

A long-exposure photograph of a night sky featuring circular star trails. In the foreground, the top of a large, well-lit tree is visible on the left side, and another smaller tree is on the bottom right. The sky transitions from a deep blue at the top to a purple and pinkish hue near the horizon.

# **Spiritual Formation**

**Bob Williamson**

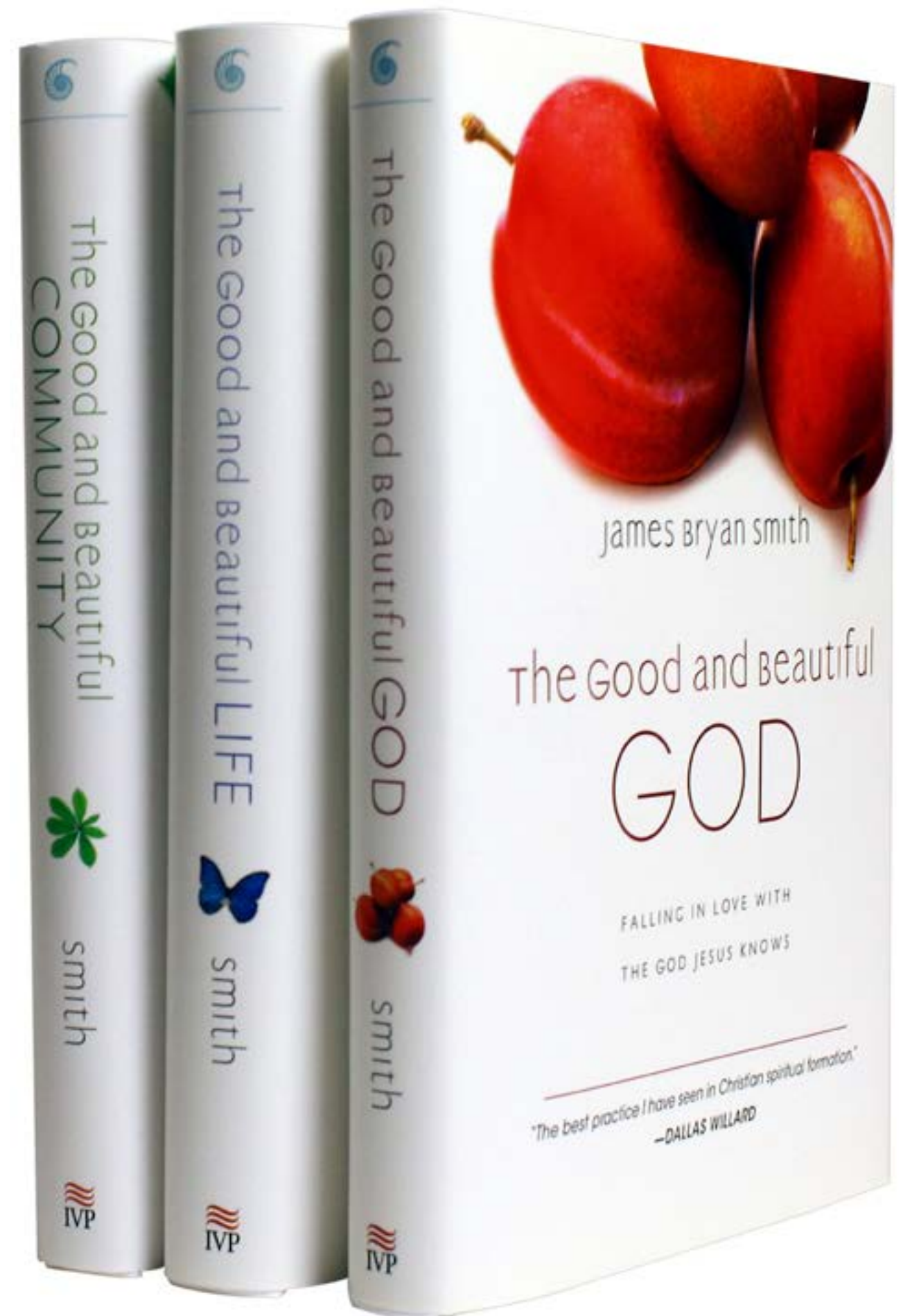
**Manhattan Beach**

**June 2023**

**(part 2)**

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# The Trilemma

It is critically important to examine the assumptions within a question. ~ C.S. Lewis

God is all powerful

What is the definition of good?  
- Talk about Luke 18:18-19

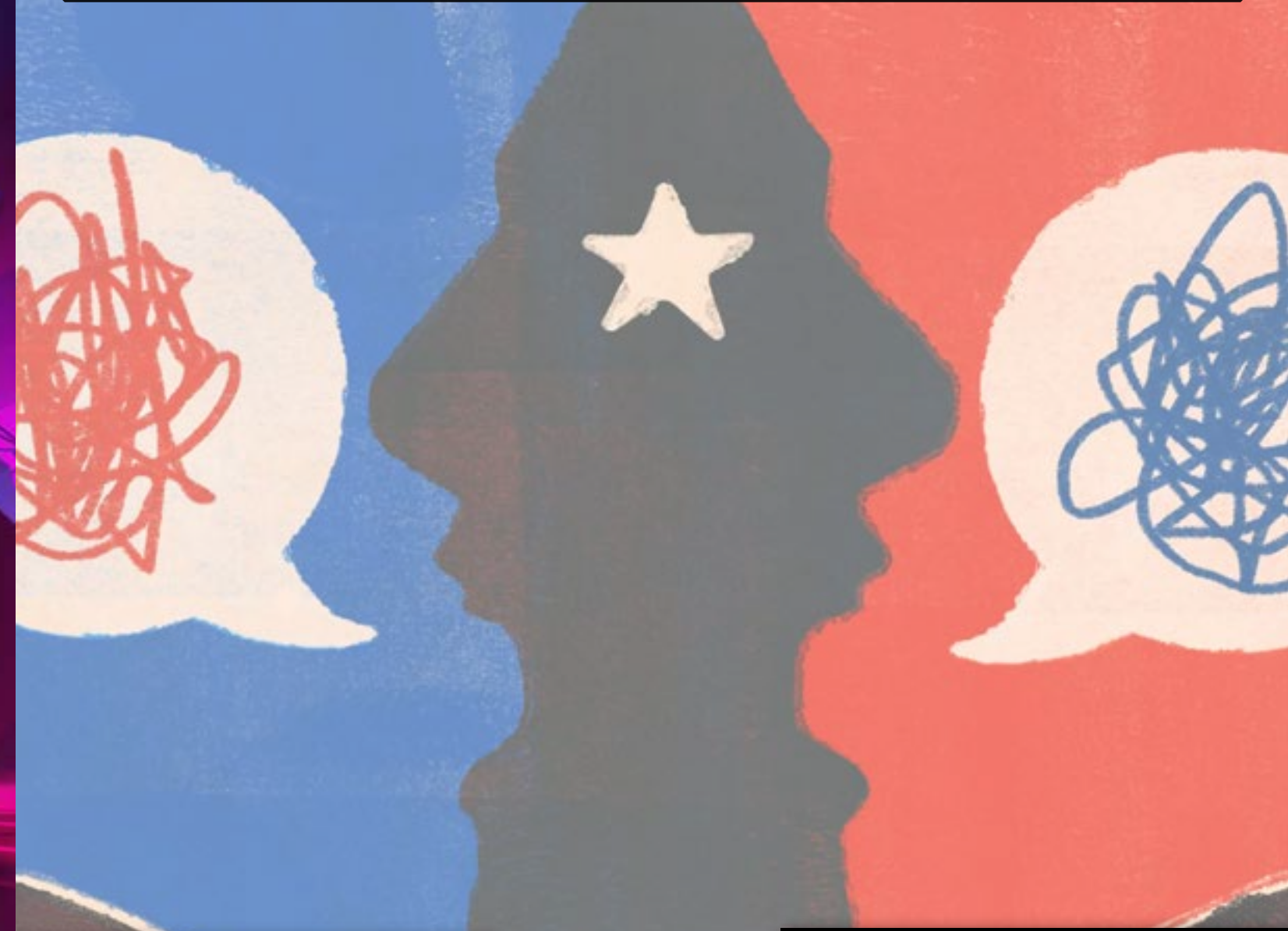


God is good/loving

Evil exists

Is there is such a thing as good and evils?  
By what do you judge? Some standard?  
Who is the Law Giver?  
God must remain in the answer, then!  
God is all knowing? Eternal?

Who made absolute truth claims?  
Can you really have a robust ethic outside of divinity?  
Did William Provine try to convince you?  
Why is this counter intuitive to his argument?



Phil Johnson



William Provine



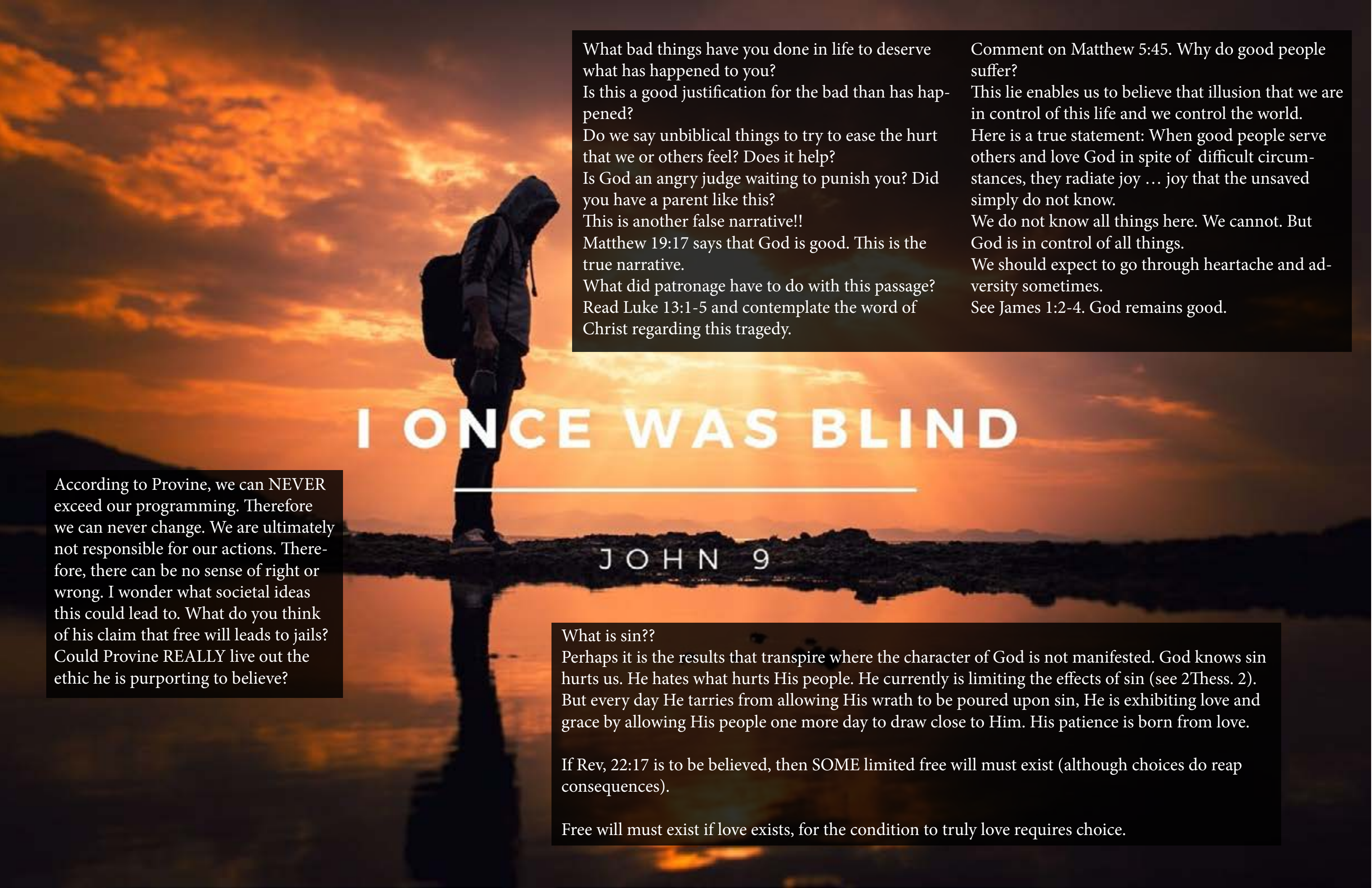


# The principle of Reaping and Sowing

[JOHN 9](#) [GALATIAN 6](#)

It's  
your  
choice





What bad things have you done in life to deserve what has happened to you?  
Is this a good justification for the bad than has happened?  
Do we say unbiblical things to try to ease the hurt that we or others feel? Does it help?  
Is God an angry judge waiting to punish you? Did you have a parent like this?  
This is another false narrative!!  
Matthew 19:17 says that God is good. This is the true narrative.  
What did patronage have to do with this passage?  
Read Luke 13:1-5 and contemplate the word of Christ regarding this tragedy.

Comment on Matthew 5:45. Why do good people suffer?  
This lie enables us to believe that illusion that we are in control of this life and we control the world. Here is a true statement: When good people serve others and love God in spite of difficult circumstances, they radiate joy ... joy that the unsaved simply do not know.  
We do not know all things here. We cannot. But God is in control of all things.  
We should expect to go through heartache and adversity sometimes.  
See James 1:2-4. God remains good.

# I ONCE WAS BLIND

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## JOHN 9

According to Provine, we can NEVER exceed our programming. Therefore we can never change. We are ultimately not responsible for our actions. Therefore, there can be no sense of right or wrong. I wonder what societal ideas this could lead to. What do you think of his claim that free will leads to jails? Could Provine REALLY live out the ethic he is purporting to believe?

What is sin??

Perhaps it is the results that transpire where the character of God is not manifested. God knows sin hurts us. He hates what hurts His people. He currently is limiting the effects of sin (see 2Thess. 2). But every day He tarries from allowing His wrath to be poured upon sin, He is exhibiting love and grace by allowing His people one more day to draw close to Him. His patience is born from love.

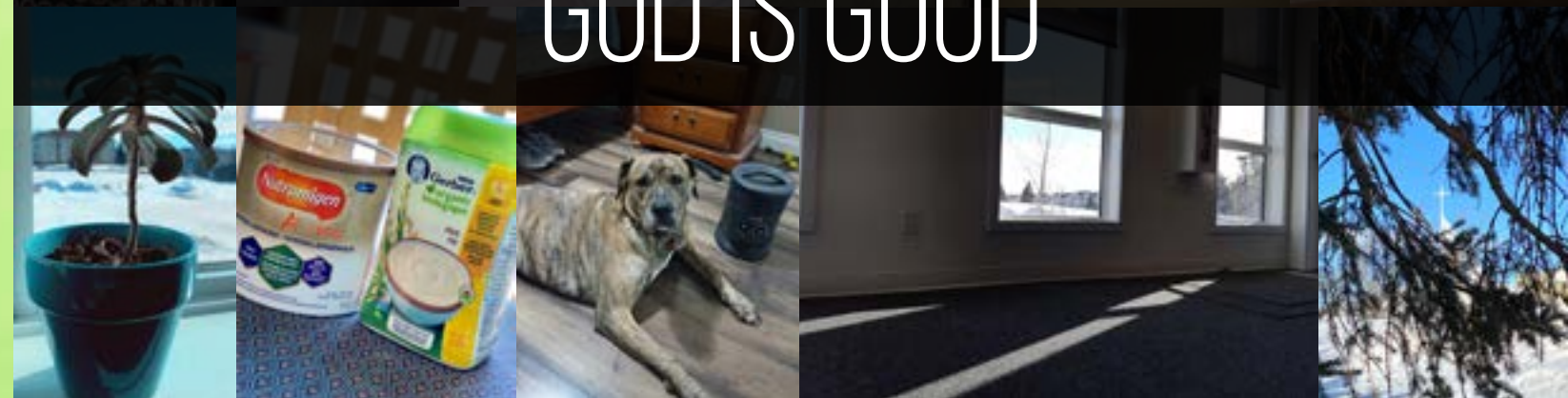
If Rev, 22:17 is to be believed, then SOME limited free will must exist (although choices do reap consequences).

Free will must exist if love exists, for the condition to truly love requires choice.



GOD IS GOOD

*What is it about beauty, art, music, and love that supercedes "programming"?*



## Father Wound

Some psychologists and spiritual leaders posit that everyone is born with a “father hunger” — a desire to be affirmed, approved, known, understood, and loved by one’s paternal parent, and to grow up with a sense of strength and authority, that, while not overbearing, provides the kind of structure that allows a child to flourish and take flight. When a child doesn’t receive this kind of masculine nurturance — whether because Dad wasn’t around due to divorce, abandonment, or death, or was nominally present, but functionally absent because he prioritized work, greatly favored a sibling, or was outright abusive — this father hunger becomes a father wound.

A father wound creates a sense of lack, an emptiness, that can haunt someone their whole life through, though they don’t always recognize it for what it is, and are unable to give it a name. While the neglect of a mother can also result in a “mother wound,” in *From Wild Man to Wise Man: Reflections on Male Spirituality*, Rohr argues that a father’s unique relationship to his children makes his love uniquely prized, and thus creates a uniquely acute swath of damage when that love isn’t given: Our father, and his response to us, is the first response of an ‘outsider.’ Mom’s love is body-based from the womb and the breast.

It is assumed, taken for granted, relied upon instinctively, which is why a foundational ‘mother wound’ can be even more devastating to one’s very core. When one’s good mother dies, it first feels like God has died, because she is your first clear God image and Divine security.

But Dad is that other in the house, at a greater distance. He does not ‘have’ to love you. His love is not inherently felt and drawn upon, like Mother love. He must choose to love you! He decides for you, he picks you out, he notices you among the many. It redeems, liberates, and delights, therefore, in a totally different way. . . .

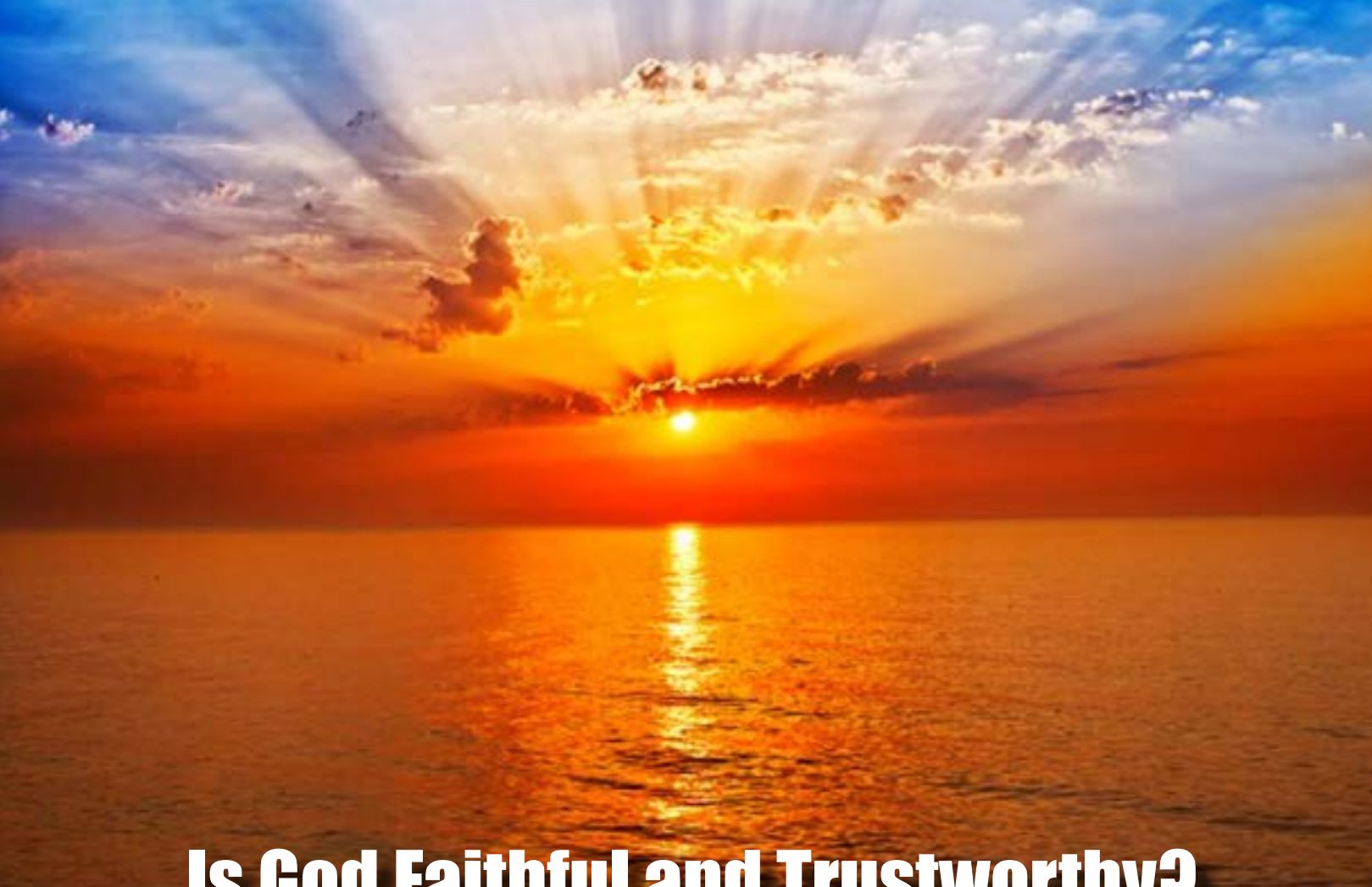
That is the uniquely transformative experience of male love. It validates us and affirms us deeply, precisely because it is not necessary.

The result of not receiving a father’s distinctly chosen affirmation, Rohr argues, “is a deep hurt, a deprivation that leads to a poor sense of one’s own center and boundaries, a mind that is disconnected from one’s body and emotions, a life often with the passivity of a unlit fire.”

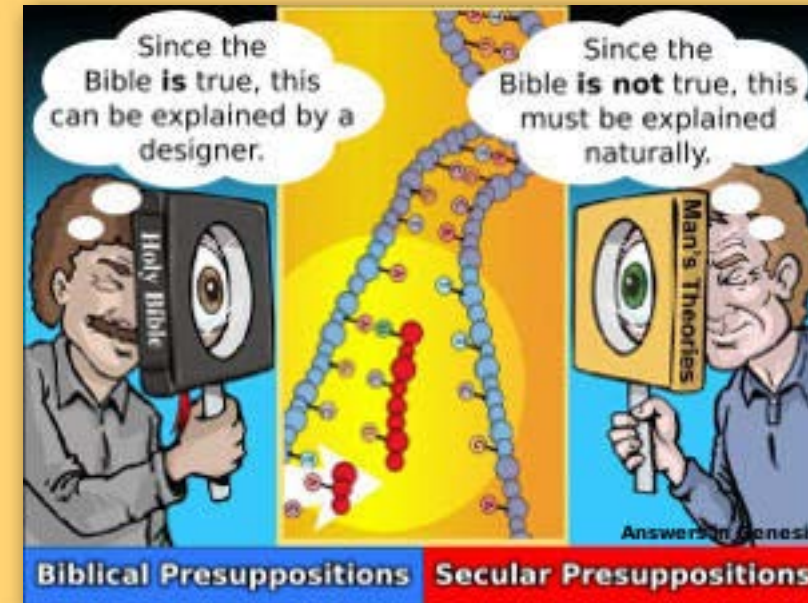
Boys and girls alike, he says, need the masculine energy that a father’s love awakens; without it, “They will lack self-confidence and the ability to do, to carry through, to trust themselves — because they were never trusted by him.”



**Is God Angry With You?**



**Is God Faithful and Trustworthy?**



**Biblical Presuppositions    Secular Presuppositions**

**Our presuppositions shape our perspective.  
Our perspective shapes our priorities.  
Our priorities shape our practices.**





Matthew 6:7 And when you pray, do not keep on babbling like pagans, for they think they will be heard because of their many words.

8 Do not be like them, for your Father knows what you need before you ask him.

9 ¶ “This, then, is how you should pray: “Our **Father** in heaven, **hallowed** be your **name**,

10 your **kingdom come**, your will be done on earth as it is in heaven.

11 Give us today our **daily bread**.

12 **Forgive us** our debts, as we also have **forgiven our debtors**.

13 And lead us not into temptation, but **deliver** us from the evil one.’

14 For if you forgive men when they sin against you, your heavenly Father will also forgive you.

15 But if you do not forgive men their sins, your Father will not forgive your sins.

God is ...

*Present*

*Proclaims  
His Character*

**POWERFUL**

*Provider*

**Pardons**

*Protects*



# 30 BIBLE VERSES

*about*

# FORGIVENESS

[Ephesians 4:31-32](#)

[Romans 12:17](#)

[Colossians 3:12-13](#)

[Psalms 103:12](#)

[Proverbs 17:9](#)

[Isaiah 1:18](#)

[1John 1:9](#)

[Numbers 14:18](#)

[Mark 11:25](#)

[Matthew 6:14-15](#)

[Isaiah 55:7](#)

[Ephesians 1:7-8](#)

[Psalms 103:10-14](#)

[Proverbs 15:1](#)

[Jeremiah 31:34](#)

[Daniel 9:9](#)

[Hebrews 8:12](#)

[Luke 6:37](#)

[Matthew 5:7](#)

[Romans 7:1](#)

[Micah 7:18-20](#)

[Romans 5:8](#)

[Matthew 18:21-22](#)

[Luke 23:34](#)

[Isaiah 43:25](#)

[2Chronicles 7:14](#)

[Matthew 26:28](#)

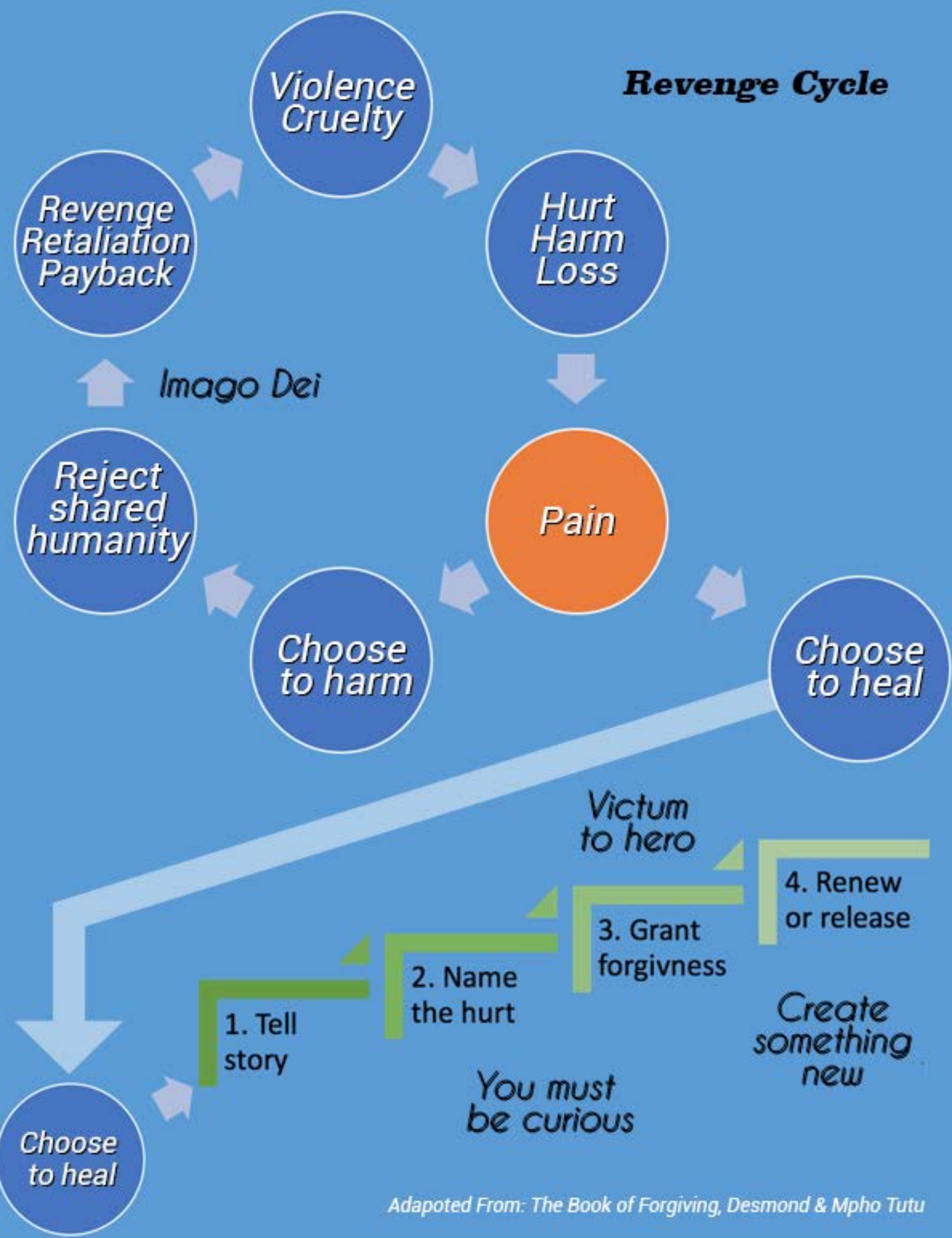
[1Timothy 1:15-16](#)

[Acts 2:38-39](#)

[Psalms 86:5](#)

**What is my cup?**

## Revenge Cycle



1. Forgiveness is not forgetting.
  - God does not forget (Jeremiah 31:34 is metaphor)
  - Omniscient
2. Forgiving someone does not mean you no longer feel the pain of their offense.
3. Forgiving someone who has sinned against you doesn't mean you cease longing for justice.
  - 'Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord'" (Romans 12:19).
  - The point is that forgiveness does not mean you are to ignore that a wrong was done or that you deny that a sin was committed.
  - Forgiveness simply means that you determine in your heart to let God be the avenger. He is the judge, not you.
4. Forgiveness does not mean you are to make it easy for the offender to hurt you again.
  - You must set boundaries on your relationship with them.
5. Forgiveness is rarely a one-time, climactic event.
  - It is most often a life-long process.

~~Lies~~  
Truth

1. God in Christ forgave us by absorbing in himself the destructive and painful consequences of our sin against him.
2. God forgave us in Christ by canceling the debt we owed him. That is to say, we are no longer held liable for our sins or in any way made to pay for them.
3. Forgiving others as God has forgiven us means we resolve to revoke revenge.
4. Forgiving others as God has forgiven us means that we determine to do good to them rather than evil.
  - Read especially Romans 12:17-21.
5. God forgave us in Christ by reconciling us to himself, by restoring the relationship that our sin had shattered.
  - Often we avoid forgiveness because we want to avoid conflict. Going to the offender and saying, "I forgive you," carries the potential for an explosion. They may even deny having sinned against us. But true forgiveness pursues relationship and restoration. True forgiveness is not satisfied with simply canceling the debt. It longs to love again.

# Forgiveness: Reconciliation?

What is our repetitive dance?

- thought and feelings are part of the dance
- what are my assumptions regarding their behaviors and vice versa

What are my steps in the dance?

- Do I have the capacity to change my steps?
- Am I willing to do the work?

What are their steps in the dance?

- Do they have the capacity to change?
- Are they willing to do the work?



# Forgiveness: Reconciliation?

Is the problem clarity?

Is the problem that I do not want to change?

Is the problem they do not want to change?

Zero capacity for empathy and perspective = Narcissistic  
See Psalm 38

Both of us must be:

No longer defensive, blame, no controlling the outcome

1. You make the other person a priority
2. You accept responsibility for your behaviors with no defensiveness
3. Deep concern regarding how actions impact the other person.

If you can't change them, we must alter expectations



Write down when the  
Lord has shown Him-  
self to be faithful to  
you!

GOD IS FAITHFUL  
YESTERDAY, TODAY, TOMORROW AND  
ALWAYS.



## God Is Generous

“The process of spiritual formation in Christ is one of progressively replacing destructive images and ideas with the images and ideas that filled the mind of Christ.”  
~Dallas Willard

What things in culture teach us that love is earned?

Is this a true godly narrative?

What narrative is more prevalent in the Bible ...

God’s judgement on sin or His generosity?

Is this a narrative that we often hear at church?

How would you present it better?

Generosity either flows from a sense of abundance or a sense of compassion!

Matthew 20:1-15

1John 4:10-11

“God wants most from me ... to smile because I know Him and I know how much He loves me”. True or false?

**What if God delights in me, no matter what I do?**

## God Is Generous: Secrecy

When I was in the novitiate, in my early twenties, I decided to do one small act of kindness each day that was completely unknown to anyone. So I would keep my eyes peeled for something helpful I could do that no one would see. I wanted to be absolutely sure that I was doing it for no one but God, whom I loved with a simple and quite passionate fervour. I made beds, or turned them down. I folded clothes, I tidied. At least one a day, and no one knew. That very infinitesimal act each day gave me enormous joy. It gave me a kind of inner excitement to do this only for God: a secret between me and God. It kept me alert to the small needs of others; maybe it provided spontaneity and creativity in an otherwise highly regimented situation.

Elaine Prevallett



## Praying With Your Eyes: Visio Divina

A picture is worth a thousand words, they say. And recently, I've been using the practice of Visio Divina ("divine seeing" in Latin) to help me focus more fully on God in prayer. Drawing on the principles of Lectio Divina, Visio Divina is the slow, thoughtful contemplation of a picture, photo, work of art, or really anything visual that invites God to speak to me in a deeper way.

### 1. Find inspiration

Inspirational prompts can include photos, images, fine art, or textiles – in fact, almost any visual media, pictorial or abstract. For example, centuries ago, illuminated Bibles were created by monks, featuring flawless calligraphy and colorful decorations as a way to honor the Bible's special status as a holy book. I've created a small portfolio of images to choose from, such as greetings cards, photos I've taken, and even images torn from magazines.



### 2. Open with a prayer

I begin with a short prayer before choosing my source. I ask God to help me find a prompt that nourishes my soul, and one that will provide the insights God knows I need, not necessarily what I think I need! I might say "Please help me choose the right inspiration for today, so you can speak to me," or "Please prompt my decision today."

### 3. Choose your inspiration

Next, I look through my online sources or leaf through my little stash of images, still mentally asking God to help me choose the best one for my situation. I don't usually spend too long on this – if something catches my eye, that's the one I go for. I might stick a photo or notecard in middle of a plain scrapbook page, so I can annotate around it, doodle while I'm contemplating, or record scripture verses. If I'm looking at wall art or something online, I make sure I'm sitting comfortably so I can focus. Then, I follow this structure loosely:

### 4. Consider your first impressions

Let your eyes stay with the very first thing you see in your chosen image. Perhaps you'll notice a small detail like a tiny bird in a vast blue sky, or maybe one vibrant color

in an abstract pattern may catch your eye. Don't let your eyes wander around the rest of the image (not always easy!), but stick with your initial focus. I find that slowing my breathing, and continually bringing my attention back when it strays, is helpful. Consider what thoughts come into your mind and what emotions you're feeling. Ask God to speak to you through what you've noticed and then take time to listen. I usually take around five minutes to do this, but there are no hard and fast rules.

### 5. Pay attention to your thoughts / feelings

Then I'll let myself begin to take in the picture as a whole, considering other things that catch my attention. I'll ask myself how the entire image makes me feel, whether it provokes any questions, or if it stirs up memories. Sometimes a verse of Scripture will come to mind, such as a verse from the Psalms about the glories of the heavens to accompany an image of the starry sky.

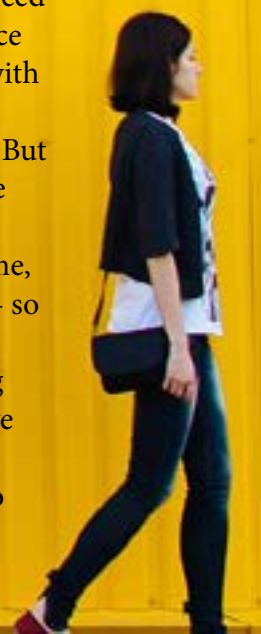
### 6. Listen for God's voice

Silence is an important aspect of practicing Visio Divina. Again, taking time to be still helps me to be more aware of any message from God and often helps me

to think carefully about how I should respond to what God has revealed to me. Try taking notes or journaling to crystallize your thoughts. You might even feel inspired to create your own artwork in response to what you've experienced.

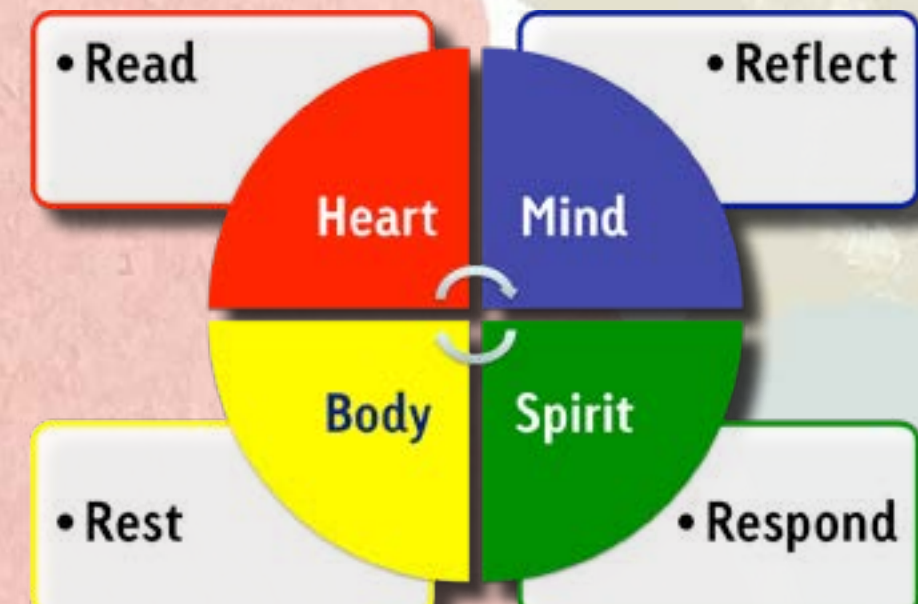
### 7. Respond to Visio Divina

I usually finish my Visio Divina session by praying about what I've experienced through focusing on the image. Once I'm done, it's all too easy to get on with the rest of my day and not give my Visio Divina time another thought. But if possible, I leave my prompt where I can see it – pinned to the fridge, tucked in the corner of a photo frame, or placed next to me on the couch – so I can continue to ponder throughout the day. It's sometimes tempting to "hurry through" the steps, but I've found that allowing around half an hour for a session allows me time to consider things at a deeper level.



## Lectio Divina

1. Pick a few verses ... usually no more than 5 or so.
2. Spend a moment relaxing, just breathing, calming down.
3. Read the verses slowly, pause between each clause
4. Be silent for a moment or two
5. Read it again, taking even longer pauses between the clauses. Pay attention to words that seem to catch your eye. Write those special words down.
6. Re-read the passage again, stopping at those key words. Repeat them to yourself.
7. Ponder and reflect. Why are those words standing out? Repeat the phrase a few more times. What might God be saying to you?
8. Pray for the wisdom and Spirit of the Lord to reveal. Listen. Write down what God is saying.
9. Rest for a few moments.
10. Based on what was revealed, ask yourself ... "What am I being called to do now?"





## 1. Give thanksgiving.

I begin by giving God thanks for all the things I'm grateful for today. I allow my mind to wander as I reflect on the ways God has blessed me on this particular day. I allow big things and small things to arise—everything from the gift of my faith, to the gift of my marriage, to the easy commute to work today.

## 2. Ask for the Spirit.

Next, I want to look at the moments in my day when I did not act so well. However, before doing so, I ask God to fill me with his Spirit so that the Spirit can lead me through this difficult soul-searching. Otherwise, I'm liable to hide in denial, wallow in self-pity, or seethe in self-loathing.

# Prayer of Examen

## 3. Review and recognize failures.

I look back at my day and ask the Lord to point out to me the moments when I have failed in big ways or small. I take a sobering look at the mistakes I've made this day.

## 4. Ask for forgiveness and healing.

If I have sinned, I ask God to forgive me and set me straight again. If I have not sinned but simply made a mistake, I ask for healing of any harm that might have been done. I ask for help to get over it and move on. I also ask for wisdom to discern how I might better handle such tricky moments in the future.

## 5. Pray about the next day.

I ask God to show me how tomorrow might go. I imagine the things I'll be doing, the people I'll see, and the decisions I'll be mulling over. I ask for help with any moments I foresee that might be difficult. I especially ask for help in moments when I might be tempted to fail in the way I did today.

**To help me remember the five steps, I like to use a 5-Rs mnemonic:**

- Relish the moments that went well and all of the gifts I have today.
- Request the Spirit to lead me through my review of the day.
- Review the day.
- Repent of any mistakes or failures.
- Resolve, in concrete ways, to live tomorrow well.

# God Is Generous: Secrecy

The discipline of secrecy, as Jesus taught and modeled it, is intentionally hiding your prayers or good deeds to please only your Father in heaven, “who is in secret”; it's the practice of denying ourselves the attention and admiration from others that we like and instead to keep our righteousness quiet.



*In the discipline of secrecy we abstain from causing our good deeds and qualities to be known. We may even take steps to prevent them from being known. We learn to love to be unknown and even to accept misunderstanding without the loss of our peace, joy, or purpose. We allow [God] to decide when our deeds will be known and when our light will be noticed. And that love and humility encourages us to see our associates in the best possible light, even to the point of our hoping they will do better and appear better than us.*

*Dallas Willard*

[Matthew 6:1-4](#)

- What rewards do we miss when our good deeds are seen by other?
- What does it mean when speaking of left hand and right hand?

Comment on the secret nature of these verses:

[Colossians 3:3](#)

[Psalm 38:9](#)

[Psalm 32:7](#)

[Psalm 63:7](#)

Describe what it be like to work around people who did not care who got the credit.

How might this discipline draw you closer to the Lord?



## The Transforming God: Failure



What does God see and think when you fail?

**W**hen they had finished eating, Jesus said to Simon Peter, "Simon son of John, do you love me more than these?" "Yes, Lord," he said, "you know that I love you." Jesus said, "Feed my lambs."

Again Jesus said, "Simon son of John, do you love me?" He answered, "Yes, Lord, you know that I love you." Jesus said, "Take care of my sheep." The third time he said to him, "Simon son of John, do you love me?" Peter was hurt because Jesus asked him the third time, "Do you love me?" He said, "Lord, you know all things; you know that I love you." Jesus said, "Feed my sheep."

Very truly I tell you, when you were younger you dressed yourself and went where you wanted; but when you are old you will stretch out your hands, and someone else will dress you and lead you where you do not want to go." Jesus said this to indicate the kind of



death by which Peter would glorify God. Then he said to him, "Follow me!"

Peter turned and saw that the disciple whom Jesus loved was following them. (This was the one who had leaned back against Jesus at the supper and had said, "Lord, who is going to betray you?") When Peter saw him, he asked, "Lord, what about him?"

Jesus answered, "If I want him to remain alive until I return, what is that to you? You must follow me." Because of this, the rumor spread among the believers that this disciple would not die. But Jesus did not say that he would not die; he only said, "If I want him to remain alive until I return, what is that to you?"

**John 21:15-23**

*Am I a sinner or a saint?*

- He takes both the guilt and the power of sin
- [Col 1:27](#), [Col 2:13](#), [Gal 2:19-20](#), [Romans 8:1](#)
- [Romans 8:10](#), [Col 3:3](#)
- Christ clearly dwells in us.

*Yet the flesh and the spirit still war ([Gal. 5:17](#))*  
*- Sin does not reign, but it still exists.*

*Now what does it mean to "abide in Christ"? [John 15:4-5](#)*

**Make your choices in light of who you are!**



**The Transforming God**



## Verses on Studying the Word of God:

- o [2Tim 3:16-17](#)
- o [Joshua 1:8](#)
- o [Psalm 119:11](#)
- o [Psalm 119:105](#)
- o [Proverbs 3:1-2](#)
- o [2 Timothy 2:15](#)
- o [1Peter 3:15](#)
- o [Deut. 11:18-23](#)
- o [Acts 17:11](#)
- o [Psalm 119:9](#)
- o [Hebrews 4:12](#)
- o [Proverbs 2:1-5](#)
- o [Acts 8:30](#)
- o [Psalm 1:2](#)
- o [Col 3:16](#)

# The Transforming God

*Name the tools  
that God uses to  
transform us!*



# The Bible



1. Keep an open, inquisitive mind. You must approach this honestly.
2. How will you know that you are reading the WHOLE Word of God? What is your plan?
3. Be consistent as much as possible. The same time, place as much as possible is best.
4. The Bible is NOT a textbook. Keep an attitude of respect, care and receptivity.
5. ASK, ANSWER, ACCUMULATE (practical principles), APPLY (to your life and relationships).
6. Develop a memorization routine.

## Study involves four processes:

### a) Repetition

### b) Concentration

- Yet we know that distraction is the mode of our modern culture

### c) Comprehension

- we must understand what we study ([John 8:32](#) ... it is knowledge of the truth)

### d) Reflection

- This speaks to the significance of what we are studying.

### 7. Synthetic method (analyzing parts to form a whole):

- Seek a comprehensive overview of the book.
- Record the general principles you observe in several readings of the book.
- Create a title for each paragraph.
- How does each paragraph fit the overall theme of the book?



## 8. Inductive method (1Peter):

- Start with a paragraph. Read it aloud several times. Now:

### Observation

- Seek for key words, phrases, other verses, progression of thoughts, contrasts and comparisons.

### Interpretation

- Discern the meaning of the author.

### Correlation

- Relate the passage to the overall context and other scripture.  
- What does it say about God?

### Application

- How will you implement these ideas into your life?

## 9. Topical method

- Select a topic and move through the entire Bible, seeking each occurrence of that theme.

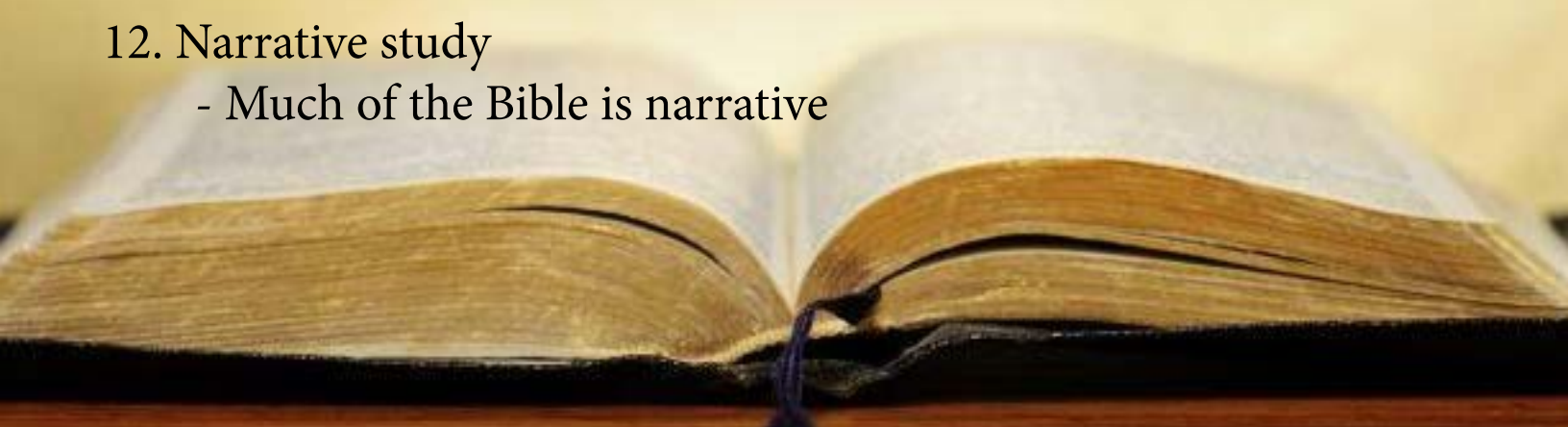
## 10. Biographical method

- Study an individual character, discerning the personality traits.

## 11. Meditation

## 12. Narrative study

- Much of the Bible is narrative



# How do I Read the Word of GOD?

Psalm 139:

The All Knowing God (vv. 1-6)  
The All Present God (vv. 7-12)  
The All Powerful God (vv. 13-18)  
The All Holy God (vv. 19-24)

Informational Reading	Formational Reading
Seek to cover as much as possible	Focus on small portions
A linear process	An in-depth process
Seeks to master the text	Allows the text to master me
The text is an object to use	The text is a subject that shapes us
Analytical, critical and judgmental approach	Humble, submissive, willing, loving approach
Problem solving mentality	Openness to mystery

There are times that both approaches have their value. Where do we preach, normally, however?

The Word is living and active (Hebrews 4:11-12) and has power to change us (James 1:21-22)! Do I read the Word with this STRONG belief? The proof is what happens AFTER you close your Bible! What do you think about?

### **The Contemplative Way**

- We ask God to tame us so we can learn the freedom there is in obedience to Christ  
- "It is only with the heart that one can see rightly. What is essential is invisible to the eye".

### **Three truths about the contemplative way**

1) It is not for beginners. They need grounding and teaching in the Word.

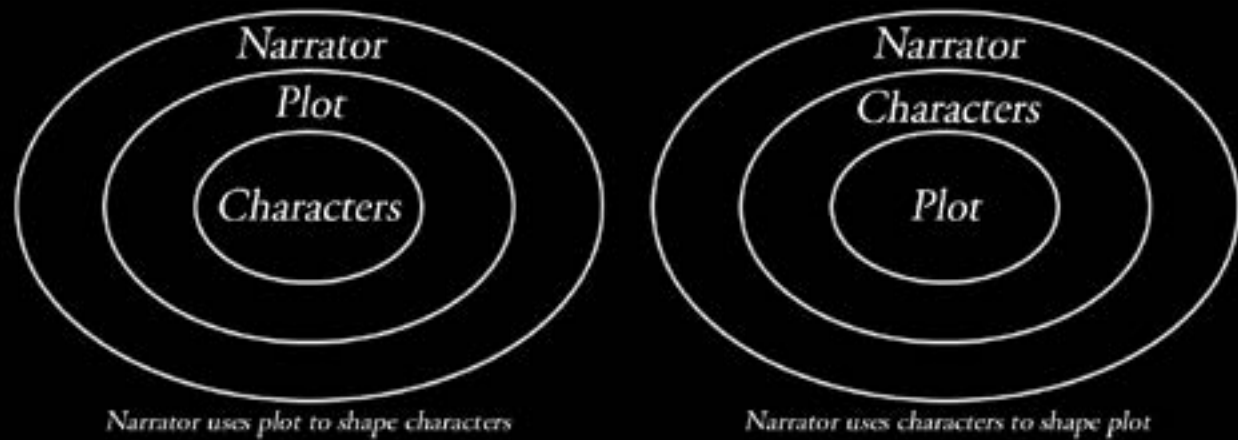
2) Must be tethered to the truth of the Word.  
3) Not limited to people with certain personalities, abilities.

*"Lord, take away any illusions I may have of becoming great and famous, since you are all those things, and you alone"*

Compartmentalization fosters a dichotomy between the secular and the spiritual.

Hebrew word used most for wisdom is **chokmah**, meaning skilled - or more clearly, to be skilled at living. Specifically, wisdom is skill in the art of living with each area of our lives under the dominion of God.

*Living in a fragmented world erodes our commitments and blurs our focus*



## What is a story?

It is a narrative of events arranged in their time-sequence; dinner coming after breakfast, Tuesday after Monday, decay after death, and so on. A story can have but one merit: that of making the audience want to know what happens next. And conversely, it can have only one fault: that of making the audience NOT want to know what happens next. Story is made of plot, characters and narration.

## Why stories?

1. We enter into the world of the story
2. Stories reveal a different reality; positive characters or events may inspire us; negatively, they may delude us.
3. Stories are subversive: they shape our world view, which affects how we think, which governs how we act. Stories evoke emotion, helping us remember.

## Composition (tools to shape understanding):

1. Repetition: reoccurrence of similar or identical elements
2. Contrast: associates or juxtaposes things that are dissimilar or opposite
3. Comparison: associates or juxtaposes things that are alike or similar
4. Causation and Substantiation: order the narrative through relationships of cause and effect (causation is the movement from cause to effect, substantiation, from effect to cause).
5. Climax: movement from lesser to greater intensity
6. Pivot: change in direction of the material, from positive to negative or vice versa.
7. Particularization and Generalization: movement in the text towards explication that becomes either more specific or more comprehensive.
8. Statements of purpose: structure the narrative to a movement from means to an end.
9. Preparation: inclusion of material in one part of the narrative that serves primarily to prepare the reader for what is to come.
10. Summarization: synopsis or abridgement of material that is treated more fully elsewhere.
11. Interrogation: question or problem followed by its answer or solution
12. Inclusio: repetition of features at the beginning and end of a unit
13. Interchange: alternation of elements in an "a,b, a, b" pattern
14. Chiasm: repetition of elements in an inverted order: "a, b, c, b', a'"
15. Intercalation: insertion of one literary unit in the midst of another.

**Story**

# Chiastic Structure ... (or) Ring Composition

Luke 19

<sup>1</sup>Jesus entered Jericho and was passing through.

<sup>2</sup>A man was there by the name of Zacchaeus; he was a chief tax collector and was wealthy.

<sup>3</sup>He wanted to see who Jesus was, but because he was short he could not see over the crowd.

<sup>4</sup>So he ran ahead and climbed a sycamore-fig tree to see him, since Jesus was coming that way.

<sup>5</sup>When Jesus reached the spot, he looked up and said to him, "Zacchaeus, come down immediately. I must stay at your house today."

<sup>6</sup>So he came down at once and welcomed him gladly.

<sup>7</sup>All the people saw this and began to mutter, "He has gone to be the guest of a sinner."

<sup>8</sup>But Zacchaeus stood up and said to the Lord, "Look, Lord! Here and now I give half of my possessions to the poor, and if I have cheated anybody out of anything, I will pay back four times the amount."

<sup>9</sup>Jesus said to him, "Today salvation has come to this house, because this man, too, is a son of Abraham.

**JESUS ENTERS**

ZACCHAUS: Keeps his wealth

**CROWD: Hostile**

**UP THE TREE**

UNEXPECTED LOVE  
MAIN POINT!!!

**DOWN THE TREE**

**CROWD: Hostile**

ZACCHAUS: Gives his wealth

**JESUS' FINAL WORDS**



# Prophecy in Scripture



The Messiah must...	Prophecy	Fulfillment by Jesus
Be born in Bethlehem	Micah 5:2	Matthew 2:1; Luke 2:4 7
Be adored by great persons	Psalms 72:10 11	Matthew 2:1 11
Be anointed with the Spirit of God	Isaiah 11:2, 61:1	Matthew 3:16; John 3:34; Acts 10:38
Be hated without cause	Isaiah 49:7; Psalms 69:4	John 15:24 25
Be undesired, rejected by His own people	Isaiah 53:2, 63:3; Psalms 69:8	Mark 6:3; Luke 9:58; John 1:11
Be plotted against by Jews, Gentiles	Psalms 2:1 2	Acts 4:27
Be betrayed by a friend	Psalms 41:9, 55:12 24	Matthew 26:21 25, 47 50; John 13:18 21; Acts 1:16 18
Be betrayed for 30 pieces of silver	Zechariah 11:12	Matthew 26:16
Have his price given for a potter's field	Zechariah 11:13	Matthew 27:7
Be forsaken by His disciples	Zechariah 13:7	Matthew 26:31, 56
Be struck on the cheek	Micah 5:1	Matthew 27:30
Be spat on	Isaiah 50:6	Matthew 26:67, 27:30
Be mocked	Psalms 22:7 8	Matthew 27:31, 39 44
Be beaten	Isaiah 50:6	Matthew 26:67, 27:26, 30
Be thirsty during His execution	Psalms 22:15	John 19:28
Be given vinegar to quench that thirst	Psalms 69:21	Matthew 27:34
Be considered a transgressor	Isaiah 53:12	Matthew 27:38
Be buried with the rich when dead	Isaiah 53:9	Matthew 27:57 60
Be sought after by Gentiles as well as Jews	Isaiah 11:10, 42:1	Acts 10:45
Be accepted by the Gentiles	Isaiah 11:10, 42:1 4, 49:1 12	Matthew 12:21; Acts 10:45; Romans 15:9 12

# Typology

Joseph is a type of Christ

- 1) His Names: Joseph (Adding) and Zaphnathpaanean (Revealer of Secrets)
- 2) Joseph was a shepherd ... so was Jesus
- 3) Joseph opposed evil ... as Jesus
- 4) His father loved Joseph greatly ... as the Father loves His Son
- 5) A robe of many colors was a sign of distinction, royalty (Judges 5:30, 2Sam. 13:18)
- 6) Both were hated by their brethren
- 7) Joseph is hated for his words of revealed prophecy
- 8) Joseph was to enjoy an incredible future
- 9) Joseph foretold of his future sovereignty (his brothers would bow to him)
- 10) Joseph was envied by his brothers (Mark 12:6-7)
- 11) Joseph is commanded by his father to find his brothers
- 12) Joseph was sent from Hebron (meaning communion or fellowship)
- 13) Joseph is conspired against by his brothers
- 14) Joseph's words are disbelieved
- 15) Joseph is insulted by his brothers
- 16) Joseph is cast into a pit (see Matthew 12:40)
- 17) Joseph was taken out of the pit alive
- 18) Joseph is sold by Judah (as Jesus would be by Judas)
- 19) Joseph's blood sprinkled coat is presented to his father (blood of a goat)
- 20) Joseph becomes a servant in the world of the Gentiles

- 21) Joseph was greatly tempted but did not sin
- 22) Joseph is falsely accused
- 23) Joseph offers no defense on his own behalf
- 24) Joseph is made to suffer at the hands of the Gentiles
- 25) Joseph was numbered with the two transgressors; one of which is restored and one who is not
- 26) Joseph prophesizes about the future
- 27) Joseph warns about coming danger and calls people to prepare for it
- 28) Joseph provides protection for all the people that will listen to him
- 29) That protection will cost the people of Egypt everything
- 30) Joseph is exalted over all the Gentile world of Egypt
- 31) Joseph was 30 years old when he began his life work (Gen 41:46)
- 32) Joseph's brothers are driven from their land
- 33) Joseph was unrecognized by his brothers
- 34) Joseph saw and knew his brothers, however
- 35) Joseph is finally revealed to his brothers through tears!
- 36) Joseph exhibits marvelous grace and forgiveness
- 37) Jacob follows Joseph into the land of the Gentiles

[Hebrews 12:29](#)  
[Matthew 25:41](#)



### Antinomianism

Is hell a necessity?

“... a god without wrath brought men without sin into a Kingdom without judgement through the ministration of a Christ without a cross.”  
~ H. Richard Niebuhr

What does it mean to bear the imago Dei?

## The Transforming God



- A physical similarity?
- Because we can reason?
- Because we have free will?
- Because we are relational?
- Because we are creative?
- Because we have the capacity to do good?
- Because we exercise dominion?



### **Cornelius ... The First Purely Gentile Convert**

[Acts 10:1-48](#)

- Racial and religious discrimination must be healed by the Lord  
 - Peter had been staying with one Simon the tanner. He worked with dead animals and so was considered ceremoniously unclean. Must we put ourselves in positions to challenge our convictions?

- True or false: God WANTS His church to be truly multi-cultural and multinational?

- Remember that it was at Joppa centuries before, that a rebellious Jonah tried to run from God's desire of a non-Jewish revival

- Why didn't the angel preach the Gospel to Cornelius?  
 - What does it tell us when we consider a MILITARY man was trying to serve God. It must be real if he was trying in that atmosphere!

- Note that the vision of clean and unclean animals would be enough to disgust any orthodox Jew.

- Three times came the command ... and the sheet was taken into heaven (symbol of the church united together in Christ).

- Note how perfectly God dovetails the work in both Peter and Cornelius

- Note that by Peter's entrance into the house, he has exposed two extreme positions that we can take with respect to other people: Deify them or reject them as worthless!

- Peter starts his sermon with a humble statement of what he had learned - all preachers need to keep on learning!

- These believers were baptized in the Spirit before being baptized in water

- Note that the Spirit did not prevent them from the need for human teachers as well (verse 48)!

# The Trinity? So What?

## 1. Tritheism

- Preserves the Threeness of God at the expense of the Oneness of God

## 2. Adoptionism

- Christ was once human but because He did not sin, the Father adopted Him
- For us to worship him would make us idolatrous
- A creature cannot save us

## 3. Modalism

- Preserves the Oneness of God at the expense of the Threeness
- However, does this mean that God puts on a mask and the true God is really unknown to us?
- How could the Son pray to the Father?
- What about Jesus' baptism?

## 4. Arianism

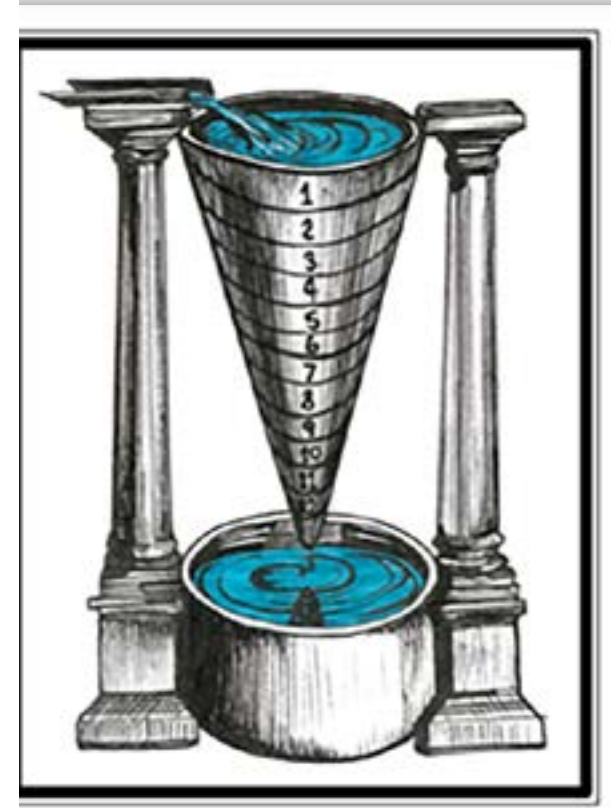
- Christ was a creature made by God
- Then there was a time that God was not Father
- Christ was homoiousios (of like essence)
- pronounced home-oy-oooh-see-os
- But Jesus does "God things"

## 5. Partialism

- Each part of the Trinity combines to make the whole
- Volton??

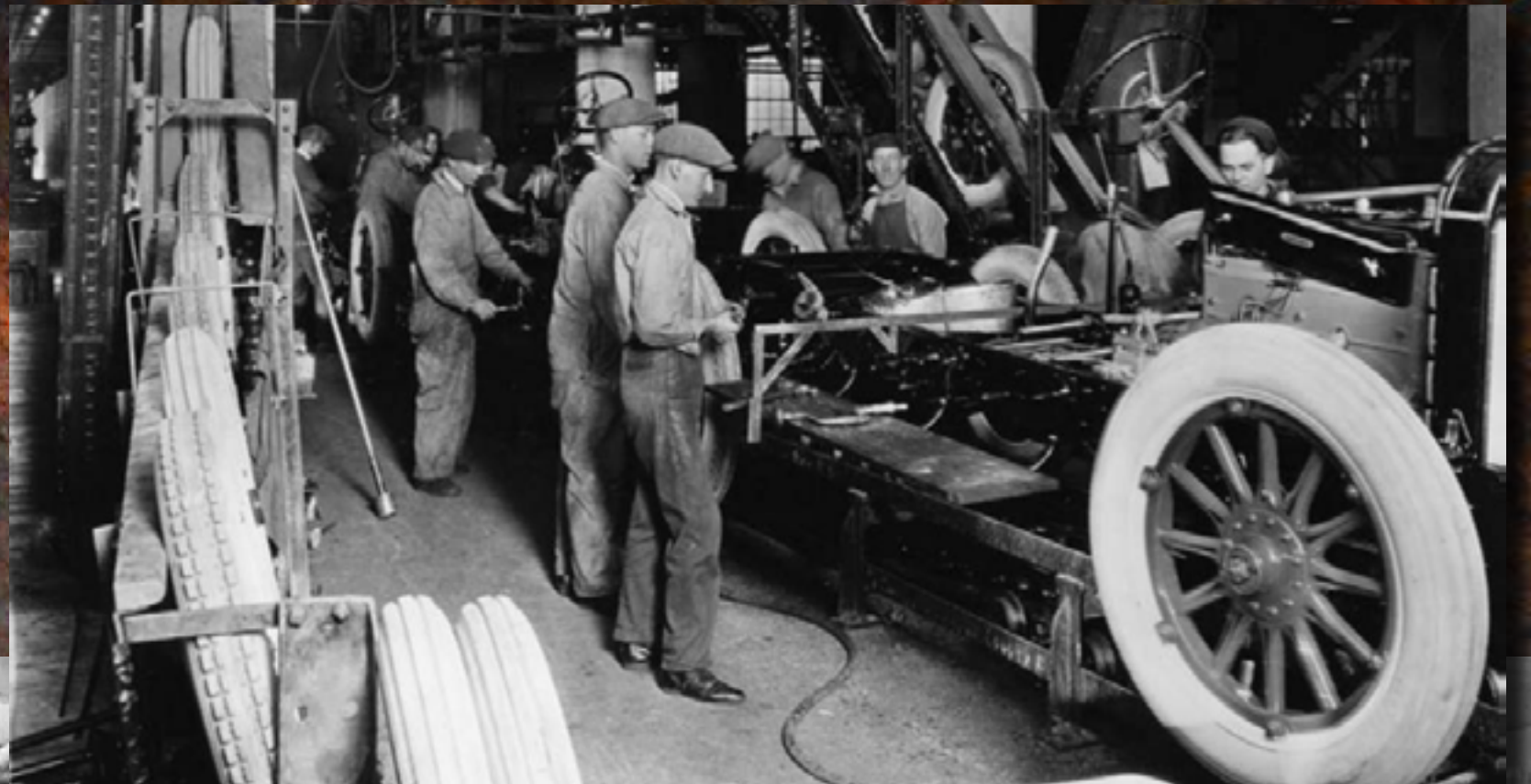
# What Does The Trinity Teach About ...

- 1) Unity?
- 2) Community?
- 3) Roles?
- 4) Love?
- 5) Worship?



*Earliest clocks invented by the monks:  
Water clocks, sundials and marked candles*





**HENRY FORD'S ASSEMBLY LINE FOR THE MODEL 'T'.**

**THIS MAY BE THE BEST WAY TO BUILD CARS ... OR IS IT?**

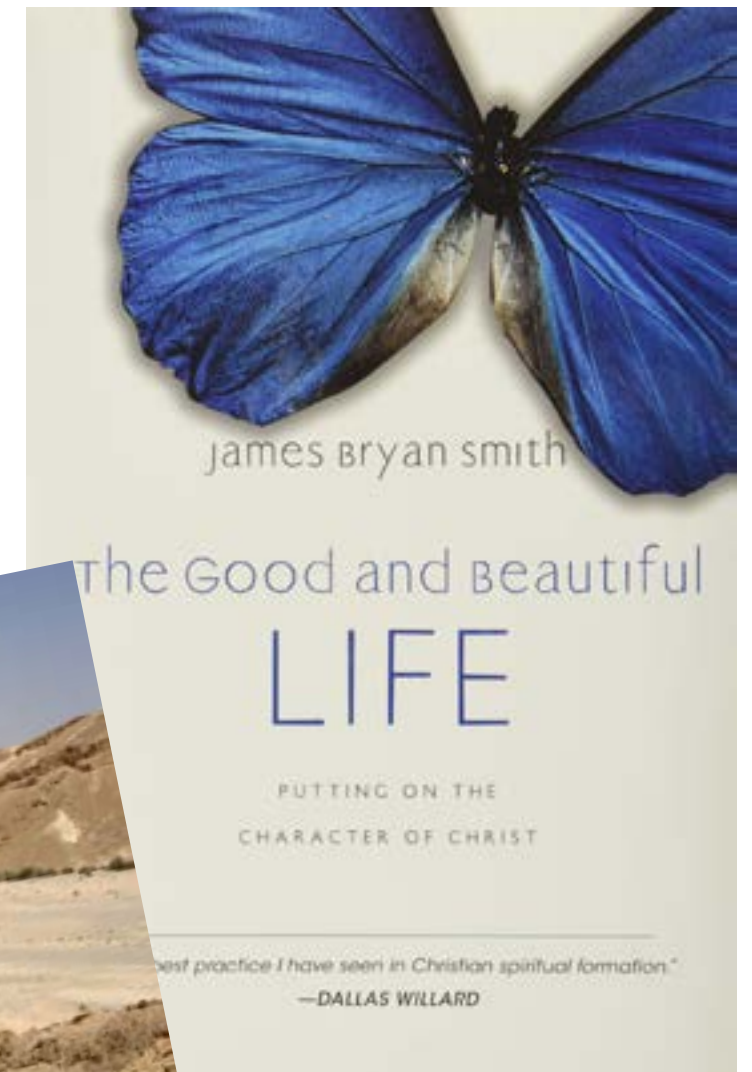
**AT WHAT COST TO THE WORKERS ARE THESE CARS MANUFACTURED?**

**WHAT IS THE HEART OF GOD TOWARDS OUR GROWTH?**





*Craftsmanship takes time*



**Building on  
the Wadi?**

**Or the Rock?**

Without virtue,  
there can be  
**NO happiness.**

**No one seeks a dull,  
boring life but so many  
find it! Why?**

### **The Hard Path ...**

1. I turn away. I want to be God ([Romans 1:21](#))
2. My mind darkens. I move away from reality ([Romans 1:21-22](#))
3. Idolatry. We must have a god as we were made to worship ([Romans 1:23](#))
  - I become what I worship
4. God allows us to be on our own. Wrath. ([Roman 1:24](#))
5. Pleasure is pursued at all costs. Constant, diminishing effects. ([Romans 1:26](#))
6. Sin reigns and becomes normative ([Romans 1:28-31](#))

If culture says that  
"All desires are good",  
do we believe it?

[Metanoia](#)



## **Explain to me the Gospel**

### **Three barriers ...**

[Matthew 5:20](#)

- Our righteousness must be from the interior

[Mark 10:15](#)

- Children don't need to be in control. They have little power. Innocent, trusting, utterly dependent.

[John 3:5](#)

- Born from the Spirit

[John 3:16](#)  
[Romans 3:23](#)  
[Romans 6:23](#)  
[Romans 10:9](#)  
[1John 1:9](#)  
[Eph. 2:10](#)





Dear God  
Hi there!  
Bob here.  
The life that I want most  
for myself is ...



### Who's Out?

What did the Jewish religion teach about the Kingdom?

- 1) Israel alone was the chosen group
- 2) Males would be the receivers of the Kingdom
- 3) The Kingdom was only available to the externally righteous
- 4) Only if you were healthy and able bodied, could you enter.
- 5) If you were poor, you were out!

Play is a spiritual exercise that teaches us about living in the Kingdom of God. By definition, play involves randomness.

Play cannot be controlled. Spontaneity is one of the spiritual benefits of play.

# PLAY

[Matthew 18:1-5, 6-7](#)  
[Matthew 9:22-26](#)  
[Matthew 19:14](#)

*Self-abandonment*

What are the false narratives of the world ...

# UPSIDEDOWN KINGDOM

## The Sermon On The Mount

- 1) Blessed are the poor in spirit (in Luke 6, blessed are the poor)
- 2) Blessed are those that mourn
  - God is in control (1Thess. 4:13)
- 3) Blessed are the meek
  - See also [Gal. 5:22-23](#)
  - One who cannot retaliate when harmed
- 4) Blessed are those that hunger for righteousness
- 5) Blessed are the merciful
  - People who give until it hurts to give
- 6) Pure in heart
- 7) Blessed are the peacemakers
- 8) Blessed are those that suffer persecution



# Hospitality

- This always speaks to the issues of inclusion. Will I reach out ... ?
- Practicing this makes us vulnerable. Maybe they will have different ideas.
- Perhaps others will look at me poorly or differently because I reach out.
- Maybe I will be placed in an uncomfortable setting or conversation.
- It will cost me money.



[Acts 28:7](#)  
[Romans 12:13](#)  
[Romans 16:23](#)  
[1 Timothy 5:10](#)  
[Hebrews 13:2](#)  
[1 Peter 4:9](#)  
[3 John 1:8](#)  
[Luke 14:12-14](#)  
(Patronage)

Blessed = *makarios* (well off)

## There are two kinds of anger (anger is a secondary emotion)

### A) Visceral

- Spur of the moment, catches up off guard.
- I can repent quickly and "Ask myself why" I am angry.

### B) Meditative

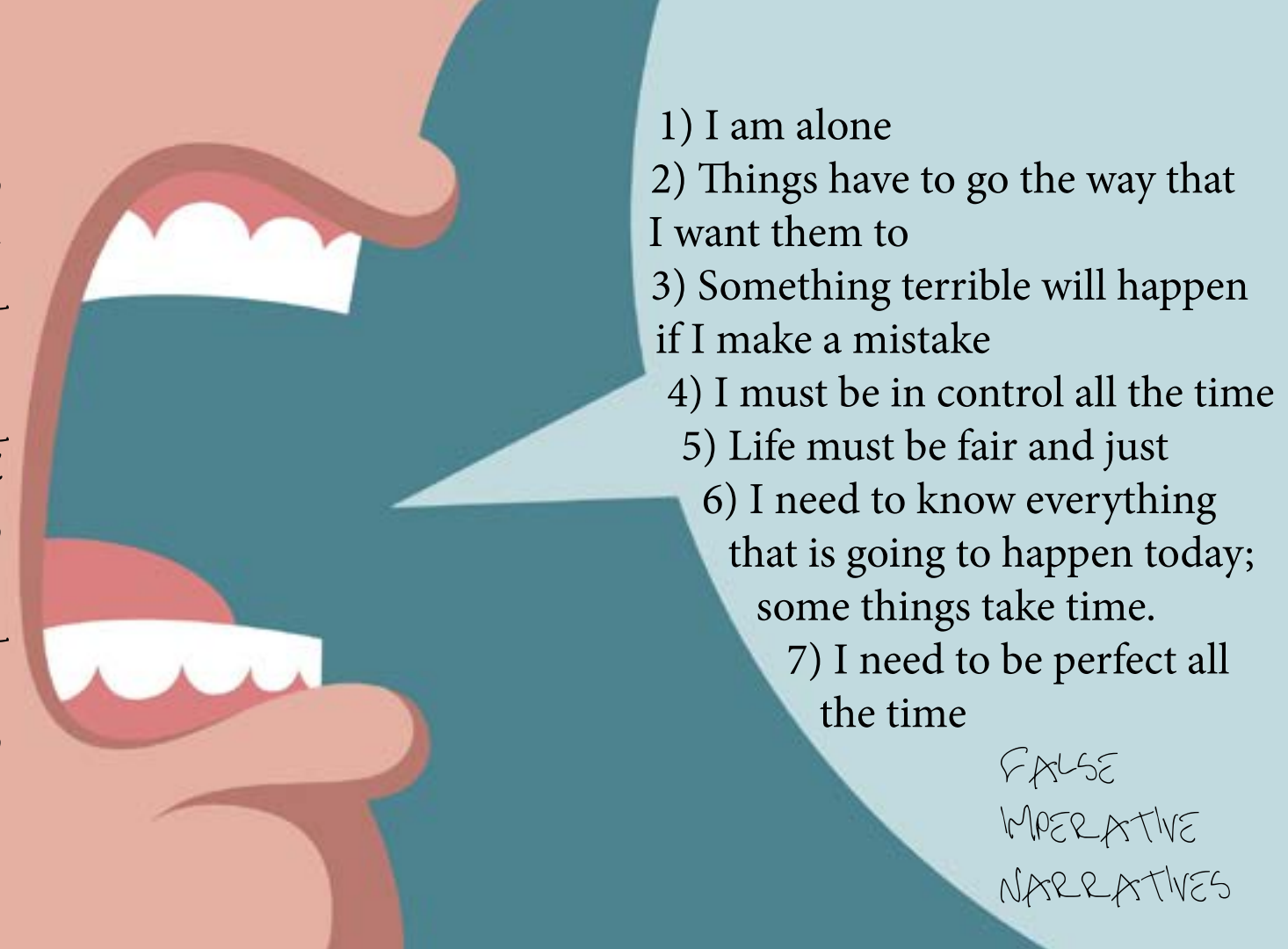
- More damaging as we dwell on it for long periods of time.
- The more we stew, the worse it gets.

Consider [Hebrews 12:7-15](#)

**Jesus knows that an angry person WOULD actually hurt someone if he could get away with it.**



SOME FALSE NARRATIVES



- 1) I am alone
- 2) Things have to go the way that I want them to
- 3) Something terrible will happen if I make a mistake
- 4) I must be in control all the time
- 5) Life must be fair and just
- 6) I need to know everything that is going to happen today; some things take time.
- 7) I need to be perfect all the time

FALSE  
IMPERATIVE  
NARRATIVES

Both of these are fueled by two things:

#### a) Fear

- Personal (I caused it ... it was my fault)
- Pervasive (One failure means all my life is a failure)
- Permanent (This will destroy me)

#### b) Unmet expectations

**ANGER**



**Why don't  
YOU keep it?**

What does this  
have to do with  
anger? How is  
releasing anger  
tied to trust?

Why is this an  
OT litmus test?



- Be Intentional: Plan for it
- Start the evening with a special meal
- Bless your family (verbally) if you have one
- Play some games
- Eat well
- Do church together and then discuss what you gleaned
- Nap
- Talk to the Lord
- Read some Scripture
- Read a great book

- Practice some hospitality
- What builds LIFE in you?
- Make no money
- Have fun
- Peace



*And he entered Jerusalem and went into the temple. And when he had looked around at everything, as it was already late, he went out to Bethany with the twelve.*



*On the following day, when they came from Bethany ...*

*Mark 11:11-12, 15-17*

*And they came to Jerusalem. And he entered the temple and began to drive out those who sold and those who bought in the temple, and he overturned the tables of the money-changers and the seats of those who sold pigeons. And he would not allow anyone to carry anything through the temple. And he was teaching them and saying to them, "Is it not written, 'My house shall be called a house of prayer for all the nations'? But you have made it a den of robbers."*

# Leaving Lust

**Two opposing lies:**

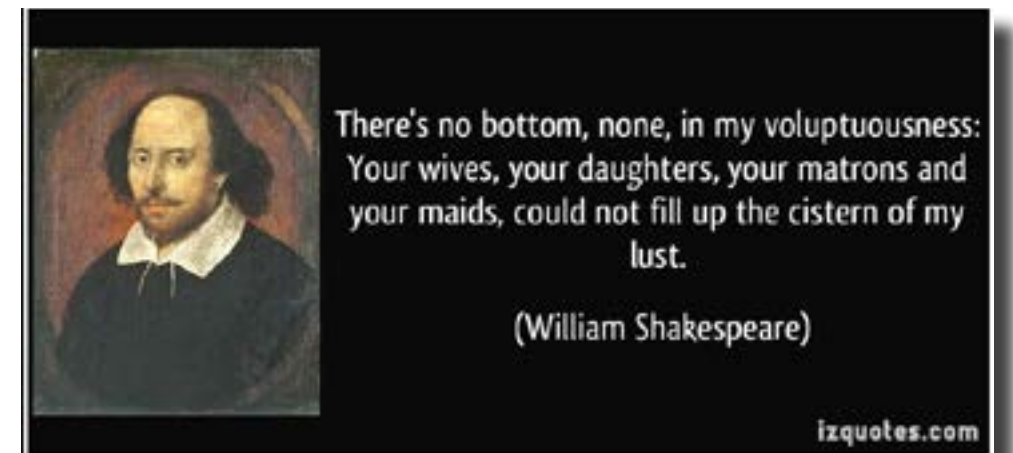
All sexual desire is bad AND All sexual desire is good.

Epithumia: lust, to intentionally objectify another person for one's own gratification.

- this can objectify a person or a persona (aka romance novels). One is mental and the other is visual. ([Matthew 5:27-30](#))

Is celibacy superior?? [1 Corinth. 7:7-9](#)

Does sex transmit original sin? (as Augustine taught)



*Love* vs. *Lust*

- ♥ Grows Slowly
- ♥ Security
- ♥ Level-headed
- ♥ Patient
- ♥ Friendship
- ♥ Has a future
- ♥ Gives

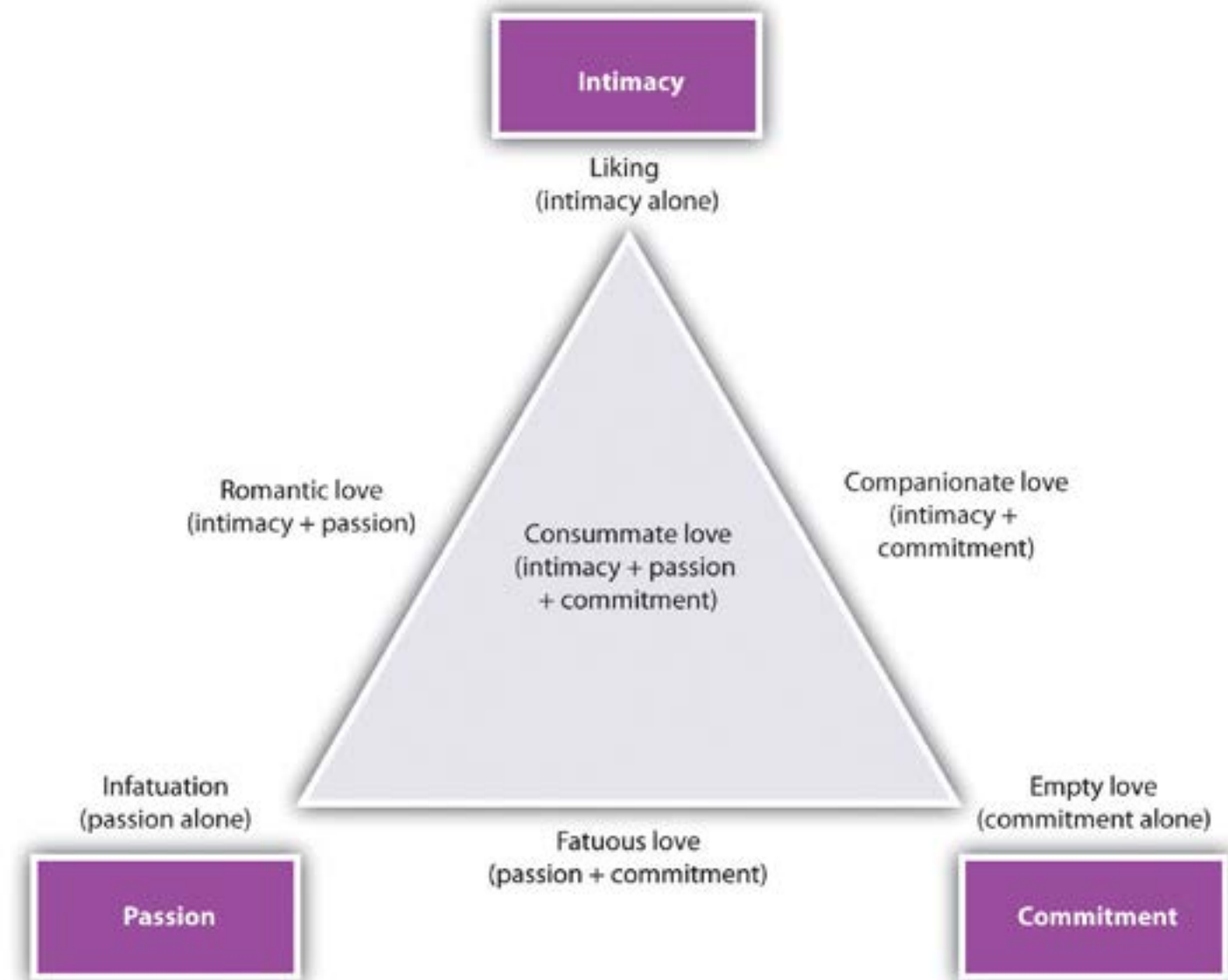
- ☹ "at first sight"
- ☹ Jealousy
- ☹ Distracted
- ☹ Impatient
- ☹ Image
- ☹ Is about today
- ☹ Takes

- Do I view people to be used for my own pleasure? Why is this harmful?
- Does lust go away when I get married?
- Is it ever satisfied? If not, boredom will result.
- What about [1Corinthians 7:1-5](#)? Who do I belong to?



**Defeating This:**

- 1) Invite Christ to enter into temptation
- 2) Accountability
- 3) Remove the sources
  - How often am I bombarded with messages
  - How far do I need to go?
- 4) Keep practicing your spiritual gifts
  - Serving others also changes me!



James C. Dobson, Ph.D., is founder of Focus on the Family, a nonprofit organization that produced his internationally syndicated radio program. A licensed psychologist and marriage, family, and child counselor, he earned a Ph.D. from the University of Southern California in the field of child development. The author of more than 30 books, including his most recent bestseller, *Bringing Up Boys*.

**Dr. Dobson recounts the 12 steps of intimacy:**

**1. Eye to Body.** A glance reveals much about a person — sex, size, shape, age, personality, and status. The importance people place on these criteria determines whether or not they will be attracted to each other.

**2. Eye to Eye.** When the man and woman who are strangers to each other exchange glances, their most natural reaction is to look away, usually with embarrassment. If their eyes meet again, they may smile, which signals that they might like to become better acquainted.

**3. Voice to Voice.** Their initial conversations are trivial and include questions like “What is your name?” or “What do you do for a living?” During this long stage the two people learn much about each other’s opinions, pastimes, activities, habits, hobbies, likes and dislikes. If they’re compatible, they become friends.

**4. Hand to Hand.** The first instance of physical contact between the couple is usually a non-romantic occasion such as when the man helps the woman descend a high step or aids her across an obstacle. At this point either of the individuals can withdraw from the relationship without rejecting the other. However, if continued, hand-to-hand contact will eventually become an evidence of the couple’s romantic attachment to each other.

**5. Hand to Shoulder.** This affectionate embrace is still noncommittal. It is a “buddy” type position in which the man and woman are side by side. They are more concerned with the world in front of them than they are with each other. The hand-to-shoulder contact reveals a relationship that is more than a close friendship, but probably not real love.

**6. Hand to Waist.** Because this is something two people of the same sex would not ordinarily do, it is clearly romantic. They are close enough to be sharing secrets or intimate language with each other. Yet, as they walk side by side with hand to waist, they are still facing forward.

**7. Face to Face.** This level of contact involves gazing into one another’s eyes, hugging and kissing. If none of the previous steps were skipped, the man and woman will have developed a special code from experience that enables them to engage in deep communication with very few words. At this point, sexual desire becomes an important factor in the relationship.

**8. Hand to Head.** This is an extension of the previous stage. The man and woman tend to cradle or stroke each other’s head while kissing or talking. Rarely do individuals in our culture touch the head of another person unless they are either romantically involved or are family members. It is a designation of emotional closeness.

**9-12. The Final Steps.** The last four levels of involvement are distinctly sexual and private. They are:

- (9) **Hand to Body,**
- (10) **Mouth to Breast,**
- (11) **Touching Below the Waist, and**
- (12) **Intercourse.**

# The Media Fast

**Length: 48 hours**

**Block out: TV, Internet, Newspapers,  
Radio, Music, Movies**

**Focus that time on constructive things.**

**Get caught up on projects or homework**

**Get back to a hobby**

**Walk or exercise**

**Meet with friends**

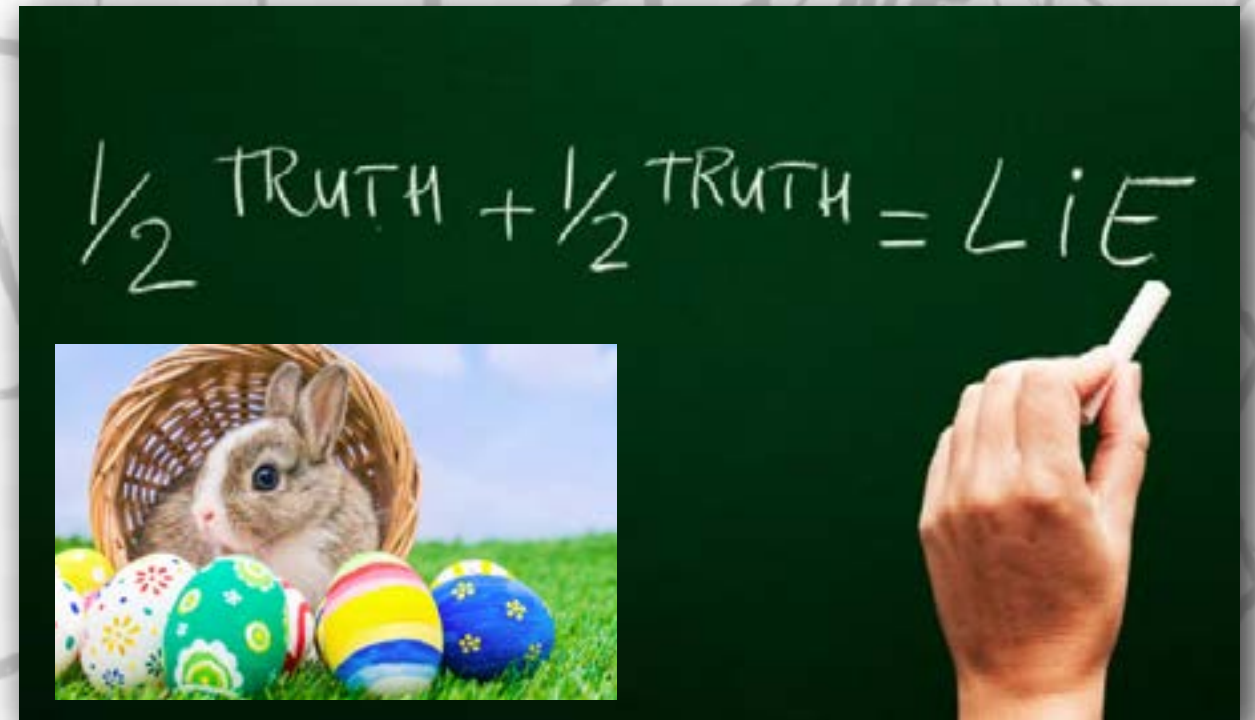
**Study some Scripture.**

**Do it as a team!!**

## Soul Training

## Lying No More

- We tend to lie a lot about many things because we have a strong and intricate system of rationalizations that justify our deceptions.



- Robert Fieldman calculates that in an average 10 minute conversation, we tell an average of 3.3 lies!
- Christmas and Easter ... is lying ok?
- Is there such a thing as a white lie?
- What does [Matthew 5:37](#) really mean? (also [James 5:12](#))



# BURGER KING WHOPPER

## ADVERTISEMENTS



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- WITH CHEESE
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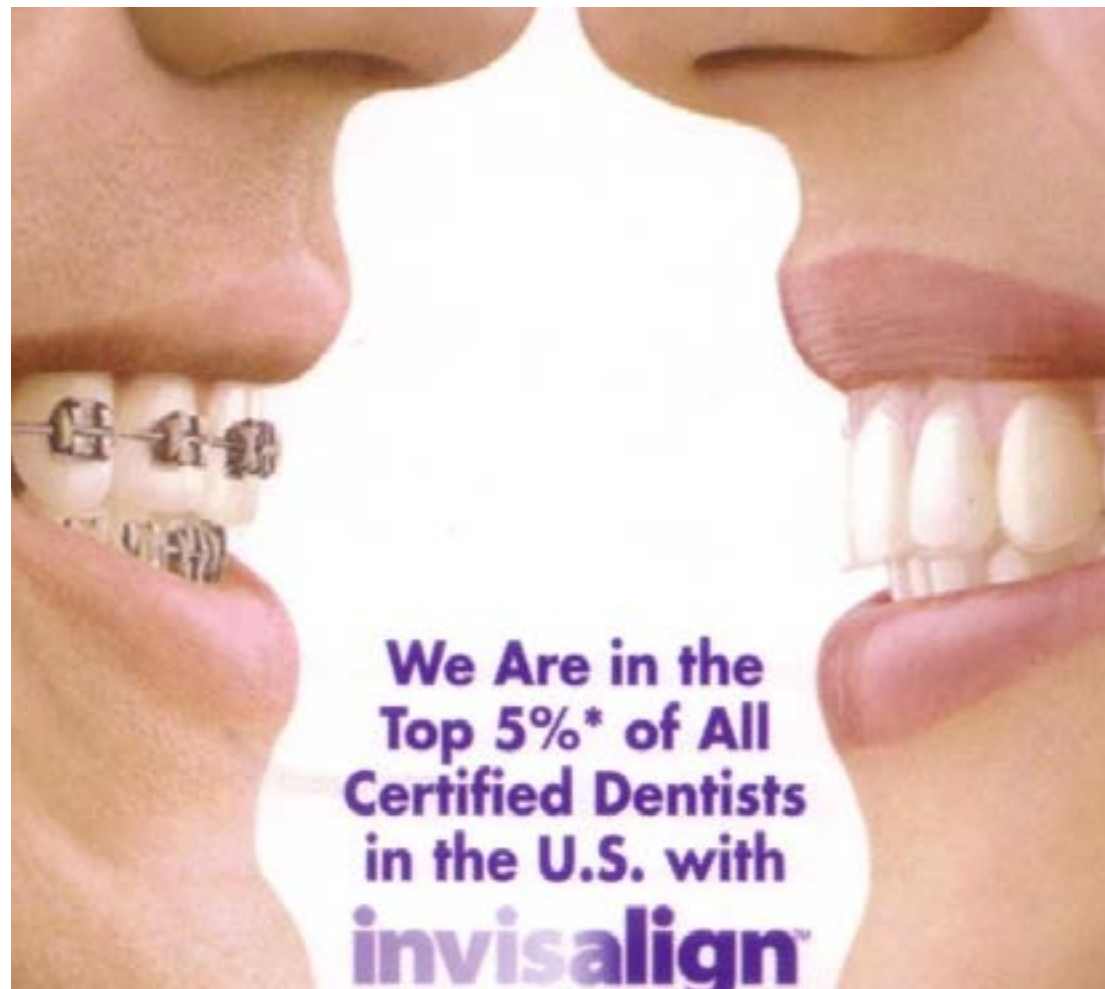
GNC LiveWell SHOP NATIONWIDE OR AT GNC.COM

Product is Free to try for 30 days! Pay only a small shipping and handling fee. \*30 day of the largest studies were conducted on a high-protein diet weight loss system. 1130 people lost an average 28.3 pounds in just 8 months without changing their diet or exercise regimen.

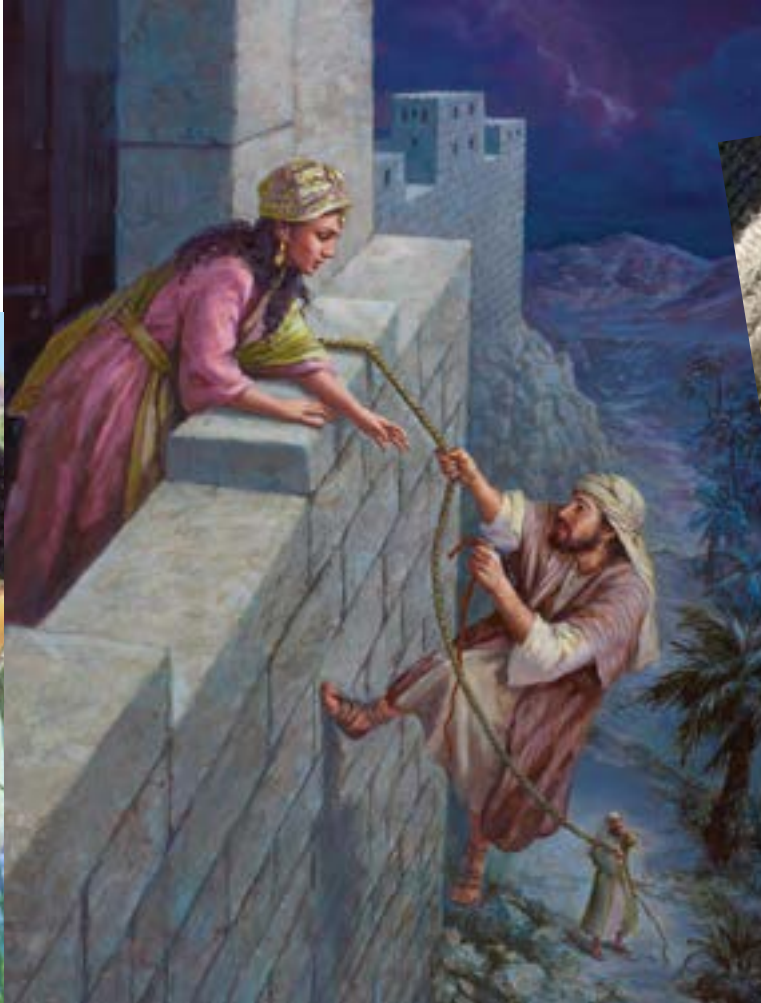




The apparent message in this photo is “invisalign looks better on your teeth than conventional braces.” The unspoken, subtle and manipulative implication is “invisalign users have better, smoother skin with no wrinkles or visible pores, their lips are full and glossy pink, and their noses are tinier with smaller nostrils.”

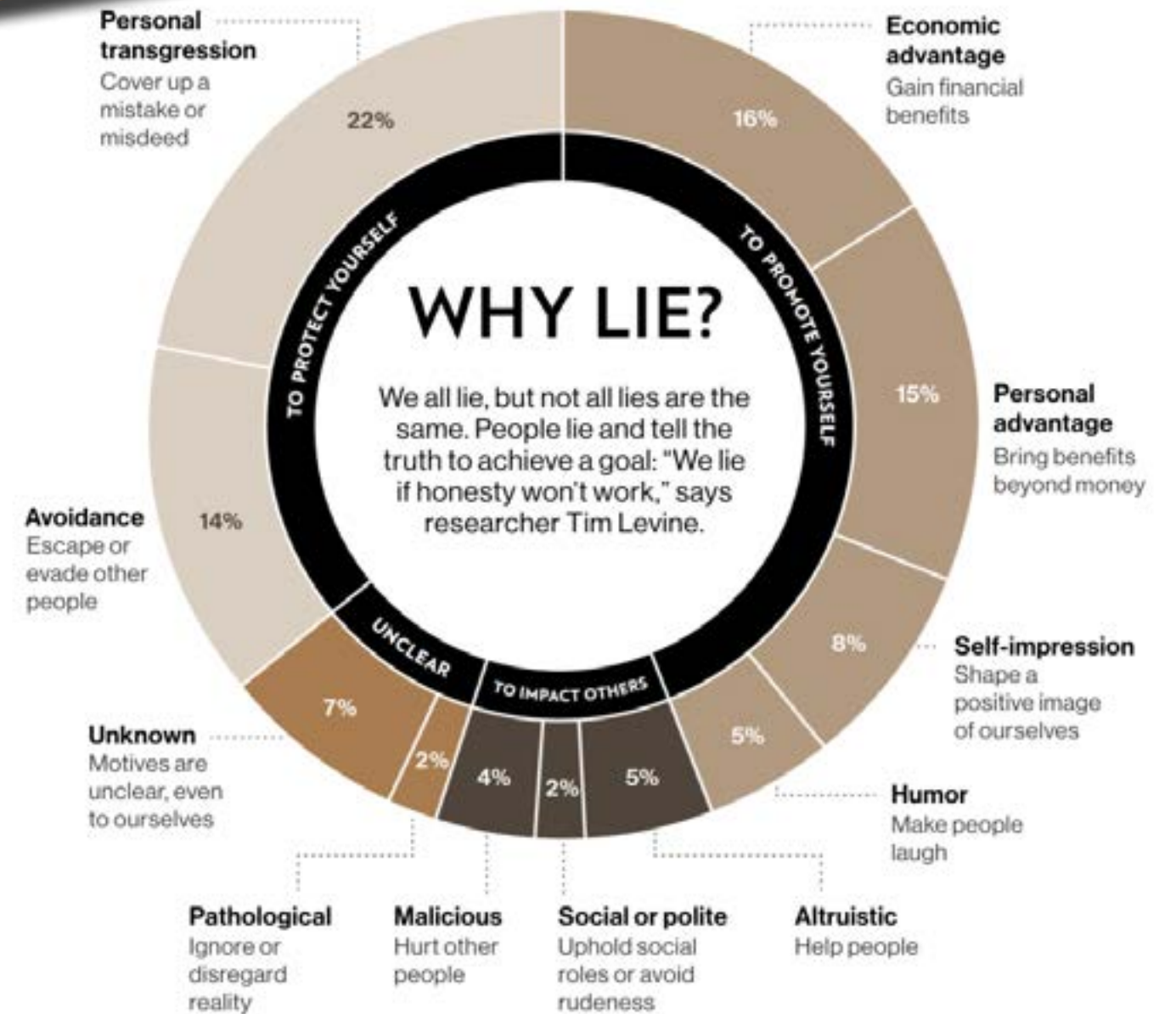


# Lying No More



Quaker  
Created ...

What about [Exodus 1:15-22](#) ... [Joshua 2:4-11](#)??



# Lying

## ***What do I lose when I lie:***

(See [Psalm 15:4](#))

- 1) Peace that what I acquire is deserved!
- 2) The respect and trust of other people!
  - People DO NOT need to believe you are perfect.
  - I want people to trust me based on past behavior!
- 3) The ability to minister into the lives of others.
  - How can I model the character of Christ?
- 4) Relationships that are never what they should be.
  - Keeping track of who did I tell what to?
- 5) Strength of character to do what is right!



Pretty much all the honest truth-telling there is in the world is done by children.

- Oliver Wendell Holmes

## ***The Practical ...***

- Think about your words. Speak clearly, concisely, avoiding any form of "misunderstanding" or vagueness designed to make me look better.
- Refuse to make promises you cannot keep. Flattery is another form of misleading.
- THINK about your motive.
- Confess quickly both to the Lord and to those we may have misled.
- Sometimes not speaking is a better option.
- Withholding truth may not be lying. Discern!!!
- Harshness does not equal truth.

## Fasting

- Why do we disregard a principle that is so strongly mentioned in Scripture?
- At least 25 references to fasting (more regarding to "fast")

### Problems:

- 1) It is a hard (physical) discipline
- 2) We are weakened
- 3) We are inconvenienced
- 4) It is highly regulated by the church
- 5) We do not always see direct results
- 6) It is practiced in silence



**Who Fasted:** Moses; David; Elijah; Esther; Daniel; Anna; Paul; Christ

## Types Of Fasts:

- 1) Total (3 days max): [Esther 4:15, Acts 9:9](#)
- 2) Partial (no food, only water): Jesus ([Luke 4:1](#))
- 3) Supernatural: Moses ([Deut. 9:9, 18](#))
- 4) Selective: [Daniel 10:2-3, Daniel 1:12](#)
- 5) Sexual fast: [1 Corinthians 7:3-6](#)
- 6) Corporate fast: Day Of Atonement; [Acts 13:3, Joel 2:15, Ezra 8:21-23](#)

There is no command to fast weekly, But ... it is called for: [Matthew 6:16](#)



## What is Fasting?

The willing giving up of food or other necessities / luxuries with the express purpose of:

- Removing barriers between me and the Lord
  - Time, comfort, finances
- To hear clearly from the Lord
  - [Acts 13:3](#)
- For some forms of power
  - [Mark 9:29](#)
- Understanding
  - [Daniel 9:3](#)
- To free myself for the purpose of ministry
  - [Isaiah 58](#)



## Practical Fasting:

- 1) Fasting has medical considerations. Know your limits and ask a doctor.
- 2) Fast for specific needs. What specifically do you want God to do?
- 3) Keep it secret as much as possible.
- 4) Food and water fast ... three days is the MAXIMUM limit.
- 5) Fasting from solid foods ... 40 days is the MAXIMUM limit (this is not a medical opinion).
- 6) I suggest 24 hour fasts ... starting with dinner.
- 7) Do not attempt heavy physical exertion during a fast.
- 8) Avoid caffeine during food fasts.
- 9) Headaches are normal in the first 2 days of longer fasts.
- 10) BE CAREFUL how you break a longer fast.



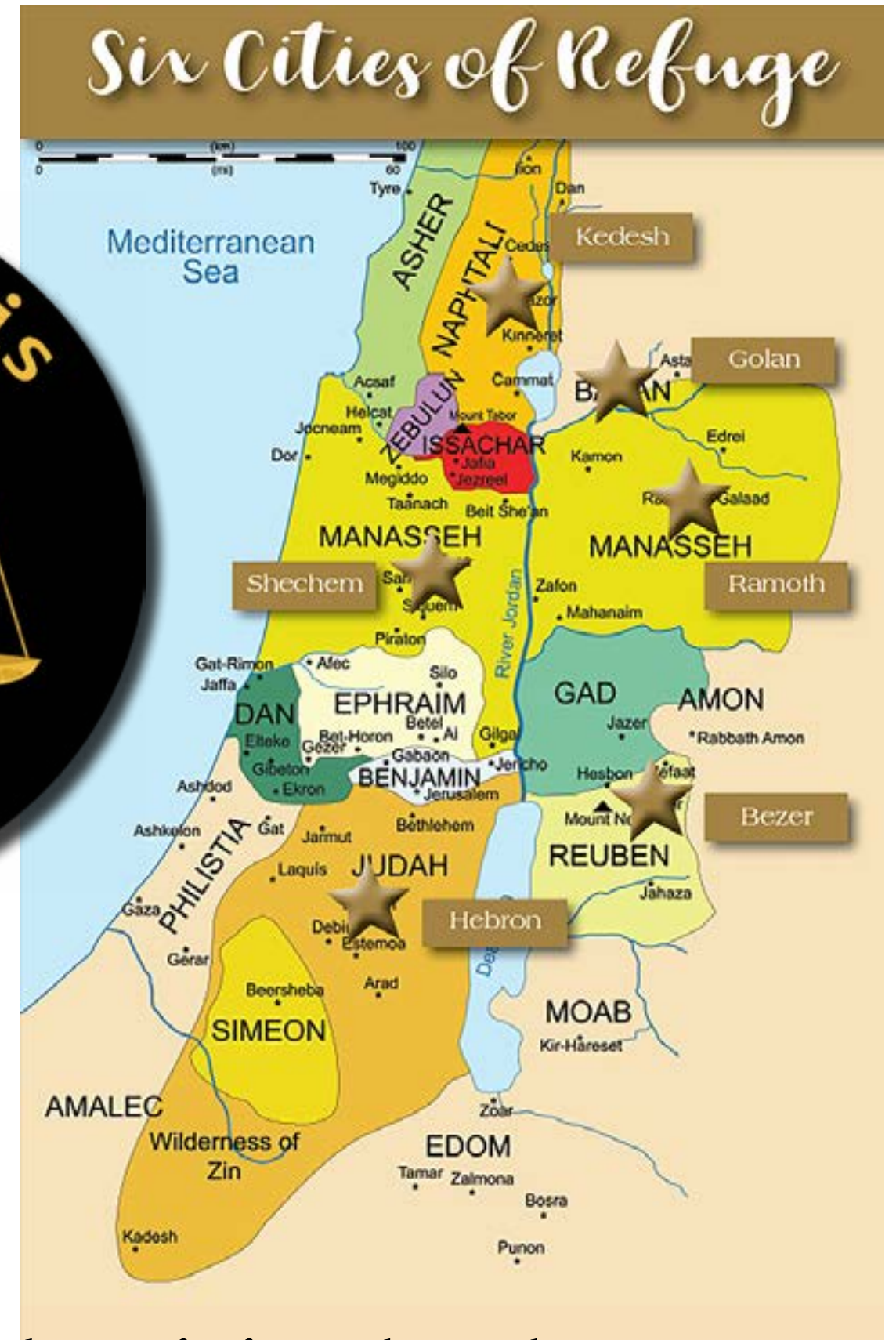
# Soul Training

# I Will Bless You In Spite Of Hurting Me



Lex Talionis (Latin for “law of retaliation”) is the principle of retributive justice expressed in the phrase “an eye for an eye,” (Hebrew: תחת ידע ידע ) from [Exodus 21:23–27](#). The basis of this form of law is the principle of proportionate punishment, often expressed under the motto

“Let the punishment fit the crime,” which particularly applies to minor punishments.



Why do we need Cities of Refuge? What was their purpose? How do we extend this principle into the NT? Note [Deut. 19: 2-7](#). What role did the community play?

What childhood experience taught you that you should use force and violence to protect yourself?

- [Matthew 5:38-42](#)
- Originally, the Lex Talionis was implemented to ensure that there was equality shown when through crime, there was loss suffered. It protected one from seeking revenge in excess of the crime committed against them. It was administered by authorities, not individuals. However, under Rome, it became a tool to inflict revenge upon others anyway – people tried to practice it themselves.

“Do not seek revenge or bear a grudge against one of your people, but love your neighbor as yourself. I am the LORD” ([Lev. 19:18](#)). The real idea here is to seek that your enemy will come to see Truth.

Four principles here:

- Chose to not retaliate in like fashion (turn the other cheek). It may be the authorities place to do this, but not yours. Note that physical harm is not likely pictured here (but may be), rather it is public humiliation.
- Don't cling to possessions (offer the outer coat as well)

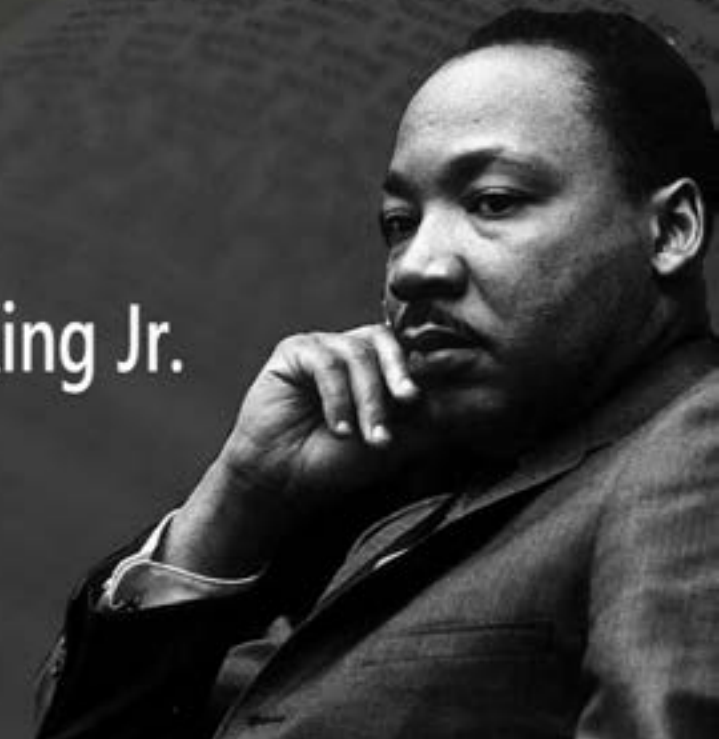
The simple clothing of a person in the first century was a loincloth, covered by one or more body-length tunic(s), the outer cloak, a girdle acting as a belt, a head covering, and sandals. The “tunic” (*chiton*) was the basic garment, a long-sleeved inner robe similar to a nightshirt that a person wore next to the skin. Jesus instructs his disciples that if someone tries to sue for their tunic, they should let him have their “cloak” (himation) as well. The cloak was the outer robe, which was an indispensable piece of clothing. When it was given as a pledge, it had to be returned before sunset since it was used by the poor for a sleeping cover ([Ex. 22:26 – 7](#); [Deut. 24:12](#); [Ezek. 18:7](#); [Amos 2:8](#)). Jesus makes a startling demand of his disciples. They must reverse the dynamic. Instead of defending themselves or seeking retaliation, they must give to this person who is so unfairly attempting to take their most basic necessities. How radical is [1Corinthians 6:1-8](#)?

- The law states you were required to go one mile ... go the extra mile
- Lend when you can.

Loving your enemy means to will the good of another.

*“Love is the only thing that can turn an enemy into a friend.”*

- Martin Luther King Jr.



# Soul Training

**Pray for the success of your competitors**

*Pick someone whose success will in some way diminish yours. Pray for them for a week.*

*OR*

*Pray for someone this week who really gets under your skin. Pray and mean it!*



**Lie: Things satisfy!**

The story of Tantalus

What is promised by merchandise?  
Security, power, success, happiness.  
Avarice is greed toward money and possessions: It is insatiable.

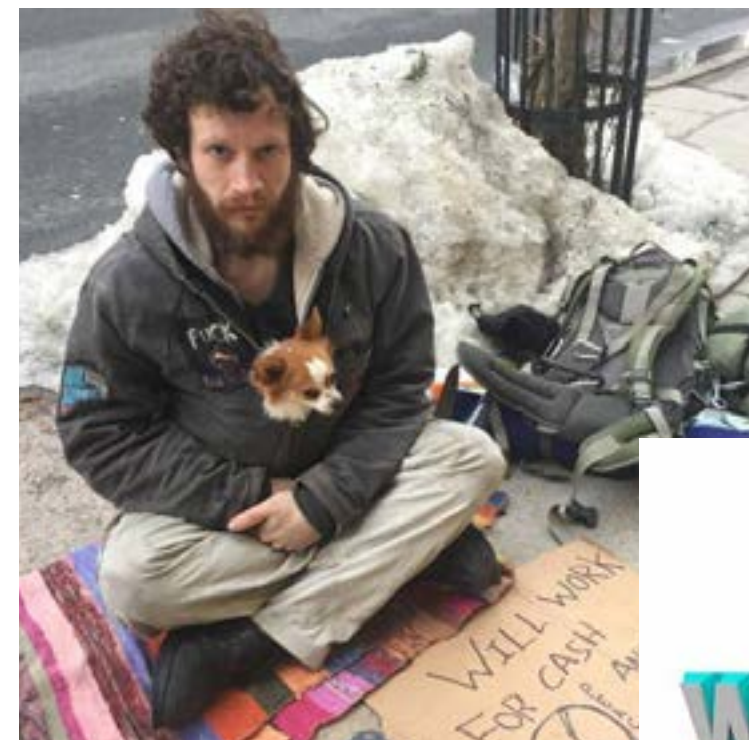
The average American will watch 2 million commercials by age 60. That means, 8 hours a day, seven days a week for 6 straight years.

How much spiritual discipline is directed at me looking inside of my own heart. Why do I love what I love?

[Matthew 6:19-21](#)

What gifts are truly precious to me?  
Two kinds of treasure: earthly and heavenly and we reveal the kind that we love by what we try to protect, secure, keep.

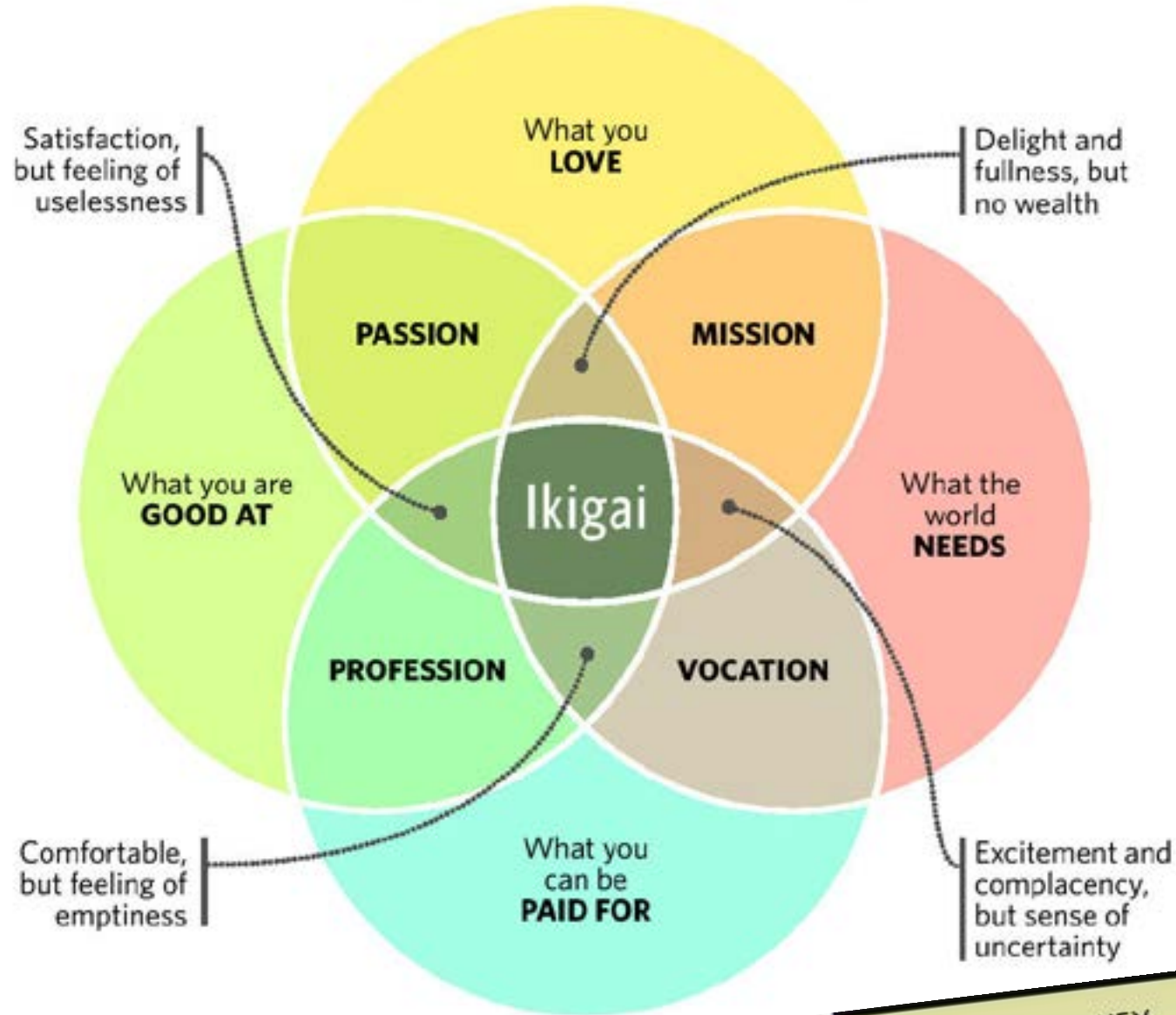
# Annihilating Avarice





# Ikigai

A JAPANESE CONCEPT MEANING "A REASON FOR BEING"



SOURCE: dreamstime



## Evaluate ...

- What do I own?
- What do I use?
- What do I want?
- Why do I want it?
- Why will I give up to get it?
- What does it mean to have sufficient?
- How grateful am I?
- How willing am I to give?

Simplicity is an inner attitude that affects what we purchase, the quantity, the prestige, the motive, the timing. It is not mandated upon you by anyone. It is an INNER attitude.

[1 Timothy 6:6-10](#)

### Simplicity

- A willingness to abstain from using resources to satisfy my own gratification
- Time, talent, treasure ... the trilogy of resources I have to offer
- A sacrifice is a willing risk of giving up of something that could meet our needs, not our wants.



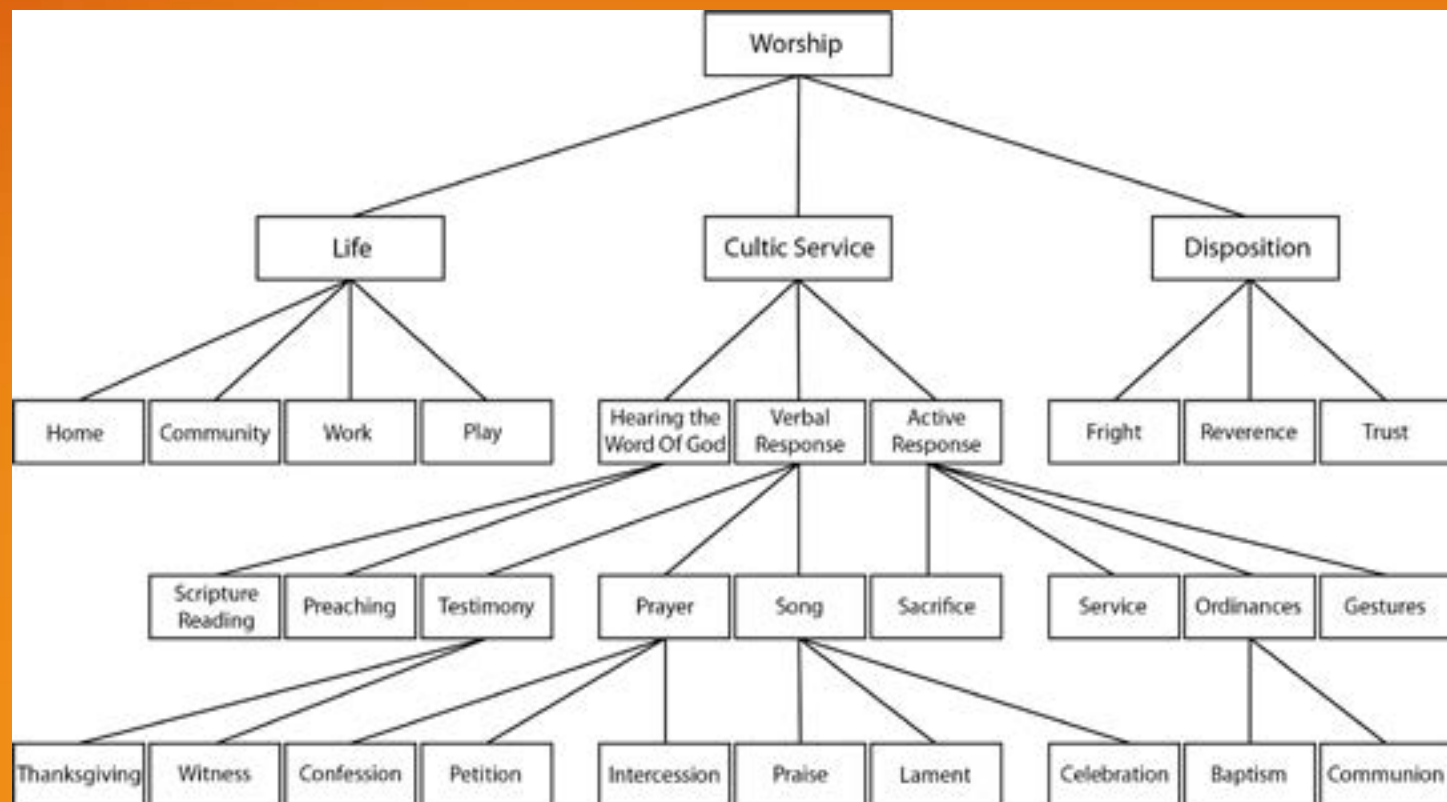
Giveaway!

Find five things that are in good shape to give away.  
Try to give them to people you know.  
Do not replace them with new things!



the Good and Beautiful  
COMMUNITY





Worship is the continuous outpouring of all that I am, all that I do and all that I can ever become in light of my chosen God.

~Harold Best

**Note the truths here:**

- a) Continuous, every moment,
- b) Outpouring
- c) Aimed at something
- d) Everyone worships something

**Proskynein:** Bowing down or surrendering (an ongoing, continuous act)

**Latreuein:** Service or serving

**What is worship**

Lie: Worship = Music  
 Worship is preliminary to the important stuff  
 Worship is part of the full service

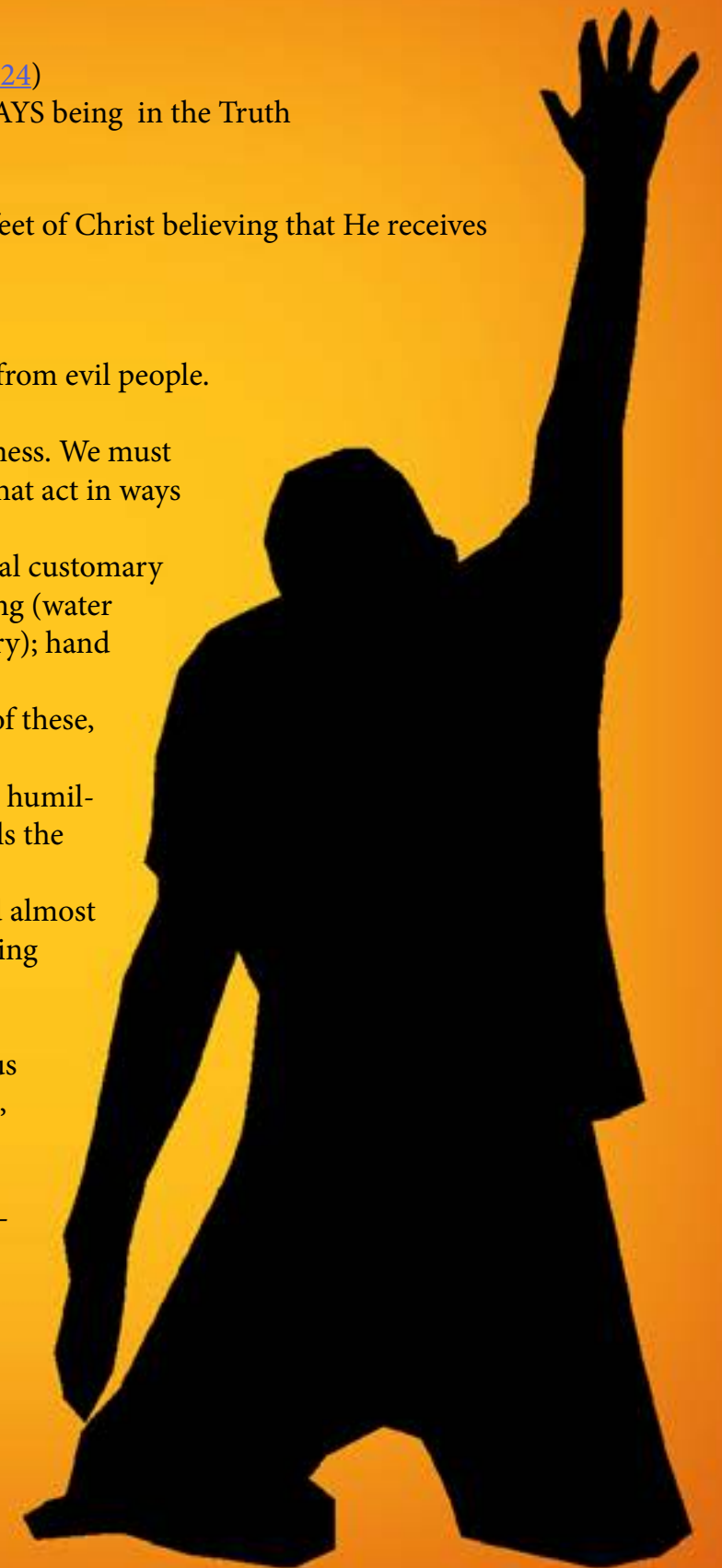
- We were made to worship
- Music is NOT worship ... it is a vehicle to express worship. It is idolatry to assume that the power of the music is equal to the presence of the Lord.
- Your worship on Sunday CANNOT surpass your worship on Tuesday morning.
- Music is a powerful tool as it is a form of beauty that is intrinsic to who we are.
- Genesis 4:19-25 is the first mention of music
  - Note that the context is interesting

**Authentic, Godly Worship:**

- 1) Requires that I know God
  - Imago Dei (in the image of God)
  - Found only in Christ
  - Worship in Spirit and in truth ([John 4:24](#))
  - ALWAYS being in the Spirit and ALWAYS being in the Truth
- 2) Requires faith ([Hebrews 11:1](#))
  - I want to pour out all that I am at the feet of Christ believing that He receives it, and it pleases Him

Luke 7:36-50

- The Pharisee attitude was to separate oneself from evil people. Jesus understood that to defeat the darkness, the Light had to engage the darkness. We must not be afraid or threatened to befriend those that act in ways we may be opposed to.
- It is interesting that Simon forgoes all the usual customary things one did for a guest; greeting, foot washing (water and oil—olive oil was the soap of the first century); hand washing.
- Although Jesus is insulted by the dispensing of these, He does not leave.
- The women clearly knew that Jesus was being humiliated and so she does what she can ... she fulfills the obligation that the Pharisee did not.
- To let down her hair in public was considered almost sensuous. This is what a bride did on her wedding night.
- Note that Simon does not speak but Jesus responds anyway. This is shocking and reminds us that just because we do not vocalize something, that does not indicate a pure heart.
- Significant as well: the woman is not named, nor is her sinful ways revealed. Jesus STRONGLY defends the actions of this woman by publicly humiliating Simon. It would cost Jesus greatly.
- The primary mechanism to salvific change is grace and mercy.
- The two debts are compared (2 month debt as compared to a 20 month debt)
- Jesus speaks to this woman ... again, a culturally shocking thing to do among the Jews.





## Seeker Sensitive Churches?

### The Good:

- People can investigate the claims of Christianity
- One can understand grace (Come as you are)
- Less concern with exterior attributes (clothes, building)
- More community focused
- Willing to challenge and ask hard questions
- Technically astute

### The Struggles:

- Is the Word of God preached fearlessly?
- Do we become too worried about being offensive?
- Attendance now is tied to the correct “formula” and not the presences of God.
- Marketing??
- Music is chosen for cultural relevance and not theological correctness
- Me focused? My comfort, my self-actualization?
- “We don’t do discipleship well”.
- OFTEN ... personality based!



### 2 Chronicles 20: 21-26

After consulting the people, Jehoshaphat appointed men to sing to the LORD and to praise him for the splendor of his holiness as they went out at the head of the army, saying, “Give thanks to the LORD, for his love endures forever.” As they began to sing and praise, the LORD set ambushes against the men of Ammon and Moab and Mount Seir who were invading Judah, and they were defeated. The Ammonites and Moabites rose up against the men from Mount Seir to destroy and annihilate them. After they finished slaughtering the men from Seir, they helped to destroy one another. When the men of Judah came to the place that overlooks the desert and looked toward the vast army, they saw only dead bodies lying on the ground; no one had escaped. So Jehoshaphat and his men went to carry off their plunder, and they found among them a great amount of equipment and clothing and also articles of value—more than they could take away. There was so much plunder that it took three days to collect it. On the fourth day they assembled in the Valley of Berakah, where they praised the LORD. This is why it is called the Valley of Berakah to this day.

### Acts 16:25

About midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the other prisoners were listening to them.

### 1 Corinthians 14:15

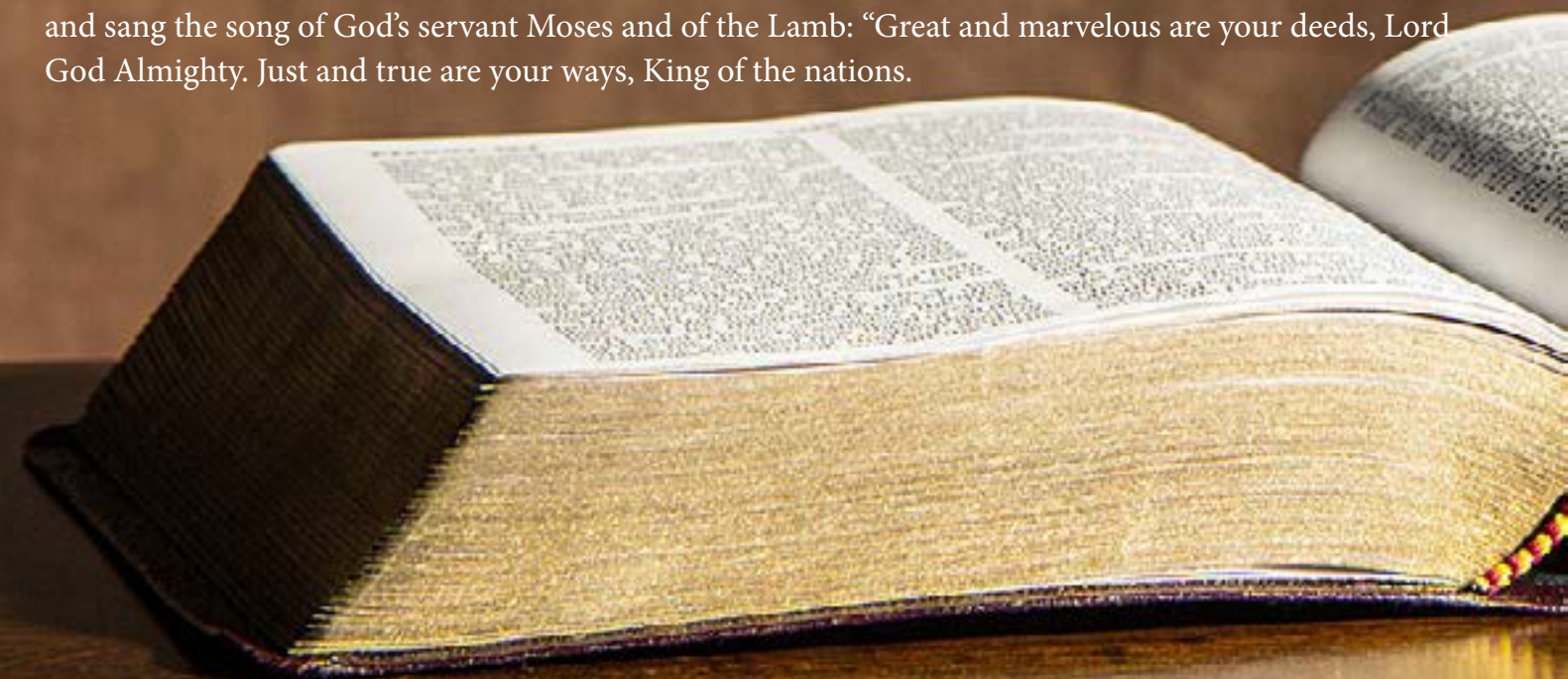
So what shall I do? I will pray with my spirit, but I will also pray with my understanding; I will sing with my spirit, but I will also sing with my understanding.

### Colossians 3:16

Let the message of Christ dwell among you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom through psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit, singing to God with gratitude in your hearts.

### Revelation 15:3

and sang the song of God’s servant Moses and of the Lamb: “Great and marvelous are your deeds, Lord God Almighty. Just and true are your ways, King of the nations.



## Worship Leadership

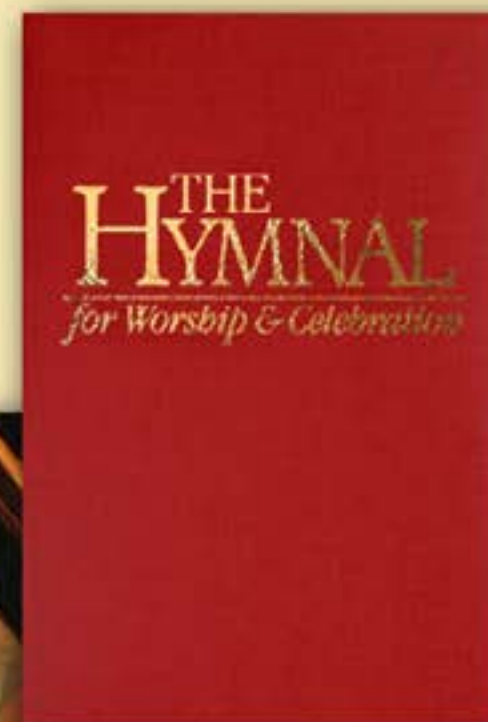
- What are the differences between a concert and a worship set?

	Concert Set	Worship Set

## Define a "powerful" worship service

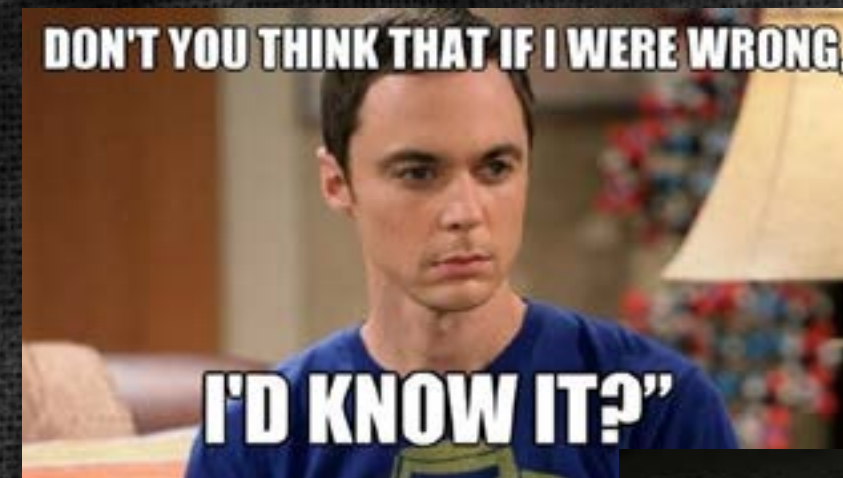
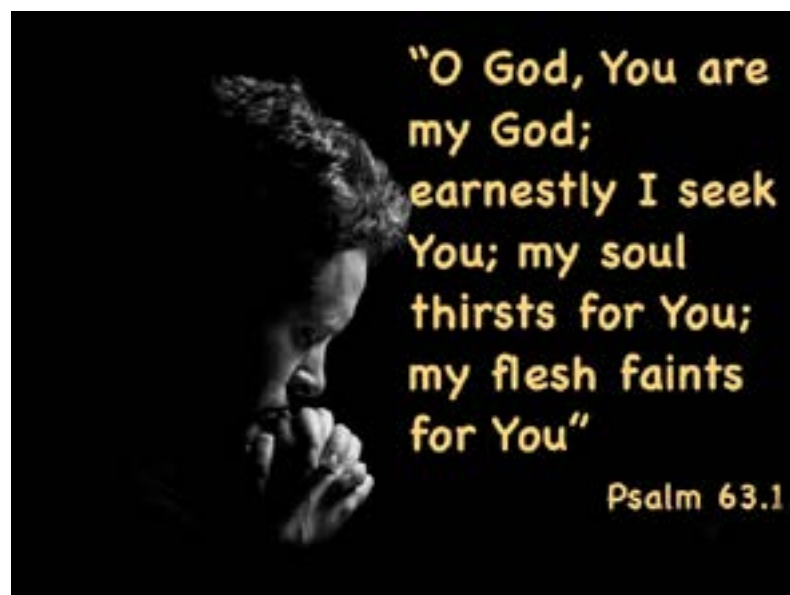


What really has been your model for what a worship service looks like?



Ephesians 5:18-20	Colossians 3:15-17
Do not get drunk on wine, which leads to debauchery.	Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace.
Instead, be filled with the Spirit, speaking to one another with	And be thankful. Let the message of Christ dwell among you richly
psalms,	as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom
hymns,	through psalms,
and songs from the Spirit.	hymns, and
Sing	songs from the Spirit,
and make music from your heart to the Lord,	singing to God with gratitude in your hearts.
always giving thanks	And whatever you do, whether in word or deed,
to God the Father	do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus,
for everything,	giving thanks to
in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.	God the Father through him.

- 1) You MUST be a worshipper.
- 2) You must have a proven spiritual walk.
- 3) Musically inclined (and growing).
- 4) A godly reputation.
- 5) Show the ability to function as part of a team.
- 6) A great attitude towards leadership.
- 7) Committed to make this happen.
- 8) Be developing creativity.



## Acts 15 The Jerusalem Council

*When the Church is divided?*



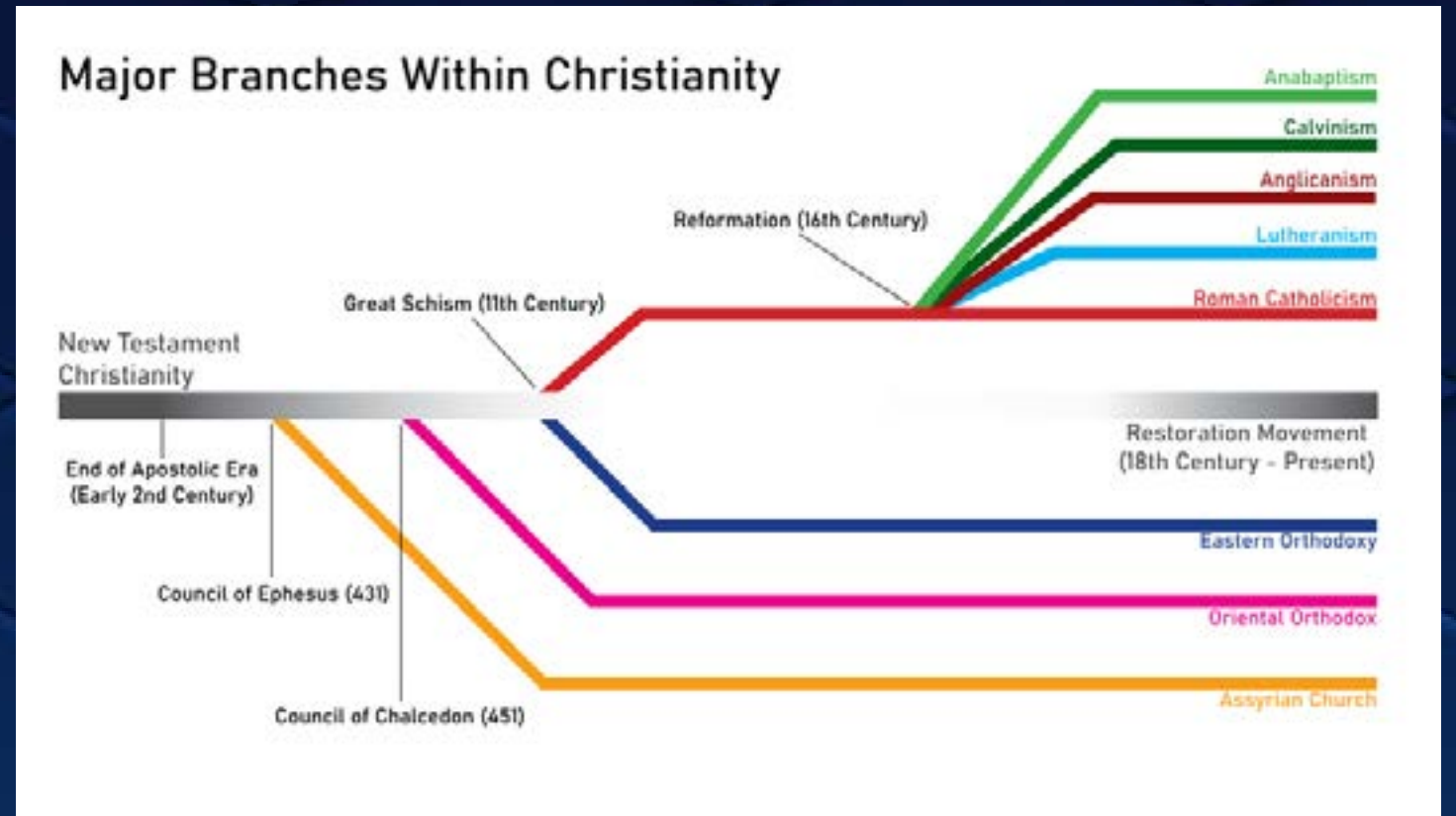
*When leaders disagree?*



## What divisions still separate Christians today?

1. God CALLS us to wrestle with that which makes us uncomfortable.
  - Why didn't the angel just preach to Cornelius?
2. God speaks and acts through prayer.
3. Like Peter, when I am wrong, am I strong enough to admit it?
4. Hospitality is still a definitive gift!
5. God reveals Himself to sincere seekers ... one way or another!

when has God broken down a barrier in your life?



Are Denominations Evil?

**YES?**

1. Cause division
2. Bad witness to the world
3. Confusion over theology
4. Confusion over practice
5. No authority structure (over all)
6. Not in line with Acts



1. Disagreement is OK. See [Romans 14](#) and [1Corinthian 8](#)  
How we handle disagreement will reveal our maturity.
2. The early church witnessed JUST fine even though there was intense disagreement. What is the difference?
3. There will always be confusion over theology.  
- Why does Christ teach in parables? Why is the Bible in-

- complete(?)?
4. Practices??? See [Acts 15](#).  
What does it mean to give up my rights?
5. While the authority structure is true, it also DOES reduce the problems of abuse of authority.
6. Of course it is in alignment with Acts.

### ***Denominations Allow ...***

- A wide variety of expressions of faith.
- A collecting together of resources to create.
- Impact that goes beyond the local church.
- Familiarity across the globe.
- A wider understanding of theology.
- A gathering of reasonably “like minded” believers.
- A chance to live out our commitment that WE ALONE have the truth. Humility!
- A variety of governmental structures.



Accept the one whose faith is weak, without quarreling over disputable matters. One person's faith allows them to eat anything, but another, whose faith is weak, eats only vegetables. The one who eats everything must not treat with contempt the one who does not, and the one who does not eat everything must not judge the one who does, for God has accepted them. Who are you to judge someone else's servant? To their own master, servants stand or fall. And they will stand, for the Lord is able to make them stand.

One person considers one day more sacred than another; another considers every day alike. Each of them should be fully convinced in their own mind. Whoever regards one day as special does so to the Lord. Whoever eats meat does so to the Lord, for they give thanks to God; and whoever abstains does so to the Lord and gives thanks to God. For none of us lives for ourselves alone, and none of us dies for ourselves alone. If we live, we live for the Lord; and if we die, we die for the Lord. So, whether we live or die, we belong to the Lord. For this very reason, Christ died and returned to life so that he might be the Lord of both the dead and the living.

You, then, why do you judge your brother or sister? Or why do you treat them with contempt? For we will all stand before God's judgment seat. It is written:

"As surely as I live," says the Lord, "every knee will bow before me; every tongue will acknowledge God."

So then, each of us will give an account of ourselves to God.

Therefore let us stop passing judgment on one another. Instead, make up your mind not to put any stumbling block or obstacle in the way of a brother or sister. I am convinced, being fully persuaded in the Lord Jesus, that nothing is unclean in itself. But if anyone regards something as unclean, then for that person it is unclean. If your brother or sister is distressed because of what you eat, you are no longer acting in love. Do not by your eating destroy someone for whom Christ died. Therefore do not let what you know is good be spo-

ken of as evil. For the kingdom of God is not a matter of eating and drinking, but of righteousness, peace and joy in the Holy Spirit, because anyone who serves Christ in this way is pleasing to God and receives human approval.

Let us therefore make every effort to do what leads to peace and to mutual edification. Do not destroy the work of God for the sake of food. All food is clean, but it is wrong for a person to eat anything that causes someone else to stumble. It is better not to eat meat or drink wine or to do anything else that will cause your brother or sister to fall.

So whatever you believe about these things keep between yourself and God. Blessed is the one who does not condemn himself by what he approves. But whoever has doubts is condemned if they eat, because their eating is not from faith; and everything that does not come from faith is sin.

Romans 14 (NIV)



## Creativity

- When styles of music we are unfamiliar with are presented in church, many protest, saying it is irreverent, without really trying hard to understand why the changes have been made.

- when Handel's Messiah was first performed in England, it was dismissed.

- William Booth, founder of the Salvation Army, broke new ground for the church by going out to the poor, the alcoholics, and others considered undesirable in society. But respected and devout leaders of the church criticized him. Even the great evangelical politician the Earl of Shaftesbury, who was himself a champion of the rights of the poor, once announced that after much study he was convinced that the Salvation Army was clearly the Antichrist.

- Many immediately branded the Pentecostal revival as demonic because it did not square with their understanding of the place of some gifts of the Spirit in this dispensation.

- When missionaries like E. Stanley Jones in India expressed solidarity with the Indian struggle for independence from Britain, evangelicals accused them of liberalism.

## Paul's First Missionary Journey (Acts 13:13)

### *Being Careful About Quitting*

Some things need to be ended. How do you know which?

The people we admire most, all faced adversity.

Count the cost very carefully. What do you lose?  
What do you gain? Short term vrs. long term?

Quitting does not often develop character.

It is not glamorous.

Satisfaction, advancement and fulfillment are seldom achieved by simply starting over.

Quitting points are not as solid as they seem to be. They are just painful.

Important vision has a high price tag. If God births it, it is a valuable, holy experience. Keep your clarity.



Things are not always as they seem. The growth that God creates within us **BECAUSE** we are in community cannot be learned in any other way. You cannot learn how to forgive, how to act in grace, how to truly love **UNLESS** you are intimately involved with a community of believers over an extended period of time.

Don't short-circuit God's lessons by quitting too quickly. If you do, you will find yourself in EXACTLY the same place again weeks or months from now. There you will stay until you learn the lesson God wants you to absorb!



- 1. Write your *regula* (rule) for life**
  - How will your plan affect God, self and others?
  - Where do you want to grow?
  - Select a set of spiritual exercise that will assist you in your growth.
- 2. Plan WHEN and HOW OFTEN you will practice your disciplines.**
- 3. Is your plan balanced and in moderation?**
  - Can you honestly keep it?
  - Start small and grow
- 4. Make it public enough to keep you accountable.**
  - Accept feedback
- 5. Don't quit and don't beat yourself up for lapses**
- 6. Re-examine in six months and tweak ... or ... create a new one!**