Spirit leads you. When you hear Him, Jesus Christ creates God's faith in you. This faith isn't like the make-believe "faith" of ungodly people who make themselves believe their assumptions.



God's Presence: the place where prayer is heard.

In plain English, God's presence is a spiritual place. When you turn the focus of your mind to God, He responds and draws close to you.

If you stand in God's presence, He'll speak to you, and He'll give you His faith. Some people have tried to work up faith through human effort. You can't self-generate faith. Some people say, "I'm going to put MY faith in God." They might say, "I'm going to put MY faith in the Bible." We Christians have to stop thinking that way. If it's your faith, you worked it up yourself. You need God's faith.

If you think you can have the faith **of** God by human willpower, you are mistaken. You must seek God and stay in His presence. Shouting affirmations won't bring you the faith of God. Intellectual gymnastics will bring you into error and self-righteousness, but it won't give you the faith **of** God. Human emotion will bring you into illusion and confusion but won't bring you the faith **of** God. Physical evidence and logical arguments won't create the faith of God in you. A rationalized, make-believe "faith" has no power, but the faith of God has power and authority. No amount of human effort will bring you the faith of God.

You must stand in the presence of God if you want the faith of God. By intuition, you know how to turn your will and mind toward God. If you call to Him, He'll answer you. If you yield yourself to His will, you'll find He's been there all along. As you do this, you exercise your spiritual senses. As you exercise your spiritual senses, they grow more sensitive. Your spiritual senses grow to know God's voice better as you continue to spend time with God.

Jesus Authors Faith

Let us fix our eyes on **Jesus**, the **author** and **perfecter** of our faith ~ Hebrews 12:2a *Berean Study Bible*

Fix your spiritual eyes on Jesus. Direct your will to follow His will.

In the parable of the sower, God sows the Seed. The Seed is the Word, which is God's spoken Word. Jesus is the Logos, the spoken Word of God by Whom God created the universe. Jesus authors your faith. That's why faith has such authority.



Logos: the utterance or spoken word of God.

In plain English, God speaks, and His spoken Word is God. His spoken Word is Jesus Christ.

Faith is Substance and Evidence

Now faith is the **substance** of things **hoped** for, the **evidence** of things not seen. ~ Hebrews 11:1 *King James Version*

Faith is a substance. And yet, it's not a material substance. The substance of faith is real. It's much more real than the material world of creation. Faith is a spiritual substance that will never be destroyed. Any material substance will pass away. Faith is reality as opposed to an idea or concept. God is working to put this spiritual substance into you permanently. You can't separate the substance of faith from Christ Himself.

Faith

Comes by hearing God's utterance
Jesus, God's utterance authors it

It's reality, not concept
It's certainty and proof

Faith is the reality of things hoped for. This hope isn't "I-hope-so" hope. God's hope is eternal. God's hope is solid. God's hope is a vision from God of what He's going to do. It shows you who you are in Christ. This vision from God shows how you fit into the body of Christ. It shows you what is and isn't part of the body of Christ. It shows you what God is calling you to do right now.

You have to know what God is telling you to do so you can do His will. You need to know how you fit into the body of Christ. You need to know what is and is not part of the body of Christ. God is building His house according to His pattern, and He's revealing His pattern to you.

And faith is the evidence of things you have never seen. Faith doesn't need circumstantial evidence to prove it. Circumstantial evidence never proves anything. It can't. God can speak to you through circumstantial evidence, but circumstantial evidence isn't sure without God revealing the meaning of the circumstantial evidence. People often use circumstantial evidence to tell lies.

Circumstantial Evidence: indirect evidence; evidence that's made of observations plus assumptions and stories.



In plain English, you can try to go beyond what you know by making up stories and assumptions. Stories and assumptions don't prove anything.

Faith is proof because God gives you supernatural faith when He speaks to you. What God says to you is true. All physical and natural

evidence is circumstantial, so it can't show you the truth. Circumstantial evidence uses rationalizations. Rationalizations use assumptions. Assumptions are beliefs based on nothing but inner concepts and worldviews. You created your inner concepts and worldviews with circular reasoning and confirmation bias. You can't trust them. That means you can't trust circumstantial evidence.

You can trust God. God is absolute.

Faith by Hearing

Never forget. God speaks. You hear. Faith comes. That's why faith has authority. Jesus Christ, Who is the Word spoken by the Father, authors faith in every person who listens to the rhema of God. Faith can also be a special gift to some. Not only that, but faith is one of the fruits of the Holy Spirit. If faith comes as a fruit of the Spirit, it comes by hearing. If faith comes as a gift of the Spirit, it comes by hearing. The faith to be born again comes by hearing. Any faith you have comes by hearing God leading, teaching, or correcting you. God can speak to you through the Bible. As God speaks through the Bible, He tells you about many of the other ways He speaks to you. No matter how God speaks to you, God's faith will come if you listen.

Satan's Tricks

Satan will try to convince you that faith is something faith is not. The liar will say faith is belief WITHOUT evidence when faith IS the evidence. Some deceived Christians will say faith is belief BASED ON evidence when faith IS the evidence.

The world and demons will try to convince you that you can get faith some other way. Your soul's enemy doesn't want you listening to God's voice in willing submission and deep respect. Someone may claim you have to do works of piety to get faith. Demonic voices will try to get you to use your intellect, emotion, knowledge, observation, common sense, or something else to get faith. None of that works.

The enemy will say faith is belief, but you have to presuppose God exists, and you have to presuppose the Bible is God's word without error. You don't have to presuppose anything. God reveals He exists. He makes it so plain to you that you know by divine revelation. The same for the Bible. God shows you the Bible is His word without error. He

doesn't have to prove it to you. He tells you. His Word to you is proof. You don't have to presuppose God's revelation or figure it out.

Don't fall for Satan's tricks. Don't be deceived.

Pressing Toward God's Goal

God intends to transform you and make you like Jesus. You can't even imagine what that is right now, but your transfiguration will make human ideas about power and authority look foolish. It will make human ideas about love, justice, and peace look pathetic. This is transformation beyond your wildest hopes. You've always sensed an inner longing for something more. God put that longing in your heart, and He intends to fulfill it in you. You now know how to seek God and find Him. You know how to let the Holy Spirit lead you. You know how to receive the powerful and effective faith of God. Those are the first two keys you need to open God's mysterious and ingenious lock. Those two keys alone won't open the door to your total transfiguration into the image and likeness of Christ. Three more keys remain. I've hinted at them, but you need the detail to see how they work. And you have much to learn about the pitfalls and traps Satan has set for you. You need to know how to avoid all those pitfalls and traps. You need to know how to apply the remaining three keys in God's way and order.

Key #3: Faith Gives Access to Grace



How do you get God's grace? What are the means of grace?

Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have **gained access by faith into this grace** in which we **stand**. ~ Romans 5:1b-2 *Berean Study Bible*

What does Romans 5:1b-2 tell you? It says you gained access into this grace. And you gained access into this grace by faith. Faith gave you that access. Faith allowed grace to take hold of you. Faith is the key that opened your door to grace. You stand in this grace. You couldn't stand without this grace. Grace causes you to stand in Christ and to walk in His righteousness. Only by grace are you able to stand. Only by grace are you able to walk in God's will.

You need God's grace, but you can only receive God's grace one way. Through Jesus Christ, you have gained access, by faith, into this grace. (Romans 5:2) Once you receive God's faith by hearing His Word (The Father's Utterance is Jesus Christ), God gives you His grace through faith. (Ephesians 2:8) Then, you advance to the works grace does since "faith without works is dead." (James 2:17) God's grace says God's words and does God's acts through you. (1 Corinthians 15:10) That means Christ, by grace, saves you from sin. (1 John 1:7) Now, you can have the real Sabbath Day rest as you stop doing your own works. (Hebrews 3:7-4:8) When Jesus does His works through you, that's what righteousness is. Jesus authors your faith, and then He finishes your faith by doing His works through you. (Hebrews 12:2) You have a part in this. You surrender your entire being to God's gift of righteousness. (Romans 6:13)

God leads you. He can speak to you through His creation. He leads you through the Bible. He leads you through a Christian brother or sister who speaks by the Holy Spirit. He may speak through a dream, vision, or intuition. Faith comes when He leads and you hear. Faith allows you to move in the power of God's grace. It allows God to move through you by His grace.

For it is **by grace** you have been saved **through faith**,
and this not from yourselves; it is the gift of God ~
Ephesians 2:8 *Berean Study Bible*

You are saved from sin and to righteousness. Ephesians 2:8 says you're saved by grace and grace is through faith. You know where faith comes from. I'll repeat it since so many have come up with a different definition of faith. Your faith comes when you hear God leading, teaching, and correcting you. It's not really your faith then. It's God's faith in you. That's why it can do God's work through you.



You are saved from sin and to righteousness.

Ephesians 2:8 says you're saved by grace and grace is through faith.

Means of Grace

Different groups believe different teachings about the means of grace, and they aren't all wrong. When you look at it from another angle, you find faith is the means of grace.

Works Spring From Grace—Not the Other Way Around

There's no conflict. Works don't conflict with grace. Works spring from grace. I'll repeat it once more. God speaks. God gives you faith. Faith accesses grace. Grace does the works. Your part is to stop fighting against God as He does all of this in and through you.

The means is the cause. It's easy to confuse the cause and effect, but the elements are there. Everything starts with God leading. You acknowledge God in deep respect. You honor Him and thank Him. Then God gives you faith, and faith brings you to God's grace. That's true of every case you just looked at. It's true of the Gospel, the Law, communion, baptism, prayer, fasting, seeking the face of God, and any work God does through you as a result of His leading, faith, and grace.

Satan's Tricks

Satan will tell you grace is something grace is not. Satan will say grace is just God pardoning your sins. Satan will say God's grace means you can do whatever you want and it makes no difference.

Satan will try to convince you that you can get grace some other way than through faith or that you can get faith some other way than listening to God leading you. Satan will say you have to do works of piety to get grace. Satan will try to make grace into less than it is. Satan will try to get you to believe grace doesn't give you divine power and authority for righteousness and warfare against powers of darkness. Satan has a lot of lies to tell you about grace.

Getting Closer

You're much closer to understanding how God will transform you now. God can't lie, and He says the glory He'll reveal in you is beyond comparison to anything on earth. It's greater than you could wish for or dream of. And you're learning how to receive it from God. You understand more about your part in it. You've discovered three keys to this multipart lock. You understand how to use these three keys and make them work. You see some of the ways Satan tries to trick you and take you off course. You realize Satan doesn't need to take you far. He just needs to divert you to use the keys in the wrong way or to use the keys in the wrong order. You know how to avoid some of the pitfalls and schemes of Satan, but three keys don't open the lock. You need to know how to use all five keys. It's time to press through to fully understand how grace and works function together and why they must work together in the right way for your transformation.

Key #4: Grace Does Works of Righteousness



How can you serve God and be righteous?

let us have **grace, by which we may serve God acceptably** with reverence and godly fear. ~ see Hebrews 12:28 *New King James Version*

Grace Works

God's grace does God's works of righteousness in you as you yield your tongue, feet, hands, and every part of your body to His righteousness. Some people call these works of piety or works of deep respect for God. God's righteousness in you transforms you into Christ's image from glory to glory. Each time God speaks, He plants a Seed, but that Seed needs to find the soft fertile soil of a willing and submissive heart. You must submit to the point of obedience.

- Romans 5:15-21 tells you about God's **Free Gift of righteousness.**
- 2 Corinthians 9:8 says **grace will abound to every good work.**
- In Galatians 1:6 & 5:4 Paul marvels that the Galatians so quickly turned from works by grace through faith to a false "gospel" of works through self-effort.
- In Galatians 2:21, Paul says he **doesn't frustrate the grace of God** by attempting to achieve righteousness by self-effort of obeying the Law.
- Colossians 4:6 says to always **let your speech be by grace.**

- 2 Timothy 1:9 says you aren't called according to your own works but **according to God's showing forth and grace.**
- In 2 Timothy 2:1, Paul tells Timothy to **be strong in the grace** that is in Christ Jesus.
- Hebrews 12:28 tells you that **grace is the power by which you may serve God acceptably.**
- 1 Peter 2:19-20 tells you that **you can, by grace, endure the suffering** the world brings against you when you do what's right and follow your conscience.
- 1 Peter 5:12 tells you that **you stand by grace.**
- Romans 3:24 tells you that you are **made just by grace.**
- Romans 4:13-16 tells you that **your righteousness is of faith so it can be by grace.**
- Romans 5:15-21 tells you that **it's by grace that God gives you His free gift of righteousness so that grace will now reign through God's righteousness.**
- 2 Corinthians 1:12 tells you that **grace directs your whole manner of living** in the world.
- 2 Corinthians 6:1 tells you **not to receive the grace of God in vain.** You could have faith and grace and yet fail to yield to the free gift of righteousness that comes by grace.
- John 3:19-21 says the **Light exposes the works God does through those who do truth** versus evil works of those who don't come to the Light.

God uses the word "charisma." God uses this same word "charisma" when He tells you about Spiritual gifts in 1 Corinthians chapter 12.

Strong's Exhaustive Concordance tells you this about "charisma:"

miraculous faculty a gift of grace, a free gift, esp. of **extraordinary operations of the Spirit**

I'm going to quote Thayer, but keep in mind that Thayer was not a Christian and his work often adds a twist. You'll see this here in the words "distinguishing certain." Commentaries, marginal notes, and reference texts are not Scripture. Many of them contain errors brought in by the fleshly mind of educated Christians who meant well but depended on their own understandings rather than the Holy Spirit. Not only that, but Atheists, Unitarians, and Masons have worked to corrupt reference texts and commentaries. Thayer gives you this:

grace or gifts denoting **extraordinary powers**, distinguishing certain Christians and enabling them to serve the church of Christ, the **reception** of which is due to the **power of divine grace operating on their souls by the Holy Spirit**

Thayer's twist is in his claim these gifts distinguish certain Christians as if God left some Christians out so only certain ones can serve the church of Christ. That's not true. God detailed these gifts in 1 Corinthians 12. They reveal the Spirit and are "given to each one." (verse 7) No one is left out other than those who refuse to receive the gift.



Charisma: miraculous faculty a gift of grace, a free gift, extraordinary operations of the Spirit;

In plain English, God's free gift of righteousness that includes miraculous gifts of the Spirit.

You have extraordinary and miraculous power that allows you to serve in the church of Christ. You receive the power for righteousness by divine grace as it operates on your soul by the Holy Spirit.

But the **free gift** (charisma) is not like the offense. For if by the one man's offense many died, much more the grace of God and **the gift by the grace** of the one Man, Jesus Christ, abounded to many. ~ Romans 5:15 *New King James Version*

You receive the free gift of righteousness by grace. Grace is the means of righteousness. Grace is the means of good works. It's not the other way around. Good works are not the means of grace. Grace is the means of good works. Grace does the righteousness as God declares through Scripture.



The
FREE
Gift
of
Righteousness

And the gift is not like *that which came* through the one who sinned. For the judgment *which came* from one offense resulted in condemnation, but the **free gift which came** from many offenses resulted in justification. For if by the one man's offense death reigned through the one, much more those who receive abundance of **grace** and of the **gift of righteousness** will **reign in life through the One, Jesus Christ**. ~ Romans 5:16-17 *New King James Version*

What does this Scripture tell you? It shows you **Grace** and the **gift of righteousness** go together. Righteousness is doing what God says is right. These verses show the same pattern. You receive the gift of righteousness by grace. You get grace through faith. God gives you faith by leading, teaching, and correcting you. He speaks Christ (His Word) to you, and Christ authors God's faith in you. If you get grace and the gift of righteousness, you'll **reign in Life** by Christ Jesus.

Therefore as by the offence of one judgment came upon all men to condemnation; even so by the righteousness of one the **free gift** came upon all men unto justification of life. For as by one man's disobedience many were made sinners, so by the obedience of one shall many be **made righteous**. ~ Romans 5:18-19 *King James Version*

You are part of the group called "all men" or "all people" or "many." The free gift came upon you. You shall be made righteous. You aren't doing the work. God gave you the free gift of righteousness. God does the work. God will make you righteous. Even now, Christ in you doesn't sin. Your flesh does no righteousness. And God has a plan to remove even that stain of your fleshly nature from you.

Moreover the law entered that the offense might abound. But where sin abounded, **grace** abounded much more, so that as **sin** reigned in death, even so **grace might reign through righteousness to eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord**. ~ Romans 5:20-21 *New King James Version*

Grace shall **reign**. This is a Kingdom word. Grace shall reign through righteousness.



Righteousness: the quality of being morally right or justifiable.

In plain English, righteousness is God leading you, giving you faith, and doing His works of righteousness through you.

That's the free gift of righteousness. Righteousness is a free gift and a miraculous gift. God gives you the gift of righteousness through grace. Grace does the works of righteousness in you. God's righteousness in you will reign to eternal Life. The Life is Jesus Christ your Lord.

Some people think they're doing God a favor by doing what's right and good. They think they can dream up projects to please God. God says it's impossible to please Him without faith. And God's faith comes by listening to God. You can't get it any other way. Faith has works, and grace does those works through you. Righteousness means God directs and does the work. If you direct the work, it's self-righteousness. Your ideas won't make the cut. God doesn't need your ideas. He knows what's needed. You can't do God's will without faith. Without faith, you're doing your will. After receiving God's leading, if you try in your own effort to obey God's leading, it's self-righteousness. You need to yield yourself to the Holy Spirit and allow the power of Grace to do the work through you. Righteousness is a gift from God to you. Righteousness isn't a gift from you to God.

Rain down, you heavens, from above, And let the skies
pour down righteousness; Let the earth open, let them
bring forth salvation, And let righteousness spring up
together. I, the LORD, have created it. ~ Isaiah 45:8
New King James Version

You're not saved **by** righteousness. You're saved **to** righteousness. Righteousness is part of your salvation. You're not saved **to** sin. You're saved **from** sin. And you aren't only saved from sin, but God has more for you. God saves you from sin, death, and the power of the devil. When He saves you from sin, He saves you from the consequences of sin. He wants to save you to holiness and completeness. Both righteousness and holiness are gifts God gives you.

But **by the grace of God I am what I am**, and His grace to me was not in vain. No, I worked harder than all of them—**yet not I, but the grace of God** that was with me. ~ 1 Corinthians 15:10 *Berean Study Bible*

Apostle Paul said **grace did the works**. It was NOT Paul who worked, but **grace was working in Paul doing the works and teaching the truth**. You don't do the works. Grace says God's words and does God's works through you. You yield. You submit yourself under the hand of God.



Grace says God's words and does God's works through you.

You yield.

You submit yourself under the hand of God.

Don't Get the Works Before the Grace

You can get mixed up with works. So-called "works of piety" can be works I decide to do instead of works God leads me to and does through me. My works can be against God's will. Some people say, "I'm going to do this for God," but God never asked them to do it. Some people say, "I'm going to do random acts of kindness," but God's works are never random. Some people say, "I'm going to pay it forward," but my righteousness is like some filthy rags to God. Fake "works of piety" can be a way I feed my pride and get recognition. Fake "works of piety" are just one more way to do what I want to do instead of doing what God wants me to do.

Suppose a dad tells his son to mow the lawn. The son starts painting the house a different color instead. Has the son done the will of the dad?

Let me emphasize it again. Good works are a gift from God to you. Good works are not a gift from you to God. It's easy to get the effect before the cause.

If I try to establish my own righteousness, I fail to conform to the righteousness of God. If I come up with my own ideas of how to please God without faith, I'll go off course and fight against the will of God. My intent may be good, but I need Jesus Christ. He's the Source of all Truth. Without Him, I'm already off course. I may trust people who have evil intent who convince me to do things that will have terrible consequences. And it's all in the name of "serving the Lord" without knowing the Lord. I might start promoting evil. If I dream up my own sense of justice, I can twist justice into injustice. If I follow the political correctness of the world, I can't follow the leading of Christ.



Good works are a gift from God to you.

Good works are not a gift from you to God.

Consider that Saul persecuted Christians as he was trying to serve God his own way. The religious leaders of God's people killed Jesus by trying to serve God their own way. Today, many Christians have gone so far away from knowing Jesus Christ they fight for Marxism, Humanism, racism, evolutionism, killing babies in the womb, and many forms of lawlessness. They normalize every form of perversion and sinful behavior. I'm no better than them. If I listened to ungodly people and failed to stand in God's presence, I would go the same way. You become the product of whoever you listen to. Listen to Jesus.

Faith begins with God's will and Him leading you. It doesn't begin with your will. When God leads, He gives His faith to you. That's the order. God's leading, God's faith, God's grace, and then works.

Righteousness is Real

Little children, let no one deceive you: **The one who practices righteousness is righteous** ~ 1 John 3:7a
Berean Study Bible

God says, "**Let no one deceive you.**" Why does God say that? He says that because someone is going to try to deceive you. Someone is going to say you can be righteous without doing righteousness. True righteousness does God's work. Righteousness is God working in you by grace, which is through faith. Here's the same pattern again. God leads. You listen. Faith comes and opens the spiritual door to God's grace. And grace does God's acts of righteousness through you. Grace speaks God's righteous words through you if you yield yourself to His free gift of righteousness. Can you see the power of this pattern?

The Narrow Way

everything that is not from faith is sin. ~ Romans 14:23b
Berean Study Bible

Everything means EVERYTHING. The way is extremely narrow and constricted. Only what God leads you to is righteous. Only what God

does through you by grace, which is through faith, is righteous. Everything else steps off the Pathway or slips off the Pathway.

You can make your own plans. They can be religious and lofty. However, if God didn't lead you and do His works through you by grace through faith, then it's sin. Sin is your own way. Sin is my own way. Righteousness is God saying His words and doing His acts through you. Everything else is sin. The way is narrow. Whatever God didn't lead you to and do through you is sin.

Your calling is high in Christ. The Creator of the universe lives in you in all His authority and power if you have the Holy Spirit. If you're born again, you have the Holy Spirit living in you. The Holy Spirit wants to overwhelm you with His love and goodness. He wants to leap up like a surging fountain in you and bless everyone around you.



The Holy Spirit wants to overwhelm you with His love and goodness.

He wants to leap up like a surging fountain in you
and bless everyone around you.

Self-righteousness is you saying your words and doing your works in the moment. Self-righteousness is different from righteousness. Righteousness is God saying His words and doing His works through you in the moment. Self-righteousness can look good, but your works are as filthy rags. How foolish I would be if I tried to establish my own righteousness!

Because they were **ignorant of God's righteousness and sought to establish their own, they did not submit to God's righteousness.** ~ Romans 10:3
Berean Study Bible

God can't use your self-generated works no matter how good you think they are. Self-righteousness can say words right out of the Bible. Self-righteousness can follow the letter of God's Law. However, if God didn't lead you to it and do it through you, you would be sinning. God wants to know you. God wants a deep bond with you.

“Not everyone who says to Me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven. Many will say to Me in that day, ‘Lord,

Lord, have we not prophesied in Your name, cast out demons in Your name, and done many wonders in Your name?' And then I will declare to them, 'I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness!' ~ Matthew 7:21 *New King James Version*

Jesus mentioned people who were doing many wonderful works, but these people never knew Jesus. They never listened to His leading and teaching. They never yielded to His Spirit. He said, “**Depart from Me you workers of iniquity. I never knew you.**” And it goes deeper than that. Jesus is talking about knowing in the sense of creating **New Life** together. When He said, “I never knew you,” Jesus used the word “knew;” Jesus used the same word the Bible uses when speaking of a husband and wife having children. God wants a deep relationship with you. He wants to know you intimately and create New Life.

Righteousness is Necessary

Be doers of the *word* (Christ in you leading you), and not hearers only. **Otherwise, you are deceiving yourselves.** . . . Even so faith, if it hath not works, is dead, being alone. ~ James 1:22 & 2:17 *Berean Study Bible*

God's word is Him leading, teaching, and correcting you. You need to be a doer of His word. Faith without works hasn't finished the cycle. God sowed His good Seed, but something happened. God spoke His Word and faith came, but the faith never bore any fruit. God sowed the Seed, but the Seed landed on hard ground, the trampled path, or the thorns.

For what the law was powerless to do in that it was weakened by the flesh, God did by sending His own Son in the likeness of sinful man, as an offering for sin. He thus condemned sin in the flesh, **so that the righteous standard of the law might be fulfilled in us, who do not walk according to the flesh but according to the Spirit.** ~ Romans 8:3-4 *Berean Study Bible*

God is fulfilling the righteous standard of the Law in you. God is doing and completing the righteous standard of His Law in you. You aren't trying to do righteousness by the power and authority of your own efforts. You aren't trying to establish your own righteousness.

You're walking in the Spirit. Walking in the Spirit follows the same pattern. The Spirit leads you. As you listen and respect God, He imparts His faith to you and His faith gives you an entrance into the power of God's grace, which does God's works through you. Faith doesn't come to those who don't listen to God with deep respect. It doesn't come to those who refuse to honor God, thank Him, and acknowledge Him. People like that float along on a powerless make-believe faith.

Yielding

Neither **yield** ye your members as instruments of unrighteousness unto sin: but yield yourselves unto God, as those that are alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness unto God. ~ Romans 6:13 *King James Version*

It's all about yielding. It takes effort to oppose God. You must let go. I must let go. You must yield yourself to the grace of God. You must stop fighting the righteousness of God.



**Our part is to
yield to the
Holy Spirit.**

Truth Will Set You Free

“If you **abide** in My *word* (Christ in you leading you), you are My **disciples** indeed. And you shall know the **truth**, and the truth shall make you **free**.” They answered Him, “We are Abraham’s descendants, and have never been in bondage to anyone. How *can* You say, ‘You will be made free?’” Jesus answered them, “Most assuredly, I say to you, **whoever commits sin is a slave of sin**. ~ John 8:31b-34 *King James Version*



Disciple: one who is taught.

In plain English, Jesus is teaching or discipling you, and you are becoming like Him.

Jesus is saying you can abide in His leading. You can live in His teaching. You can make your home in His loving correction. Then, you'll be His disciples. You're a disciple if Jesus is teaching you. If you direct your focus to Him, He'll be teaching you. He uses the word "indeed" or "truly." He'll be truly teaching you. Since He's truly teaching you, you'll know the truth. And the truth will make you free. When Jesus teaches you and you know the truth, He sets you **free from sin**. If you sin, you're a slave to sin. If you sin, you got mixed up and followed Satan again. Christ is setting you free from sin.



Abode: a place of residence; a house or home.

In plain English, when you abide in the word of Christ, you always listen to His voice. You don't live by your natural senses anymore, but you live in divine revelation coming from words and visions of Christ.

You must abide in His word. You must live your life in a conversation with Him. He leads and teaches you from within. He corrects you. You listen and pay attention when He speaks. You live your life and have your being in His leading and guiding. You see the vision Jesus gives you and you listen to God's voice. That's how faith comes to you and gets you into the place where His grace sets you free from sin. And you make your abode in His instruction, faith, grace, and righteousness. You never leave God's presence. That's God's plan for you. Do you see how different it is to make your home in God's presence instead of only checking in with God when you want something from Him?

"Today, if you will hear His voice, Do not harden your hearts as in the rebellion." ~ Hebrews 3:15b *New King James Version*

If you do leave His presence, you confess your fault to Him, and He's faithful and just to forgive you and bring you back into His presence.

If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all

unrighteousness. If we say we have not sinned, we make Him out to be a liar, and His word (Christ in you leading you) is not in us. ~ 1 John 1:8-10 *Berean Study Bible*

If you don't confess your sin and turn from it, you leave the Pathway of Life. You're likely to wander further from God's will into greater sin. Some people start making excuses for their sin. They might even say, "I was born this way, and I can't help it." We were all born sinners. That's true. However, even though not one of us can change ourselves, that's no excuse for continuing in sin. Christ can change us. He means to totally transfigure you into His image and likeness. He wants to perfect you in righteousness and holiness.

Whoever conceals their sins does not prosper, but the one who confesses and renounces them finds mercy. ~ Proverbs 28:13 *New International Version*

Perhaps you have left God's presence. Maybe you have sinned terribly or repeatedly. Perhaps you have become addicted to a certain sin. Sin is progressive. Sin is habit-forming. You haven't committed any sin God won't forgive. God can deliver you from any addiction. Addictions are difficult. If God delivered you from an addiction, He did a miracle in you. Don't go back. Don't test it. Stay far from it. God is calling you to stand in His presence. Stay very close to Him. Use the spiritual weapons He has given you. God can remove your rebellious fleshly nature. Never give up. When God forgives your sin, that sin is gone. You get a fresh start.



You never leave God's presence. That's God's plan for you.

If you do leave His presence, you confess your fault to Him,
and He's faithful and just to forgive you
and bring you back into His presence.

If you fall back into the same sin, confess it again. When you confess it to Christ, He will pardon you and set you back on His Pathway. God's patience is more than you can imagine. He said we, being weak humans, should forgive someone seventy times seven if that person hurt us the same way all those times. That's 490 times. Won't God's forgiveness be even greater than that? God is overcoming your fleshly nature with each submission. You may have setbacks. Never defend yourself when the Holy Spirit convicts you. Confess your fault and turn from your wicked ways by the power and authority of the Holy Spirit and His mighty

grace. Keep your eyes on the prize. God is changing you to be holy as your Heavenly Father is holy. That won't happen overnight. The only time it's hopeless is if you harden your heart against the Holy Spirit.

Therefore there is now no condemnation to those in Christ Jesus. ~ Romans 8:1 *Berean Study Bible*

Christ, Your Wisdom

It is because of Him (God) that you are in Christ Jesus, Who has become for us wisdom from God: our righteousness, holiness, and redemption. ~ 1 Corinthians 1:30 *Berean Study Bible*

Jesus Christ is your wisdom. God doesn't give you a glass of wisdom. He gives you Jesus Christ. Jesus is your wisdom. Jesus is a living stream in you. He streams Himself through you. He leads, teaches, and corrects you continually like a fountain of Life. It's a moment-by-moment experience.



Jesus is your wisdom.
Jesus is a living stream in you. He streams Himself through you.
He leads, teaches, and corrects you continually like a fountain of Life.

As yesterday's manna went bad, you can't live by yesterday's wisdom. You can't store wisdom in wise sayings, creeds, memorized information, rituals, learned practices, or anything else. You need an ongoing and strong connection to the living Christ. You need an intimate relationship. You must always be ready for God to correct or redirect you from your preconceived ideas and the strongholds in your mind. The Holy Ghost must shed the love of God abroad in your heart continually.

For My people have committed two evils; they have forsaken Me the fountain of living waters, *and* hewn themselves cisterns—broken cisterns that can hold no water. ~ Jeremiah 2:13 *New King James Version*

A cistern is a hole in the ground to hold water. God is using a figure of speech. They didn't literally dig holes in the ground. They tried to find some way to store God's goodness without remaining connected to the living God. They didn't want that intimate relationship. You need the

constant flow of God's Spirit to survive. Whenever you disconnect from God you disconnect from love, hope, joy, peace, righteousness, understanding, knowledge, goodness, wisdom, and sanity.

The Holy Spirit will bring Scripture, experiences, and past revelations to your remembrance as you need them. He'll also show you things you never knew before.

'Call to Me, and I will answer you, and show you great and mighty things, which you do not know.' Jeremiah 33:3 *New King James Version*

As your living fountain, Christ is your righteousness. Righteousness is Jesus Christ working His works through you. Jesus never said His own words. He always said the words of the Father. You come into spiritual maturity by allowing Jesus to speak His words through you. Jesus never did His own works. He always did the works of the Father. You come into spiritual maturity by allowing Jesus to do His works through you. That's how you abide in the words of Christ.

Christ is also your holiness. Righteousness is Christ doing His works through you in the moment. Holiness is what you are becoming in Christ. Christ is the Holy One in you. Holiness is Christ formed in you and the rebellious, carnal nature gone.

A slave is **redeemed** from slavery. You were a slave to sin. You still act as a slave if you live according to your fleshly nature. Your fleshly nature is a slave to sin. Your fleshly nature can't do anything right. God is setting you free. When He's finished, God will fully redeem you and set you free from sin and the sinful nature of your flesh. He'll set you free from the demonic principalities and powers that have been your slave masters. God will even redeem your body.

we ourselves groan within ourselves, eagerly waiting for the adoption, the **redemption of our body**. ~ Romans 8:23b *New King James Version*



Even though you HAVE a sinful nature, you are NOT that sinful nature.
You are the ministry within.
The ministry within you is Christ in you.

That's who you ARE.

You won't always be stuck in this situation of the fleshly nature sinning. Even though you HAVE a sinful nature, you are NOT that sinful nature. You are the ministry within. The ministry within you is Christ in you. That's who you ARE.

For as the earth brings forth its growth, and as a garden enables seed to spring up, so the **Lord GOD will cause righteousness and praise to spring up** before all the nations. ~ Isaiah 61:11 *Berean Study Bible*

God causes righteousness to spring up. You need to spend time in God's presence. If you stay in God's presence, He will speak to you. If He speaks to you, faith will come and take you to His grace. Then, His grace will say His words and do His acts through you.

Satan's Tricks

Satan will try to get you working for God when grace isn't working through you to do the works. Satan will try to disguise his voice as God's voice to deceive you. Then, if he can deceive you, he'll tell you God doesn't speak or you can't know God's voice from other voices. He'll try to get your fleshly mind to come up with ideas for serving God rather than waiting for God to direct you. He'll try to get you to send yourself to do what God never asked you to do. He'll try to get you to depend on your intellect and abilities rather than depending on God. He'll bring false teachers, leaders, and pastors to give you guidance that didn't come from God. Satan will use all these tricks plus the other tricks mentioned in this chapter.

One More Key

You're almost there. You now understand four of the five keys you need to unlock God's door to your transfiguration. God intends to change you and make you more and more like Christ. God has planned a future for you more wonderful than you can imagine. You just need one more key to unlock this mystifying lock. You need God's complete five-key plan to unlock the door. In the next chapter, you'll find a few more of Satan's tricks exposed and how you can easily avoid falling into his traps. You'll also discover more about God's amazing plan for you and His creation.

Key #5: God's Righteousness Transforms You



How can you have a final victory over your sinful nature?

Just as you used to offer the parts of your body in slavery to impurity and to escalating wickedness, so now offer them in slavery to **righteousness leading to holiness**. ~ Romans 6:19b *Berean Study Bible*

Righteousness leads to holiness. Righteousness is what God does through you in the moment. Holiness is what you are becoming in Christ. Holiness is transformation.

The Overcomers

“He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To him who overcomes I will give some of the hidden manna to eat. And I will give him a white stone, and on the stone a new name written which no one knows except him who receives it.” ’ ~ Revelation 2:17 *New King James Version*

What does it mean to overcome in this way? What does God mean? What does God want you to do, and how do you have a part in it?

Some people think you overcome by presenting amazing sermons. Others believe you overcome by winning arguments. Others think you overcome through politics or military force. Still others believe you overcome by performing miracles or through displays of spiritual power. Overcoming may affect any of those. However, none of those are what God means by overcoming.

The one who overcomes I will make a pillar in the temple of My God, and he will never again leave it. Upon him I will write the name of My God, and the name of the city of My God (the new Jerusalem that comes down out of heaven from My God), and My new name.~
Revelation 3:12 Berean Study Bible

These words aren't easy to understand. They may violate our inner ideas about the nature of what God is doing. Of course, our theologies have no authority over the Bible.

God commanded the children of Israel to overcome in the Promised Land. They were overcoming the inhabitants of that Land. They didn't do it all at once. They did it one battle at a time.

In the same way, God commanded you to overcome. He tells you to overcome the devil, the world or culture, and your sinful flesh. You can't overcome everything at once. You overcome moment by moment as God leads. Each time God leads you, you fight a battle. Will you listen? Will you yield to His Spirit? Will you acknowledge God? Will you give God the glory and thank Him?

For example, God may ask you to go talk to someone and ask for forgiveness because you did something you shouldn't have. If you listen and obey in the power of the Holy Spirit, you overcome. If you fail to listen or obey, you fail to overcome. If you take the glory for yourself or are unthankful, you fail to overcome.

**Be faithful now as Jesus comes TO His body.
Then, you will be found faithful
when He comes FOR His body.**

You won't enter the fullness of your high calling in God by speculating about how God will fulfill His prophecies. You won't overcome by rationalizing a doctrine, dogma, or theory. You must listen to His voice and yield to His Spirit. Overcoming is being transformed into the image and likeness of Christ and conforming to your place in Christ.

I have spoken these things to you so that in Me you may have peace. In the world you have tribulation. But take courage; I have overcome the world." ~ John 16:33
Berean Literal Bible

You are of God, little children, and have overcome them, because He who is in you is greater than he who is in the world. ~ 1 John 4:4 *New King James Version*

Behold, I give unto you power to tread on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy: and nothing shall by any means hurt you. ~ Luke 10:19 *King James Bible*

And I heard a great voice in heaven, saying: “Now the salvation, and the power, and the kingdom of our God, and the authority of His Christ have come, because the accuser of our brothers has been thrown down, the one accusing them before our God day and night. And they have overcome him by reason of the blood of the Lamb, and by reason of the word of their testimony; and they have not loved their life unto death. ~ Revelation 12:10-11 *Berean Literal Bible*

He who dwells in the shelter of the Most High will abide in the shadow of the Almighty. I will say to the LORD, “You are my refuge and my fortress, my God, in whom I trust.” Surely He will deliver you from the snare of the fowler, and from the deadly plague. He will cover you with His feathers; under His wings you will find refuge; His faithfulness is a shield and rampart. You will not fear the terror of the night, nor the arrow that flies by day, nor the pestilence that stalks in the darkness, nor the calamity that destroys at noon. Though a thousand may fall at your side, and ten thousand at your right hand, no harm will come near you. You will only see it with your eyes and witness the punishment of the wicked. Because you have made the LORD your dwelling—my refuge, the Most High—no evil will befall you, no plague will approach your tent. 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. You will tread on the lion and cobra; you will trample the young lion and serpent. ~ Psalm 91:1-13 *Berean Study Bible*

You must choose. You will either overcome or you will be overcome by evil. You will either begin a wonderful spiral into life, or you will

begin a downward spiral into death and destruction.

Progressive and Habit-Forming

The bad news is sin is progressive and habit-forming. The good news is righteousness is also progressive and habit-forming. In this section, you'll dig into how that works and why that happens. You know it happens. You know if you give in to temptation once, it's harder to resist the temptation the next time. And if you give in to temptation repeatedly, you have trouble breaking free from the sin. The sin becomes a stronghold in your mind.

Descent into Darkness

Some people refuse to listen to God. They refuse to acknowledge Him, glorify Him, and thank Him for His flowing wisdom and guidance in their lives. God turns them over to their fallen minds. They didn't want the Light, so God begins to withdraw His Light from them.

They descend into darkness in a downward spiral. They won't listen to God's leading, which makes them more faithless. With less faith, the flesh takes control and acts on whatever it wants to do. By submitting to the fleshly nature in this way, they are submitting to Satan instead of Christ. As they submit to Satan, Satan is sowing his seeds in their minds. Satan's seeds are lies. These lies bring them into stronger chains of slavery to sin and the sinful nature. The sinful nature is stronger then. It becomes a stronghold that's worse than before and more resistant to God's leading.

Here's the downward spiral. First, someone won't listen to God. That means you have less faith. With less faith, the flesh does what it wants and obeys Satan. Satan plant's his seeds, and they grow and bear evil fruit. The seeds take hold and become strongholds. The person is more in bondage and less willing to listen to God. And so, the cycle repeats. Here is the downward spiral from Scripture.

Step #1 They Won't Listen to God

My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge. Because you have **rejected knowledge**, I will also reject you ~ Hosea 4:6a *Berean Study Bible*

Furthermore, since they **did not see fit to acknowledge God**, He gave them up to a depraved

mind, to do what ought not to be done. ~ Romans 1:28
Berean Study Bible

For nothing is secret that will not be revealed, nor *anything* hidden that will not be known and come to light. Therefore **take heed how you hear**. ~ Luke 8:17-18a *Berean Study Bible*

Step #2 They Become More Faithless

Beware, brethren, lest there be in any of you an evil heart of **unbelief in departing from the living God** ~ Hebrews 3:12 *New King James Version*

Step #3 The Flesh Acts

And He said, “**What comes out of a man, that defiles a man**. For from within, out of the heart of men, proceed evil thoughts, adulteries, fornications, murders, thefts, covetousness, wickedness, deceit, lewdness, an evil eye, blasphemy, pride, foolishness. All these evil things come from within and defile a man.”. ~ Mark 7:20-23 *New King James Version*

Step #4 They Sow Satan's Weeds

Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for **whatever a man sows, that he will also reap**. For he who sows to his flesh will of the flesh reap corruption, but he who sows to the Spirit will of the Spirit reap everlasting life. And let us not grow weary while doing good, for in due season we shall reap if we do not lose heart. ~ Galatians 6:7-9 *New King James Version*

Step #5 They Become More Enslaved to Sin

It is for freedom that Christ has set us free. Stand firm, then, and **do not be encumbered once more by a yoke of slavery**. ~ Galatians 5:1 *Berean Study Bible*

That's the downward spiral. It all starts with not listening to God. Without listening to God, there is no faith. Without faith, the flesh obeys Satan, and Satan plant's his seeds. Those seeds become strongholds that bring slavery. Satan has a firm grip, and his slave won't listen to God. This cycle repeats unless God breaks it. However, we must cooperate with God.

The Upward Spiral from Glory to Glory into the Light

If you sincerely want to do God's will, God will open the door to your completeness in Him. God will finish His work in you through His salvation. He saves you from sin. He saves you to righteousness. It's the same pattern. That salvation comes by grace. The grace is through faith. The faith comes by hearing. The hearing comes by listening to God speaking to you.

Righteousness is progressive and habit-forming. As you mature in Christ, you'll find it easier to do righteousness than to sin. God plants the Seed in your heart and the Seed bears the fruit of the Spirit. The fruit of the Spirit fulfills the whole Law of God. The carnal nature loses ground in the Light of Christ. As the Holy Spirit forms Christ in you, the Light of Christ overcomes the darkness of the carnal nature. The carnal nature will finally lose its power over you, and the Holy Spirit will fully form Christ within you.



Carnal: the animal nature with cravings which incite to sin.

In plain English, the part of the soul that's under the power of the fleshly body that fights the Holy Spirit, is incapable of reasoning, exalts human intellect, and depends on the natural senses and instincts.

Answers

You want answers to your prayers. You want results from your spiritual walk. When you don't see progress, you feel discouraged. That's normal.

If you're sick, you want healing. If you're having financial trouble, you want victory over your trouble. If you have a bad habit, you want deliverance. You pray for wisdom and blessing. If you have a problem in a relationship, you want reconciliation and a good relationship that's right in God's eyes. If you're in bondage, you want freedom. If you've made mistakes or sinned and suffered loss, you cry out for restoration. You desire the resurrection. You want transformation. You weep for it. You want complete release.

Rather than yearning for healing, seek The Healer. Instead of striving for victory, stand in the presence of The Victor. You need The Deliverer.

Jesus is your wisdom. You need Him. You need a greater submission to Him, and He will flow through you in wisdom and blessing. You need The Reconciler. Only in His presence can you be set free as you yield yourself to Him. You need The Only Savior Who can restore you. Jesus Christ is The Resurrection and The Life. Nothing can stop your transformation if you live in His glow and anointing.

Important! The enemy of your soul will return to reclaim you and destroy you. Many Christians falter at this point. They live in self-condemnation, shame, or defeat. That's unnecessary. They have the victory. You have the victory already. When you prayed the prayer of faith, God gave you a vision of hope and deliverance. Your faith was suddenly accompanied by a sense of relief, victory, thankfulness to God, and worship. That was real, and it remains real.

When the enemy comes to tempt you, the Holy Spirit will also remind you of God's promise. You will know Christ has set you free. You will know you walk in glorious liberty. The Holy Spirit will remind you of that sense of relief, victory, thankfulness to God, and worship. And the Holy Spirit will offer it to you again for the moment of temptation or doubt. Sin and sickness no longer have power over you. Look for it. You will find it. In the glow of that revelation, the enemy has nothing in you. You are free. When you turn to the Lord, the enemy has no power over you. If you turn toward the enemy and listen to him, you won't be able to turn to the Lord. The choice is yours every time.

Christ Formed Within and the Carnal Nature Dead—How?

God is planting the Seed and forming Christ in you as your carnal nature is dying. The Seed is the Word. The Word is Jesus Christ. The rebellious carnal nature is fading.

My little children, for whom I labor in birth again **until Christ is formed in you**, ~ Galatians 4:19 *New King James Version*

God is forming Christ within you.

Therefore, brothers, we have an obligation, but it is **not to the flesh, to live according to it**. For if you live according to the flesh, you will die; but **if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will**

live. For all who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God. ~ Romans 8:13-14 *Berean Study Bible*

You must grow up. Being born again is necessary, but the new birth just starts God's salvation in you. You're born again so you can grow to maturity.

What is maturity then? Maturity is a state of purity with Christ fully formed within and the works of the flesh put to death. Maturity has two parts: edification and purification.



Edification: building up.

In plain English, the Holy Spirit is forming Christ within you. He's building you into the image and likeness of Jesus Christ.

Edification means building up. The Holy Spirit is forming Christ within you. He's building you into the image and likeness of Jesus Christ.



Purification: sanctification or holiness.

In plain English, God is purifying you. He's removing the carnal, rebellious, fleshly nature that fights against God.

Purification is sanctification or holiness. God is purifying you. He's removing the carnal, rebellious, fleshly nature that fights against God.

You need Christ. You can't build yourself up without Christ. You can't purify yourself without Christ. God has a plan and a method. God's sovereignty and your responsibility work together. You have a responsibility. Your responsibility is to yield to Him. You must respond to God. You respond by listening to His voice and yielding in willing submission and obedience to His grace. You yield the members of your body, your tongue, your feet, hands, and entire being, as tools God can use for righteousness. If you yield to God, you stop fighting against God. Your responsibility is to stop fighting God.

Create in Me a Clean Heart

God creates a clean heart in you the same way He created the heavens and the earth. He uses the same term for both creations.

In the beginning God **created** the heaven and the earth.
~ Genesis 1:1 *King James Version*

Create in me a clean heart. ~ Psalm 51:10a *King James Version*

The Bible uses the same Hebrew term for **creating** in both verses.



Utterance: a spoken word, statement, or vocal sound.

In plain English, God speaks to you. God's statements to you are His utterance. God shows you the truth. That's His utterance. Jesus is the utterance of God.

How did God create the heavens and the earth? He spoke and it was. Nothing was created without the Logos of God. Jesus Christ is the Logos, the Rhema, the utterance of God. God speaks, and it is.

What's the difference between God creating the heavens and the earth in the beginning and God creating a clean heart in you? In the beginning, the creation couldn't say, "No." You can say, "No." Now, God is looking for those who will listen to Him and yield to Him willingly. God is looking for **you** to listen to Him and yield to Him willingly.

Sweeping Out the Darkness

Some people have said you can make yourself pure by hunting down every stray thought and locking it down. They say you should react to every thought that isn't from God, capture it, and bind it. Perhaps you grab them and put them into a box in your mind. Where do these theologians get that idea? It may come from this verse:

and we take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ. ~ 2 Corinthians 10:5 *Berean Study Bible*

How do you take every thought captive and make it obedient to Christ? If you try to do this with human effort, you'll make yourself crazy. It's like trying to NOT think about elephants. The more you try to NOT think about elephants, the more they jump around in your mind. If you don't like elephants, try NOT thinking about the sin that easily tempts you. You know your sin. I know mine.

You will frustrate yourself trying to sweep darkness out of a room. You must turn on the Light. The two verses before verse 5 tell you more about this spiritual warfare and turning on the Light.

For though we live in the flesh, we do not wage war according to the flesh. The weapons of our warfare are not the weapons of the world. Instead, they have divine power to demolish strongholds. We tear down arguments and every presumption set up against the knowledge of God; and we take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ. ~ 2 Corinthians 10:3-5
Berean Study Bible

You don't wage war according to the flesh. You don't try to sweep out the darkness. You have spiritual weapons with divine power to demolish the strongholds in your mind.

You built strongholds in your mind without consciously thinking about what you were doing. You don't know what most of those strongholds are yet. They seem like reality to you. You know about some of your strongholds. You know about thoughts that creep in, thoughts the Holy Spirit brings to your attention. You don't want to entertain those thoughts, but you can't sweep them out. You know your thoughts. I know mine. The more you try to NOT think about them the more you think about them. They keep popping up.

Turn on the Light. The Light is Jesus Christ. He has equipped you, and He will equip you more. He gave you spiritual weapons. One weapon is seeking God. Another is prayer. When the arguments and presumptions of the world creep in, look toward Jesus. Ask Him to help you. He will tear the strongholds down. He'll answer the lies. He'll give you power to destroy those evil strongholds and thoughts that come from them. Stand in Christ's presence. His Light will surround you. The more you seek Christ, the closer you stand to Him. The closer you stand to Christ, the more His Light shines in you. The more Christ's Light shines in you, the less darkness can survive in His presence. Turn on the Light.

I've already told you that the enemy will try to reclaim you. The enemy will try to deceive you into thinking you are stuck. The enemy will bring a suggestion to your mind and then condemn you for the suggestion the enemy brought. He was a liar from the beginning. He's lying to you. He's trying to trick you. When this happens, the Holy Spirit will also bring God's promise to you. You have been delivered. Christ has set you free. The enemy is lying. The enemy doesn't control you.

Your fleshly nature does not control you. You are not a slave. Christ delivered you.



Stand in Christ's presence. His Light will surround you.
The more you seek Christ, the closer you stand to Him.
The closer you stand to Christ, the more His Light shines in you.
The more Christ's Light shines in you,
the less darkness can survive in His presence.

The Parable of the Sower

In the parable of the sower, the sower is God. He continually sows the Seed into your heart. The Seed is the Word. It's the spoken word of God. The Word is God speaking to you. And the Word is God. The Seed is God. God is blessing you with His Spirit and His Word. The Seed is God's leading, teaching, and correcting. Jesus is this Word from God. However, the Seed must find a willing, submissive heart.

You must prepare your heart. Will the Seed fall in the pathway where all the messages of the culture trample and overpower God's Seed? Will the Seed fall on a stony heart that can't sustain the Seed of God because it's hardened against God? Will the Seed fall among the thorns where worries, cares, riches, and pleasures choke it? Or will the Seed fall on good ground prepared by prayer and seeking the Lord?



The Sower is God.
The Seed is the Utterance of God.
Jesus is the Utterance of God.

Refining Gold

God likens His purification process to refining gold. You refine gold by heating it. As you heat the gold, it becomes soft and liquid. The impurities rise to the top and you can remove them. Each time you yield to the Spirit, your flesh feels the heat. Sometimes, God adds even more heat to finish cleansing your heart. Some of those deeply rooted, hidden strongholds in your mind need heat to bring them to the surface. That's why you sometimes must suffer.

Not only that, but we also rejoice in our sufferings,
because we know that **suffering produces**

perseverance; perseverance, character; and character, hope. And hope does not disappoint us, because God has poured out His love into our hearts through the Holy Spirit, whom He has given us. ~ Romans 5:4-5 *Berean Study Bible*

Why Must You Yield?

Some people have asked why God allows anyone to do evil. Why does God allow you to make any choices at all? Why is it so important that you yield? And why do you have to yield to Him to the point where you rejoice in trouble and suffering? The answer is simple. God won't force Himself on anyone. Jesus Christ is the head and husband of the church, but the church must desire Him. He's not like a man who wants a wife and kidnaps a woman and takes her by force. He's a good God, and He's just. He doesn't kidnap you. God calls you. He woos you. He loves and cares for you. He cherishes you. He cultivates a relationship with you. He lets you love Him willingly with a submissive heart rather than forcing Himself and His Life on you.

Discerning the Body of Christ

Holiness is what you are becoming in Christ. It's the anointing of being or becoming. Holiness is the fleshly carnal nature removed and Christ fully formed within. Holiness is you being formed into the spiritual being God ordained you to be. Holiness is you fitted into God's temple as a living stone. God's temple is the body of Christ, which is the called-out church.



Discern: perceive or recognize something. distinguish something.

In plain English, God shows you what is and is not the body of Christ. God shows you the difference between what's good or evil, what's real or fake, and what's true or false.

You can't complete holiness as a loner. God is revealing the order and pattern of His church to you. He shows you when something is out of order. He shows you what His true pattern is. God is fitting you into your place in His pattern. At the same time, God is preparing others to fit into their places

Be ready for God's unfolding revelation. God is establishing His Kingdom and will open the way for you from glory to glory.

But **we all**, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as by the Spirit of the Lord. ~ 2 Corinthians 3:18 *New King James Version*

The veil is your sinful fleshly nature. It's the carnal part of you. When you turn to Jesus, God pulls the veil away. You see the image of God in God's mirror, and you become what you see. You don't see the fleshly part of your brothers and sisters. You see the Christ in them, and you become what you see. The word "transformed" is "metamorphoo" and means "transfigured." The Holy Spirit transfigures you from glory to glory, here a little and there a little.



The Veil: the fleshly human nature.

In plain English, your veil is your body and the part of your mind controlled by the desires of your body.

Faith is the substance of God's vision of hope. It's as if you're looking into a mirror at the perfect law of liberty. The Holy Spirit pulls the veil of your flesh away from you so you can see a glimpse. God's mirror isn't a material mirror. It's a spiritual mirror. In this spiritual mirror, you see who you are in Christ. You don't see your fleshly nature. You see the spiritual man. The spiritual man is Jesus Christ. It's Christ in you.

In God's mirror, you see the body of Christ and how you fit into that body. You see Christ in yourself and Christ in the other members of the body of Christ by God's hope. God's hope is absolute and solid. When you see the body of Christ, you see it as the fulfilled body. You see every member as the Christ within Who cannot sin. As you look into this mirror at the glory of the body of Christ as it ought to be, you're transfigured into the image and likeness of the living Christ.

If you doubt God and what God says, you see the flesh in yourself. And you see the flesh in other members of the body of Christ. Maybe you see yourself and the people you like as good, but you see the fleshly nature in the people you don't like. As you look at the flesh, you become fleshly. You become what you stare at.

You have and are a ministry in this body of Christ. Your ministry is Christ in you. Your ministry has nothing to do with your flesh. You are a living stone in God's temple. God is forming you into the member of His

body He created you to be. As you look into God's spiritual mirror of hope, you see who you are in Christ and how you fit into the body of Christ. You see your brothers and sisters after the spirit and not after the flesh. You need to discern the body of Christ. You need to recognize the ministries of your brothers and sisters. You're standing in the presence of Christ when you're in their presence.

So from now on **we regard no one according to the flesh.** ~ 2 Corinthians 5:16 *Berean Study Bible*

**You HAVE
a fleshly nature**

**You ARE
the Christ in you**

You **HAVE** a carnal nature. You **ARE** the ministry within, the Christ in you. That's what Romans 7 states so clearly.

I do not understand what I do. For what I want to do, I do not do. But what I hate, I do. And if I do what I do not want to do, I admit that the law is good. In that case, **it is no longer I who do it, but it is sin living in me that does it.** I know that nothing good lives in me, that is, in my flesh; for I have the desire to do what is good, but I cannot carry it out. For I do not do the good I want to do. Instead, I keep on doing the evil I do not want to do. And if I do what I do not want, **it is no longer I who do it, but it is sin living in me that does it.** ~ Romans 7:15-20 *Berean Study Bible*

Paul said he does what he doesn't want to do and doesn't do what he does want to do. When he does what he doesn't want to do, he agrees with the Law that it's good. That means Paul doesn't do the sin, but sin that dwells within Paul does the sinful acts.

Paul didn't identify with his carnal nature. And neither should you identify with your carnal nature. You **HAVE** a carnal nature, but you **ARE** the Christ within. Your carnal nature is no better than mine. Your carnal nature isn't sort of bad. It's evil. It's wicked. The carnal nature you have can do no righteousness. It can be openly evil or it can be self-righteous, but it can't please God.

The Spirit of Christ lives in you. He has become part of you. He can do no sin. He only does what's right and good.

The Spirit gives life; **the flesh profits nothing**. The words I have spoken to you are spirit and they are life. ~
John 6:63 *Berean Study Bible*

You can't reform your carnal nature. Your carnal nature must die. It must fade away.



Christ, Who is born within you, can't sin.

You must identify with Christ and not with your fallen fleshly nature.

The Christ in you can do no sin. Christ, Who is born within you, can't sin. You must identify with Christ and not with your fallen fleshly nature.

Those who live according to the flesh **set their minds on the things of the flesh**; but those who live according to the Spirit **set their minds on the things of the Spirit**. The mind of the flesh is death, but the mind of the Spirit is life and peace, ~ Romans 8:5-6
Berean Study Bible

You have five keys. First God speaks, but when He speaks, he doesn't just tell you what to do. He speaks a vision of hope into your heart. This vision is like looking into a mirror since you see yourself and your surroundings. This is a spiritual mirror, so you don't see your fallen, natural self. You see your spiritual self. You see Christ in you.

And you see those around you. For those who are born again, you see them after the Spirit. You see Christ in them. You see who you are in Christ and what Christ is commanding you to do right now. That's when faith comes and gives you access to grace so you can do what God commands you to do. When you yield to the point of obedience, the Holy Spirit transforms you. The Holy Spirit peels off one layer of that fleshly veil and builds Christ in you more fully.



If you see other Christians or yourself as the fleshly nature, you fill your mind with the things of the fleshly nature. If you see other Christians and yourself as the spiritual nature, you fill your mind with the things of the spiritual nature. If you fill your mind with the fleshly nature, you create death in your entire being. If you fill your mind with the spiritual nature, Christ creates Life in your entire being. If you fill your mind with Christ, you stay connected to Christ. Then, Life and peace spring up in you. You see Christ within yourself and others and you become what you see. When you see Jesus Christ as He is, a many-membered body on earth joined to the Head in heaven, you become like Him. Why do you become like Him? You're changed because you fill your mind with the Spirit of Christ Who reigns in righteousness over your mind.

**Your flesh
can't do right**

**Christ in you
can't sin**

Fitting into Christ's Body

The Kingdom of God isn't an individual effort, but God is chiseling you and shaping you to be a stone in His Temple. Holiness is Christ formed within. You become the part of the body of Christ God created you to be. As a member of the body of Christ, you would be irrelevant if you weren't in your place in the body of Christ. You wouldn't be walking in obedience to the Spirit of Christ if you weren't in your place in the body of Christ. Just as a finger becomes useless if it's cut from the body, so you must know how you fit into Christ's body. Just as a shoulder out of joint causes pain, you must know how you fit into Christ's body.

God reveals the pattern of the body of Christ through Scripture. He speaks of it throughout the Bible. He also speaks to you about disorders. You see disorders in the body of Christ and you know by intuition those disorders aren't what God has in mind for His body. God points them

out to you. At other times, you see something you know is right and good and according to God's plan. The Holy Spirit will continue to refine your spiritual senses as you walk with Him into maturity. You'll more easily know the difference between good and evil as you continue to follow the *Truth* up the *Pathway* toward the *Life*. The deceivers will find it harder to deceive you.

You find one important example of the pattern God has provided in God's order for worship.

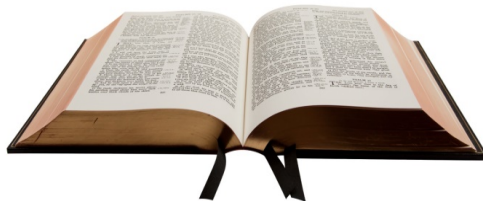
When you may come together, each has a psalm, has a teaching, has a revelation, has a tongue, has an interpretation. Let all things be done for edification. . . . you are all able to prophesy *one* by one ~ 1 Corinthians 1:26 & 31

Each member has a psalm, teaching, revelation, tongue, interpretation, or prophecy. While the 26th verse is a key verse, let the Holy Spirit speak to you about it and show you how it fits into the entire chapter. The church service isn't a place of entertainment. It's not something you watch. You are a ministry in that service, and God has given you the task of building up your brother and sister in Christ. In this place of ministry, you develop your spiritual senses. God is now working to awaken the church to His ways. Most churches don't allow you to follow the pattern of Scripture. This continues because most Christians are still looking for a comfortable place to be a little religious without dying to the sinful flesh. And yet, God is asking you to break out of the forms, rituals, and entertainments of the past.

And He Himself gave some *to be* apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers, for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ, till we all come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ; that we should no longer be children, tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, in the cunning craftiness of deceitful plotting, but, speaking the truth in love, may grow up in all things into Him who is the head—Christ—from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by what every joint supplies, according

to the effective working by which every part does its share, causes growth of the body for the edifying of itself in love. ~ Ephesians 4:11-16 *New King James Version*

God has a pattern in everything He does. As you walk with Him, He'll adjust your thinking to understand His pattern. Then, He'll open the door for you to follow His pattern. The Church will need this pattern of the body of Christ until every one of us comes to the unity of the faith and the knowledge of the Son of God. Scripture doesn't mention "perfect men and women." God says, "a perfect man." One perfect man! That perfect man is Christ. Christ is a body on earth joined to the Head in heaven. The word "perfect" means totally mature or complete. The body of Christ will reach total maturity when all members submit to Christ the Head and allow God to form them into the image and likeness of Christ. God will form Christ's body according to every precept of Scripture. The rebellious carnal nature will vanish. Then, you'll see the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ. Ephesians 4:11-16 tells you how the body of Christ works as part of God's process to lead you to maturity. It's by what every joint supplies. The joints are the places where the members of the body meet each other. Every part builds up every other part.



Do You Love Jesus?

If you love Me, you will keep My commandments. ~
John 14:15 *Berean Literal Bible*

This isn't a matter of you trying to be good enough to prove you love Jesus. It's not about proving you love Jesus. It's a matter of knowing Jesus. Christ leads you every moment. He lets you know what He wants you to do. He lets you know what He doesn't want you to do. These are His commandments. You just found out about the five keys that give you the power to keep the commandments Christ gives you every moment. This power is the same great power that created the universe, and now it's creating a clean heart in you.

Jesus said you will keep His commandments if you love Him. These aren't the commandments of Moses. These aren't the Ten Commandments. These are the commandments Jesus gives you through the Holy Spirit. Jesus will always lead you into what is right and good. You will sense when something is not right. It's the perfect law of liberty. Liberty is freedom from slavery. If you sin, you are a slave to sin. Have you ever felt like a slave? Have you ever felt hopeless? Christ will set you free. When He sets you free, you will be free indeed.

Now What Do You Do?

In this short book, you've uncovered many basic truths. With this knowledge, the Bible will become a new book to you. Many Scripture verses will begin to make sense where they may have seemed vague or unimportant before. You'll begin to see God's pattern as He speaks to you through Scripture. Continue looking to Jesus, and He will open the doors before you. Don't get eager to run ahead of God's leading. Say only the words He gives you. Do only the acts He leads you to do and does through you. You will fail at times, and God is both faithful and just to forgive your sins if you confess those sins to Him. He Who began a good work in you will be faithful to complete it. Be patient with God's process.

Lord, I pray for Your Presence in me. Let me hear Your voice clearly. Change me so I know Your voice from all other voices. Give me a heart that's tuned to Your will. Soften my heart toward You. Take out those strongholds in my mind. Break them down. Break down the strongholds I know about and break down the strongholds I don't know about. Change my mind to be like Yours. Flow through me by Your Holy Spirit. Teach me, transform me, and dwell in me. Be active and alive in me in Your power and glory. Do Your works through me. Say Your words through me. I hunger and thirst for Your righteousness. I consider all my accomplishments and training as useless in comparison to what You have for me. Help me let go. Don't leave me in my present condition. Plant Your Seed in me continually until I walk into Your kingdom fully. Lord, I long for the manifestation of the sons of God. I long for the redemption of my body. Lord, grant that those You have chosen read these words and press toward the mark of their high calling in Christ Jesus. Bring Your body into unity to the measure of the stature of Your fullness. As we see the godless systems of the world come under the complete control of Satan, bring Your people into the fullness of Your plan for us. Amen.

That's the end of this book. You may have to read this book or listen to the audiobook several times to fully understand it. However, even when you understand it, you have to walk in the Spirit before it does you any good. You must listen carefully to God's voice as He develops your ability to discern His voice. You must desire His will over your own will,

and that will help you recognize His voice. And you must yield the members of your body to Him in willing submission. That's what righteousness is. Now you understand God's five scriptural keys. And you understand why God's righteousness transforms you into the image and likeness of Christ.



Book Club, Small Group Study, or Homeschool Questions

These questions can be used for the entire book, or you can use these same questions for each section or chapter, depending on how you want to run your club, group, or class.

What Did You See?

What new things did you learn in this reading?

What did God seem to be saying directly to you as you read?

What is the most important point in what you read, and why is it important?

Edification, Encouragement, and Comfort

What was most comforting to you in this reading, and why is it comforting?

What did you find most edifying as you read, and why was it edifying?

What part of this reading was most encouraging or strengthening to you, and why did you find it strengthening or encouraging?

Going Forward

How do feel you'll be able to apply this reading in your life going forward?

What do you see as the hardest part of applying this reading to your life?

What do you see as the key to applying this reading to your life?

What questions do you still have? What points are still confusing?

What truth can you add to what was in the book?

Where do you think God is leading you based on what you read?

Free Stuff

Petros donated the eBook version of all his books to Real Reality, Inc., which is a non-profit organization. Real Reality makes the eBook version available for free.

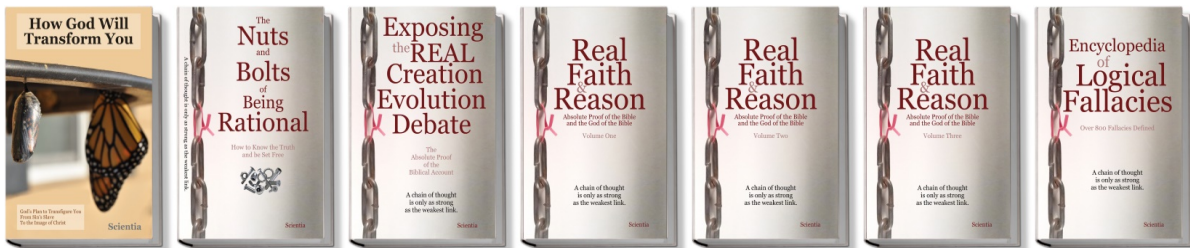
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About the Author

Petros B. Scientia is the pen name of a man who pastored a local church for thirty-three years and who has chosen to keep his writing work separate from his work of shepherding a flock. Petros has also been blogging for two decades, encouraging unbelievers and believers alike to know Jesus Christ. Petros also analyzed and documented systems professionally for twenty years. These systems included business, mechanical, electrical, and software systems. He did this while pastoring a local church.

God shows Petros how things work at the most basic level. What seems complex and hard to understand becomes simple. God does this with both Scriptural truth and material facts.

When God began putting it on Petros' heart to write this book, Petros didn't feel qualified. He still doesn't feel qualified. And yet, God continued to urge him to write it. Petros tried to find someone else more qualified to write the book. He wasn't able to. Petros previously wrote ten- or twenty-page descriptions at most. To write a book seemed insurmountable. The book became six books under the guidance of the Holy Spirit. Petros is concerned that some of his own ideas may have made it into these books. If any human ideas did get in, Petros prays the reader will discern and discard whatever isn't from the Holy Spirit.