



CHOOSING TO THRIVE

DETERMINED & INTENTIONAL

TO FLOURISH
TO PROSPER
TO GROW VIGOROUSLY
IN JESUS

JANUARY- THE THRIVE WALK IS AN INTIMATE CROSSWALK

WHAT HAPPENED THE MOMENT YOU GOT SAVED

THE BENEFITS OF SALVATION

CHECK ALL BAGGAGE AT THE DOOR

IT'S TIME TO BREAK CAMP AND ADVANCE

BODY, SOUL, AND SPIRIT

FEBRUARY/MARCH- THE THRIVE WALK IS A INTIMATE, SURRENDERED WALK

THE WILL OF GOD- ANOTHER LEVEL OF SURRENDER

THE GENERAL WILL OF GOD/THE SPECIFIC WILL OF GOD

**APRIL/MAY- THE THRIVE WALK IS AN INTIMATE, SPIRIT FILLED, INTIMATE SPIRIT
LED WALK**

HOLY SPIRIT - OUR SPIRITUAL GPS

DEVELOPING INTIMACY WITH HOLY SPIRIT

BAPTISM OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

JUNE-THE THRIVE WALK IS AN INTIMATE HEART WALK

THE JOURNEY FROM HEAD TO HEART

DEVELOPING INTIMACY WITH THE WORD OF GOD

EVERY STEP HAS A PURPOSE AND A CONNECTION

JULY- THE THRIVE WALK IS AN INTIMATE LIFETIME WALK

SEASONS

WHAT GOD SAYS ABOUT GROWTH

GROWING PAINS

NAVIGATING STORMS- RAIN, TORNADOS. SNOWSTORMS BLIZZARDS,
HURRICANES, EARTHQUAKES

AUGUST- THE THRIVE WALK IS AN INTIMATE FAITH WALK -

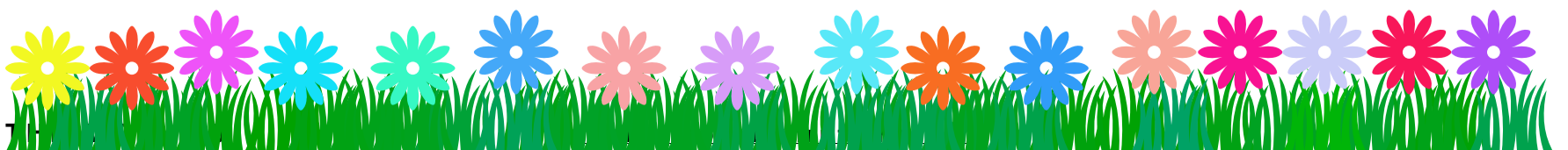
FAITH FACTS

WORDS MATTER- WE ARE ENSNARED BY OUR WORDS

A PROSPERITY GOSPEL- OUR FEAR OF FAITH- YES, YOU CAN]

SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER - THE THRIVE WALK IS AN INTIMATE ACTION WALK

NOVEMBER/DECEMBER- THE THRIVE WALK IS AN INTIMATE GO AND TELL WALK



DISCLOSURE

When speaking of healing, I want to make a few things clear

I am not against doctors, medicine or medical treatments. I have used all 3 in the past!

There is nothing wrong with seeking medical treatment from doctors of any speciality. It doesn't mean you aren't in faith if you go to Doctors.

There is nothing wrong with medicine and it doesn't mean you aren't in faith if you take medicine

Be it unto you according **TO YOUR FAITH**

Your decision is just that! **YOUR decision!**

I do recommend the following:

1. When facing a health issue or any issue, First and foremost seek the Lord. Allow him to be an active part of your circumstance. See what the Word of God says about your circumstance.
2. If you are still unsure of things, seek out godly counsel from your pastor or Mentor.
3. Don't misplace your faith.. Doctors will let you down, medication will let you down, treatments/surgeries will let you down. God will never let you down.

Don't allow feelings have a seat at the table. Faith doesn't operate in the sense realm. Stay in faith.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

- Much of this workbook comes from years of note-taking of teachings from church, conferences, teachings from various media broadcasts, etc. When I know who a quote belongs to, then I will always give as much credit as I possibly can. I apologize that I do not have that information available as these were just my handwritten notes.
- If a quote is solely from me, I will post my name beside it.
- I used the following Bibles in this study
- KJV-Authorized KJV
- NLT- New Living Translation
- Quoting an individual does not mean that I am in agreement with all of their teachings.

Everyone Falls Into One of These Categories



Unbeliever, uninterested,
may even be an atheist



Newly saved or saved but
lacks understanding of Word-
need discipleship



Not yet a Christian, but
interested, sensing the void in
their life



Believer with good
understanding of, at least the
basics and putting them into
practice



Strong believer, walking in
faith and discipling others

Which one do you best identify with?

Whichever one it is, it's a great place to start and commit to going
forward with God!

AFFIRMATIONS FOR WEEK 1

- * I AM LOVED BY GOD AND I AM CONVINCED THAT NOTHING CAN SEPARATE ME FROM THE LOVE OF GOD THAT IS IN CHRIST JESUS - ROMANS 8:38-39
- * I AM VICTORIOUS BECAUSE I AM BORN OF GOD AND EVERYONE BORN OF GOD OVERCOMES THE WORLD. THIS IS THE VICTORY HAS OVERCOME THE WORLD, EVEN MY FAITH. I JOHN 5:4
- * I AM A NEW CREATION IN CHRIST, THE OLD THINGS OF MY LIFE THAT HAVE PASSED AWAY AND ALL THINGS HAVE BEEN MADE NEW.

II CORINTHIANS 5:17

- * I AM CHOSEN, HOLY AND DEARLY LOVED AND THEREFORE, I CLOTHE MYSELF WITH COMPASSION, KINDNESS, HUMILITY, GENTLENESS, AND PATIENCE. COLOSSIANS 3:12
- * I AM ALIVE WITH CHRIST. I AM DEAD TO MY SINS AND GOD HAS MADE ME ALIVE WITH CHRIST. HE HAS FORGIVEN ME OF ALL MY SIN

COLOSSIANS 2:13

LESSON 1 THOUGHTS TO CONSIDER

WHAT DO YOU WANT OUT OF THIS STUDY? GET WITH GOD AND SET GOALS AND WRITE THEM DOWN!

ARE YOU LIVING BY FEELINGS OR BY TRUTH? IF YOU ARE LIVING BY YOUR FEELINGS, HOW ARE YOU GOING TO CHANGE THAT?

AM I LIVING A SET APART LIFESTYLE? ASK THE HOLY SPIRIT TO SHOW YOU ANY AREAS IN YOUR LIFE WHERE YOU ARE NOT LIVING A SET APART LIFE. ASK HIM TO HELP YOU IN THAT AREA.

AS YOU DAILY READ THE WORD, ASK HOLY SPIRIT TO GIVE YOU EARS TO HEAR WHAT HE IS SAYING, THE MIND TO COMPREHEND WHAT HE IS IN HIS WORD AND TO YOU, AND A HEART THAT IS WILLING TO APPLY WHAT HE IS TEACHING YOU.

WILL YOU SIGN CONSENT FOR HOLY HEART SURGERY?

CONSENT FOR HOLY HEART SURGERY

1. YOUR CONSENT IS MANDATORY - GOD WILL NOT FORCE CHANGE UPON YOU. JUST AS NO SURGEON CAN TAKE YOU TO THE OPERATING ROOM WITHOUT CONSENT, GOD WILL NOT WORK AGAINST YOUR WILL.
 2. IT REQUIRES LIFE MODIFICATION DEPENDENT ON YOUR COOPERATION - HEART SURGERY COMES WITH UNDERSTANDING THAT THE PATIENT WILL HAVE DIET, AND BEHAVIORAL MODIFICATIONS AS NEEDED. IT IS USELESS TO HAVE HEART SURGERY ONLY TO RETURN TO EATING HIGH FAT, HIGH SALT DIETS, AND 80 HR/ WK HIGH STRESS JOBS. SO IT IS IN YOUR SPIRITUALLY HEART. THE HOLY SPIRIT WILL SHOW YOU WERE CHANGE NEEDS TO TAKE PLACE AND YOU WILL NEED TO SURRENDER TO CHANGE AND MAKE THE NEEDED CHANGES
 3. SURGERY IS UNCOMFORTABLE. IT INVOLVES A CUTTING AWAY OF THE BAD VEINS AND ARTERIES, PROVIDING A WAY FOR THE BLOOD TO BE ABLE TO CIRCULATE TO ALL PLACES AGAIN. HOLY HEART SURGERY CUTS AWAY AREAS ARE OUR LIFE THAT ARE SO BLOCKED WITH THE BAD, AND MAKES NEW PATHS SO THAT THE LIFE OF GOD CAN FREELY FLOW THROUGH YOU, ALL OF YOU! POST OP PAIN IS TO BE EXPECTED IN HEART SURGERY BUT EACH DAY THERE IS IMPROVEMENT. HOLY HEART SURGERY MAY BRING SOME PAIN, BUT EACH DAY WE SEE IMPROVEMENT.
 4. OPEN HEART SURGERY IS PERFORMED TO EXTEND LIFE. HOLY HEART SURGERY DOES THE SAME. SIN BRINGS DEATH, HOLY SPIRIT BRINGS LIFE...EVERY TIME!
- UNDERSTANDING WHAT IS INVOLVED IN HOLY HEART SURGERY, WILL YOU SIGN
CONSENT TO IT

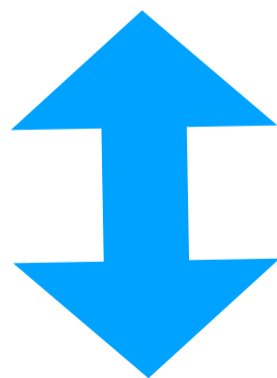
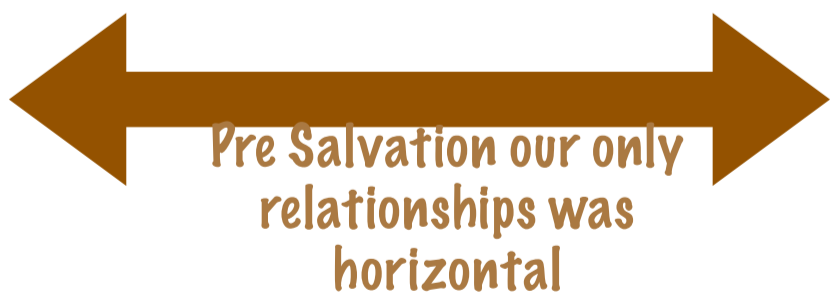
SIGN AND DATE ON THE LINE AND KEEP IT, AS THIS IS A COMMITMENT

WHAT HAPPENED TO YOU THE MOMENT YOU GOT SAVED

Many Christians fail to thrive because they see their salvation as a safeguard for their eternity! They are unaware of all that took place at their time of salvation, and the benefits of salvation in the here and now!

Terms We Need to Know and Understand (in our head and in our heart)

1. **Justification** - To be freed from guilt and shame. The action of declaring or making one righteous in the sight of God- **Romans 5:1, II Corinthians 5:21**
2. **Sanctification** - Transforming or forming one to be set apart, cleansed from sin- **John 17:17 Hebrews 10:14**
3. **Glorification** - **A new, incorruptible body.** Occurs at the time of the second coming of Christ **I Thes 4:16, Philippians 3:20-21, Romans 8:23 ,**
4. **Forgiveness** - The forgiveness that God purchased through Christ's atonement for their sins. Our sins are completely forgiven and forgotten. It is the pattern we are to follow when forgiving others. **Ephesians 4:32, I John 1:9**
5. **Reconciliation** - Bringing again into unity, harmony, or agreement what has been alienated. To be made at-one with God. It goes beyond forgiveness as we know it. Humanly speaking, we can forgive or be forgiven and it doesn't necessarily bring reconciliation or a restored relationship.. God's forgiveness brings both **II Corinthians 5:18**
6. **Redemption** - The action of buying back or repurchasing what we previously forfeited or lost. The ransom has been paid. **Ephesians 1:7**
7. **Newness of Life** - Living a sanctified life before God. We've been made brand new. **Romans 6:4**
8. **Adoption** - When we get saved, we are adopted into the family of God with all its rights and privileges. God is our Father and Jesus Christ is our elder brother **Romans 8:15**



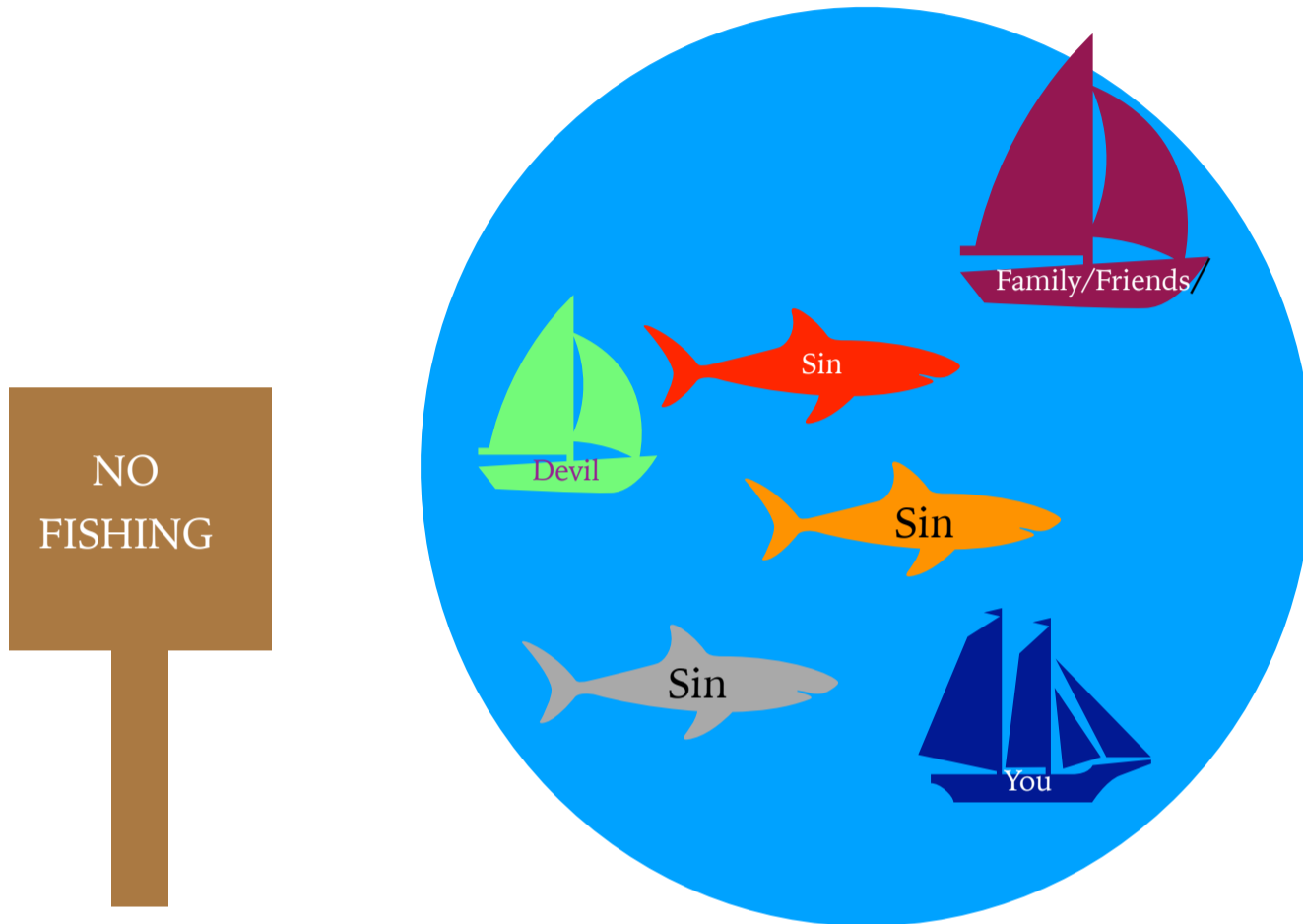
Salvation brought a vertical relationship!
This Should Be Where We Want to Be

THE BENEFITS OF SALVATION ARE FOR THE HERE AND NOW!

1. Direct access to God 24/7/365-Hebrews 4:16
2. The protection of God- Psalm 91, Psalm 121:7-8
3. Physical healing-Psalm 103:2-3
4. Freedom from the power of sin - Romans 6:14
5. Friendship with the God: James 2:23, John 15:12-17
6. Freedom from the penalty of sin- Ephesians 2:3
7. Transformation- Romans 12:2, I Corinthians 15:51-53
8. Purpose: Ephesians 2:10
9. Extravagant blessing - II Corinthians 9:8
10. Miracles - Acts 4:29-31, Mark 16:17-20
11. Power - Acts 1:8
12. Authority - Luke 10:19
13. Victory - I Corinthians 15:57
14. Joint Heir with Christ - Romans 8:16-17
15. Never alone/abandoned - Hebrews 13:15
16. Holy Spirit - Luke 24:49
17. Forgiveness - I John 1:9
18. We are the temple of the holy Spirit - I Corinthians 6:19
19. Co-worker with Christ - I Corinthians 3:9
20. Abundant life - John 10:10
21. Freedom- John 8:36
22. Sealed - II Corinthians 1:22
23. Partaker of God's nature - II Peter 1:3-4
24. The peace of God and peace with God- John 14:27, Romans 5:1
25. A new position "In christ" - Ephesians 2:6
26. God's grace in abundance - II Corinthians 9:8
27. Now a part of the family of god- Romans 9:8, I John 3:1-2
28. The measure of faith - Romans 12:3
29. His strength allowing us to do all things through christ - Philippians 4:13
30. Understanding -
31. We are in covenant with God

WHEN GOD FORGIVES YOUR SIN, HE THROWS THEM IN THE SEA OF HIS FORGETFULNESS AND PUTS UP A SIGN THAT SAYS "NO FISHING" CORRIE TEN BOOM

"CHECK ALL YOUR BAGGAGE AT THE DOOR



What baggage are you carrying?

Are you ready to get rid of it?

If so, then let's do that right now!

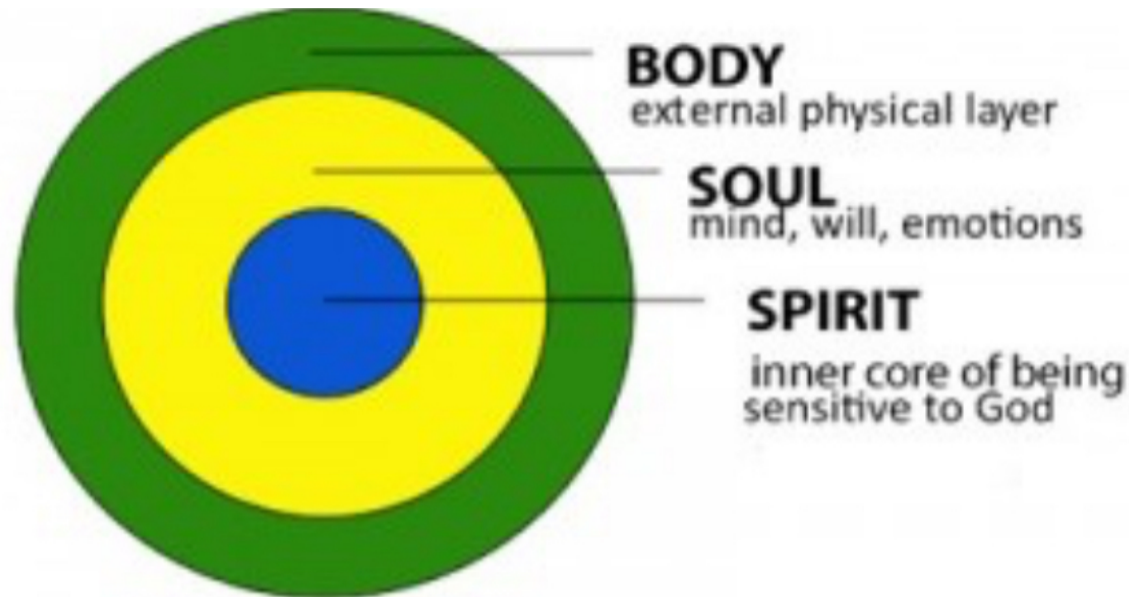
IT'S TIME TO BREAK CAMP AND ADVANCE



God will tell each of us, more than once in our lifetime, “it’s time to break camp and advance”. We are to thrive in the preparation for advancing, during the time of advancing and as when walk in the advancement! Things to consider when God says advance

1. The Call
2. Our response
3. What/Who goes with us - Not everything and not everyone stays with us on a journey
4. The “but.....” And the “what if.....”

BODY SOUL SPIRIT- ANDREW WOMMACK



We are 3 part beings and our understanding of this is of utmost importance to our every day walk with God. When believers understand this they benefit (not a comprehensive list)!

- Our walk with God is benefited by our understanding of all we have been given by God at the moment of our salvation. We learn how to access it and utilize it each and every day. We have assurance of our salvation.
- We have a better understanding of the Word of God and our own growth in the Word.
- We have a better understanding of sin, the strategy of the enemy, the path of victory that is available to every believer, and how to deal with sin in our life
- We gain better understanding of how Holy Spirit leads us, and teaches us and longs for us to hear, know, and follow His voice.

Our Body - this is the shell of every individual. It is not us, but it houses us while we walk on this earth. It is our flesh and bone. We can feel with our body (if we are hit, our body feels that pain). It is not the part of us that is changed when we are born again. The Bible refers to it as:

II Corinthians 5:1-8- a tent

I Corinthians 6:19- a temple,- it belongs to God

II Corinthians 4:18 - It is visible to the human eye and it is temporal

Ephesians 1:14 - It is corruptible

Our Soul - The part of us that is composed of our mind, will, emotions (Our personality). The soul is under transformation. That transformation began the day we accepted Christ and it is an ongoing, daily process that will not reach completion until we see Jesus. This transformation is a partnership with us and God. We have to submit our will so God can do His work in us. It is in our soul that we can reason and perceive things in the psychological realm. In Greek, the original language of the New Testament, the word for soul is "psyche"psyche, which is the root word of psychology.

As with our body, we can feel with our soul. Someone can say something to us our soul can feel "happy", "sad", "offended", "mad", etc.

Our Spirit - This is the deepest part of us. By our spirit, we come into contact with God in the spirit realm. In the **spirit**, God as the Spirit dwells in the **soul**, our self dwells in the **body**, the physical senses dwell in the body. God sanctifies us **first**, by taking possession of our **spirit** through regeneration (**John 3:5-6**); **second**, by spreading Himself as the life-giving Spirit from our spirit into our **soul** to saturate and transform our soul (**Rom. 12:2; 2 Cor. 3:18**); and **last**, by enlivening our mortal **body** through our soul (**Rom. 8:11, 13**) and transfiguring our body by His life-giving power (**Phil. 3:21**).

1 Thessalonians 5:23 tells us, "The God of peace Himself sanctify you *wholly*." He sanctifies us by spreading into and saturating our whole being. This process of sanctification starts from our spirit, continues into our soul, and eventually will include our body. Then we'll be wholly filled with God in every part of our being.

II Corinthians 5:17 is not a future happening. It occurred the moment we got saved. When we became a "new creation", there was a complete change that took place. This change did not happen in our body or in our soul. The complete change took place in our spirit!

KEY POINT -The moment we got saved, the Lord placed in our spirit everything that we would need to walkout this life on earth. The rest of our Christian walk is learning and living out all that God placed in our spirit, and then seeing it manifest in the body and the soul.

When our soul comes into agreement with our born again spirit, we then begin to experience the life of God, the abundant life provided to us by Jesus Christ. It is then we begin to experience the benefits of salvation. Majority wins! Our soul and body now experience the life, victory and power that was placed in our spirit the day we got saved!

THE GENERAL WILL OF GOD

ANOTHER LEVEL OF SURRENDER

John MacArthur says this:

To begin with, you'd have to admit that regarding God's will, there's a tremendous amount of confusion. There are many people who say, "Well, I do this because it's God's will," and somebody else said, "Well, I didn't do that because it wasn't God's will," and I really think that God's will gets blamed for an awful lot of stuff.

For some people, they think that God's will is lost. You hear people say, "Well, I'm searching for God's will." When anybody says that to me, I say, "Oh, is it lost?" You know, they had the idea that God is sort of a universal Easter bunny, and He runs around the universe and stashes it in some supernatural bush, and we run through our life, and God's in heaven saying, "You're getting warmer," see, and it's sort of a game He plays.

And for other people, the will of God is sort of like a trauma, you know, you expect to be running down the street, slip on a banana peel, and land on a map of South America, and that's God saying, "Go to South America." "Okay, God." Or maybe you expect to be hit in the head with a hammer in the middle of the night and awakened to hear the voice of the angels singing in your room a song about India, and that's God's call.

For other people, the will of God is a very, very serious thing. They're afraid of it. They look at God as if He were sort of a cosmic killjoy who wants to take everybody and stick a pith helmet on their head and stuff them in the monkey tribe in Africa and make them a missionary to Bula Bula Land, you know; and no matter whether you want to do it or not, that's the will of God, see, and that God's will wants to cross-grain you.

And of course, if you were to read the average insurance policy, you might get that idea. Pick up your insurance policy and look at the section entitled "Act of God: hurricane, tornado, flood," you know. All God is up there for is to just wipe anything out, see, and anything that comes on the negative level is God in action.

I'll never forget the athlete who came to me, and he said, "I don't want to give my life to Christ, I'm afraid of the will of God," you know, the typical athlete who thinks that God wants to break both his legs and make him play a flute, see. So there are some people who are afraid of the will of God. They're afraid that God wants to cross-grain them and make them do something that they don't want to do. And so, there are many interesting views about the will of God.

There are some people who are just really not that concerned, you know. To them, the will of God is like a brass ring you use have on the merry-go-round, you know: if you get the brass ring, it's nice; if you don't get the brass ring, you still get a ride. So if you get the will of God for your life, that's great; if you don't, you're still going to go to heaven. It's no big deal anyway, it'll be perfect when you get there. And so they sort of minimize the will of God and they're not really that committed to it.

Well, what is God's will? Can we actually know God's will? You hear so much talk about this. Can we really pin down the will of God? Does God have a will for our lives?

What is the "Will of God"?

Is there a personal will of God for my life?

How do I find out the will of God for my life?

How do I fulfill the will of God for my life?

In defining this term, it might help to use the analogy of a "Last Will and Testament" that we have made up for when we die.

The average person today has a will (Last Will and Testament), or knows they need one. When speaking of a will in earthly terms we would basically define it this way: A will is a document that contains your directions for assets and dependents.

Testator- a person who dies leaving a will or **testament** in force.

Beneficiary - Those who are entitled to benefit from the will

A sealed document

A legal document

The reading of the will- If the will is never opened and read, then those named in the will would never receive their inheritance.

A will cannot be changed by anyone other than the testator

WHAT IS THE “WILL OF GOD” ?

It is a total yieldedness to the Holy Spirit; that’s what Paul is saying. But it is God’s will that you be totally given over to the control of the Holy Spirit. And it’s an amazing thing about being under the control of the Spirit; You know His voice, and you obey His prompting!

2 Types of “God’s Will” - We will look at 2 types in this lesson

1. **General** - For all believers
2. **Specific** - Personal for an individual

What We Must Know In Our Heart About God’s Will - Before we embark on this voyage of “finding” the “will of God”, we must understand:

1. **It isn’t hidden** - God doesn’t play hide and seek with us.
 2. **It starts at the cross** - II Peter 3:9
 3. **It is GOOD** - It cannot be improved upon! It’s pleasing, totally satisfying, absolutely the best
- Psalm 37:4
I John 1:5
James 1:17
Psalm 84:11

4 It is ACCEPTABLE - It is fully approved and pleasing to God
Matthew 12:50

5 It is PERFECT - No defect, it fully reaches its goal, or ending that He purposed

6. It Requires Your Participation - God isn’t Santa Clause or the tooth fairy.

7. Another Level of Surrender - To do the will of God, we must surrender the will of self, or any other will that might try to exalt itself above God’s will. (Family/friends/leaders)

8. It Will Always Be Maturing You, Growing You - there is some climbing involved

9. It May Not Always Seem Good, Perfect, Acceptable At The Time -

10 It Is Worth It - The best place to be in the center of God’s will, and the worst place to be is anyplace else.

Walking in the “General” Will of God

1. You can’t walk in something you don’t know
2. You can’t walk in something you don’t have faith in - Faith comes by hearing and hearing by the Word of God
3. Without faith it is impossible to please Him
4. You can’t fully walk in it if it isn’t heart knowledge to you. - You must believe in your heart!
5. You can’t advance to the “personal” will of God for your life if you aren’t first walking in God’s “general” will for your life
6. You must learn to deal with the pressures that will Come With Your Surrender. Think of this analogy - Traveling by plane - Due to the change in pressure, our ears begin to pop. We don’t like that happening. It can be painful and occasionally it has led to damage to the eardrum or hearing loss. Ear popping on a plane is something we have to deal with if we are going to travel by plane. So what do we do? Most often we yawn, or we chew gum to resolve the issue.

As children of God, we are going to face pressures while on this earth. They come from our flesh, or the world, or the devil. We don’t like those pressures and so we should do something about it. Thankfully, God gave us His Word, and His Holy Spirit to help us. We also can and should take these to the Father. We are to cast all our care upon Him, because He cares for you.

THE WILL OF GOD
GENERAL AND PERSONAL (SPECIFIC)

Our Example: Jesus Christ- Jesus did the will of God each step of the way.

Birth - Jesus came into this world through a virgin young lady who didn't understand its call but in faith she said I am willing to be used of the Lord. Let it happen to me as you have said - Luke 1

Childhood - As a child Jesus demonstrated faith through learning the Scriptures and being found in the temple reading and the Scribes stood amazed at His understanding.

Baptism - His baptism was an act of faith as He was entering into a 3 1/2 year ministry that would end in His death, burial and resurrection.

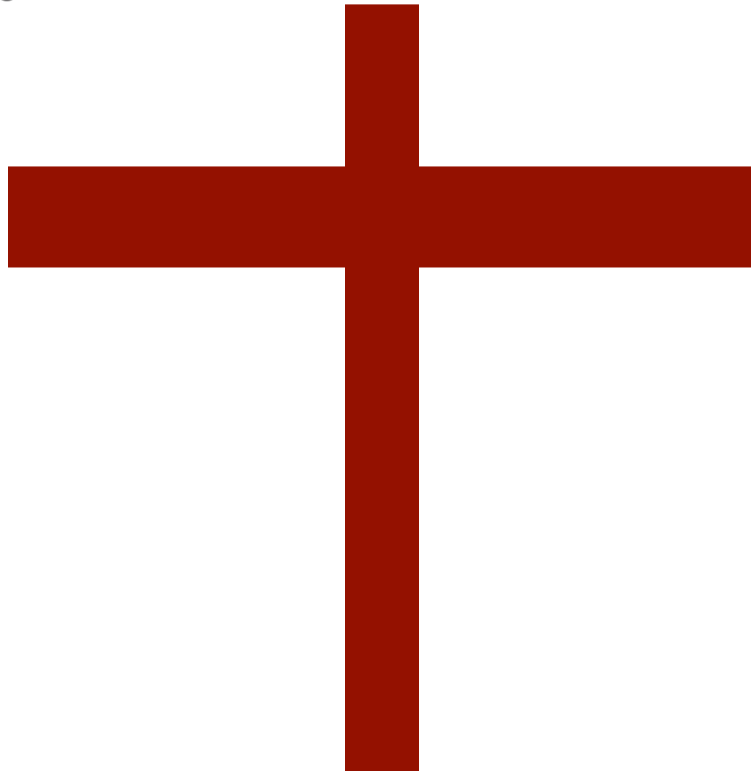
Ministry - He did only those things that were ordered by His Father.

Cross - He said Father, not My will but Thine be done.

Resurrection-with them until the end of He had absolute faith in His resurrection. He foretold it as He taught and in answering the Pharisees.

Ascension - He bestowed His power and authority upon His disciples and assured them that He would be the age.(also meaning every disciple of Christ through the ages)

**For Every Believer:
It Starts at the Cross**



**Thriving begins when we kneel
at the cross and lay it all down,
only to pick up our cross and
follow Him.**

THE PERSONAL WILL OF GOD

FAITH BEGINS WHERE THE WILL OF GOD IS KNOWN

1. Surrender your personal desires

As you seek God's will, it's important to be sure you are fully open to whatever God wants. If you have actually already decided what to do and are only coming to God so He can approve your decision, you are not really seeking His will.

You may have something in mind that you think is best or that you want to happen. That's OK; just make sure to acknowledge that you are biased toward a certain decision or outcome. Think through why you feel more drawn to one particular option. Don't mistake your own thoughts, desires and plans for God's voice.

To really understand what God is saying to you, be open to God guiding you in any direction. When your desire to follow God outweighs your desire for a certain outcome, you are ready to hear from God.

Psalm 37:4 (NLT) says, "Take delight in the Lord and He will give you your heart's desires." This verse does not mean you will get what you want in every situation. But if your ultimate desire is a closer relationship with God, you will always get that desire when you genuinely seek His will.

Don't ignore your emotions and desires when seeking God's will. God gives you emotions and desires, so listening to them is part of this process. But you shouldn't let them cloud your vision as you consider different sources of guidance.

Also, learn to surrender your desire to please other people. The apostle Paul says, "Obviously, I'm not trying to win the approval of people, but of God. If pleasing people were my goal, I would not be Christ's servant" (**Galatians 1:10, NLT**).

Consider how your choices will impact other people, but don't make a decision just to please someone else. Following God will not always make everyone else happy, so be willing to disappoint others in your pursuit of God's will.

2. Meditate on God's Word

Psalm 119:105 (NLT) says, "Your word is a lamp to guide my feet and a light for my path." The Bible can light the way as you choose your next steps.

When you make a decision, it should line up with, or at least not contradict, what God has said through the Bible. As you read Scripture, you will understand more about God's character and be better able to know what He wants. Just as you know the things that please your close family and friends, you will learn what pleases God as you get to know Him better.

Resist the temptation to randomly open the Bible expecting to find the answer in whatever verse you read first. You may or may not find something that seems relevant, but it's not the same as understanding God's word and applying its direct commands and underlying principles to your decision. When you find a relevant verse, read the other verses around it or the rest of the chapter — or even that whole book of the Bible — for context, to make sure it really applies to your situation.

3. Spend focused time in prayer

The most obvious answer to the question, "How can I know God's will for my life?" is to ask Him. Turn to God in prayer and ask Him what He wants you to do, then stay long enough to listen.

God wants you to go through the process of seeking His will without believing the lie that He is trying to hide it from you. If you believe that God is hiding it from you, you will struggle to see God as your loving Father. His desire is for you to know His will. So when you ask, expect Him to answer.

Making big decisions can tempt us to accept a lot of anxiety and worry, but we are to bring those to God.. The Bible tells us, "Don't worry about anything; instead, pray about everything. Tell God what you need, and thank him for all He has done" (**Philippians 4:6, NLT**).

As you pray and ask God what to do, write down the sense of direction you get from Him over time. This will help you avoid being overly influenced by your most recent thought.

"Too often our most recent thought will dominate our thinking and have the most influence, whether or not it merits that privilege," says Keith Davy, former director of research and development for Cru's campus ministry.

4. Seek other people's advice

Find mature, dedicated Christians and ask them what they think you should do. The pieces of advice you receive may conflict, but they should give you another perspective to think about. Talk to your mentors, parents, pastors or church leaders.

Plans go wrong for lack of advice; many advisers bring success. — Proverbs 15:22, NLT

Ask people you trust to pray about your decision. Follow up with them to see if they sense God's leading in a certain way. It can also help to go through some or all of these steps with someone who can help you sort out everything you are considering as you make a decision.

You are ultimately the one responsible for your decisions, and you cannot rely exclusively on what other people say. They may have biases of their own clouding their vision, even if they are strong Christians. They care about you, so they will care about what you decide.

As with surrendering your desires, you need to concern yourself more with pleasing God than pleasing people or following their advice. Seeking advice is wise, but don't let someone else make your decision for you.

5. When God opens a door, walk through it. When God closes a door, don't try and open it again.

God can open and close the doors of opportunity in your life. You may have heard someone say, "God closed the door on this opportunity," or "God was opening doors to give me the job."

God, not circumstances, should guide your decision-making. But God may use events in your life to point you in a certain direction. Sometimes, your decision is made for you. For example, when a job or college application is rejected, God has likely closed that door.

On the other hand, not all obstacles are closed doors. Some are just things you need to overcome as you follow God. Similarly, just because a door is open does not mean God always wants you to walk through it. This is another reason to consider a number of sources when seeking God's will.

**THE HOLY SPIRIT-OUR INTERNAL GPS FROM THE DAY OF OUR SALVATION
UNTIL THE MOMENT WE SEE JESUS FACE TO FACE**

GPS- Global Positioning System

Spiritual GPS- God's Positioning System

The Benefits of a GPS

1. Tracks the Car in Real Time
2. Watches Driving Behavior
3. Get Alerted Each Time Your Child Takes an Irregular Path
4. Improved Car Safety
5. Towing
6. Unauthorized Driver Alert
7. A GPS is there to **assist** us, to **alert** us. A GPS **sees what is ahead before we do! They have detour routes and they know the quickest route. They tell us what time we will arrive.** We love our GPS. **But there has to be a cooperation on our part.** It will remain in the car, but **it cannot direct us in any way unless we are willing to use it. It can be overruled.** The GPS will give me the best route, but I have to obey. If the GPS detects an error on my part (wrong exit, etc) or if something new happens (accident) it will reroute me. But again, It will speak to me, **but I have to hear it and obey it.**

The Roles of the Holy Spirit

1. He regenerates us (**Titus 3:5**)
2. He teaches us the truth of God (**John 14:17, 26; 16:13**)
3. He testifies to the character of God (**John 15:26; 16:14-15**)
4. He guides us (**Romans 8:14**)
5. He speaks to us to follow His leading (**Acts 8:29-39; 13:1-4**)
6. He intercedes for us according to God's will (**Romans 8:26-27**)
7. He comforts us with His presence, His truth, and His peace (**John 14:16, 26-27**)
8. He convicts us of our sin and selfishness - (**Galatians 5:16-17**)
9. He fills us with Himself - (**Ephesians 5:18**)
10. He produces fruit in our lives (**Galatians 5:16-22-23**)
11. He gives us gifts for service (**I Corinthians 12:3-11;Romans 12:3-8; Ephesians 4:7-11**)
12. He sanctifies us on this earth (**II Corinthians 3:18; Philippians 1:6**)
13. He seals our eternal redemption (**Ephesians 1:13-14; Romans 8:9,16**)

As Jesus was going back to heaven -never again to physically step foot on earth until He returned at the end of the age. He gathered His followers and instructed them to wait in Jerusalem until they were baptized in the Holy Spirit and received power (**Acts 1:8**).

Don't place the Holy Spirit into a spiritual "formula" in your life! **Enter into a relationship with Holy Spirit.**

Power is not something we strive for, it is something that has been given to us to empower us for the call on our lives. **oStriving is a religious trap! In the end it is powerless. A powerless Christian is a magnet for religious spirits. And all our striving blinds us from discernment, zaps our authority, and mentally exhausts us.....the very plan of our enemy.**

RELATIONSHIP- It's not what you do, it's who you know. Get to know God. We can spend our lives striving to get to know our "favorite" preacher, evangelist, etc. We read all about them and copy their ways because "they are anointed". We will fail. When we are in a relationship with God and Holy Spirit, then we understand that it is not what we do, it is the power in us doing the work as we walk in Him.

Acts 4:13- When they saw the boldness of Peter and John, and perceived that they were unlearned and ignorant men, they marveled; and they took knowledge of them, that they had been with Jesus. Oh that it would be said of us today, "They took knowledge of them, that they had been with Jesus"! Let it be!

It's not a language- It is a relationship - **Acts 1:8** - Does not say you will shall receive tongues after that the Holy Spirit has come upon you....." We receive power! Tongues without power is just a babbling brook. A relationship brings the Holy Spirit, who brings the power and the baptism of the Holy Spirit brings tongues with power.

Acts 2:1-4

Power to Obey - They obeyed Jesus admonition to remain in Jerusalem until the Holy Spirit came

The Holy Spirit came as promised, and they were there, they were filled with power of Holy Spirit and then they spoke in tongues- because it was the Spirit that gave them utterance. That power was visible to others.

Power in Prayer - Communication. It is dialogue (the friend that only calls when they need you, or call to tell you all their problems and never say how are you. They aren't listening. That is not true communication and yet we do that with God sometimes. We are to live lifestyle of prayer -We are to pray without ceasing- **II Cor 5:17**

Jude 20

The New Testament Pattern for Being Filled With the Holy Spirit - "**Baptism in the Holy Spirit**"

There are 2 baptisms - water baptism and Holy Spirit baptism- **Acts 1:5**

God desires every believer to be filled with the dynamite power of the Holy Spirit. The infilling is not one and done, it is ongoing experience that happens again and again. The infilling ushers in a flood of Holy Spirit power in order that we may operate in unfathomable power in Holy Spirit's and desires to use it for the purpose of kingdom work,

Are we advancing the Kingdom of God?

Jesus Christ Initiated the Pattern - **Luke 24:49, Acts 1:4**

This baptism was birthed on the day of Pentecost - **Acts 2:1-4**

This is because the Holy Spirit would no longer come and go in an individuals life- rather He would now **DWELL** within us. It is Holy Spirit that gives us power to carry out the work God called us to do. There are numerous Christians on this earth but they do not walk in power. This type of Christian is the devil's favorite! Satan understands the power of Holy Spirit. He will run from the Christian that has that power of Holy Spirit **AND** knows how to use it and has the boldness to step up and use it.

We see a pattern of everything an individual received baptism of the Holy Spirit, they began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit gave them utterance.

Acts 2,8,9,10,19 - 23 years had elapsed and people were still being filled with the Holy Spirit and speaking in other tongues.

Samaria - Philip goes to Samaria and we see salvation, Holy Spirit baptism, speaking in tongues, casting out demons, and healing miracles.

Saul (Apostle Paul) - Acts 9:4-5 (Saul calls Jesus "Lord") Salvation came to Paul that day, but he still needed the power. God placed Paul with Ananias laid hands on Paul and he was filled with the Holy Spirit (**Acts 9:17**) This even was 4 years post Pentecost.

Cornelius and His Household - Acts 10 - Here we see this available to Gentiles and salvation and Holy Spirit baptism happened at the same time

Ephesus - 23 years post Pentecost

Acts 19:6

This pattern DID NOT END at any point. That is often preached, but there is no solid evidence in the Word to suggest this!

TONGUES

Your mouth is the outlet of your spirit - **Matthew 12:34**

WHATEVER your heart is full of will exit your mouth sooner or later! If we think about it, we could talk about examples, good and bad, on how the mouth revealed fruit of good fruit or rotten fruit!

Spirit filled individuals speak Spirit filled words. In the New Testament we see the Holy Spirit FILL their heart and at that moment they spoke in tongues.

As we have previously learned, we are a spirit, we have a soul and we reside in a body. So the TRUE you, is a spirit. (**I Thessalonians 5:23**) Our spirit is eternal. A spirit speaks spirit.

PRAYING IN THE SPIRIT

When we pray in the tongues, we pray spirit language, therefore our spirit is speaking directly to God.

The Benefits of Speaking in Tongues

1. Praying in tongues facilitates your intimacy with God - **I Corinthians 14:2,14**
2. Praying in tongues edifies us - **I Corinthians 14:4**
3. Praying in tongues draws up wisdom from your spirit to your mind - **I Corinthians 14:2, I Corinthians 2:7**
4. Praying in tongues builds up our faith - **Jude 20, Romans 10:17**
5. Praying in tongues keeps us in the love of God - **Jude 20-21**
6. Praying in tongues helps us to draw on the Spirit and pray the perfect will of God - **Romans 8:26-27**
7. Praying in tongues will bring us into rest - **Isaiah 28:11-12**

THE WILL CONTAINS OUR INHERITANCE WE MUST OPEN THE WILL AND READ IT. THRIVING COMES WHEN WE GO FROM HEAD TO HEART

“Sometimes the longest journey you will ever have to take is the 18 inches from your head to your heart.” (RH)

Imagine being the relative of a billionaire. You may not really know them but you know OF them. One day you get a phone call telling you that your relative died and had a will and you are in that will. They go on to tell you there is going to be an unsealing and reading of that will and you need to make arrangements to be at that meeting. Would you show up? Would you get off work, and fly/drive/ride a bus to that meeting? Or would you say, “I don’t really care about going to find out what my inheritance is. My schedule is full that day! I plan on going shopping for some new clothes, then I am going to clean my house, then I think I will have a pizza and movie night cuddled up on my couch!

We fail to thrive because we fail to find out and walk in our inheritance. It’s not that we don’t believe it, but we are busy, we are tired, we are stressed due to our job, we need to unwind after work and we “can’t even think straight” by the end of day so we just never find the time to read it, study it, meditate on it, speak it, pray it, share it. Therefore we develop “failure to thrive”

Failure to Thrive

Failure to Thrive is a term that is traditionally used for children who have failed to develop and grow normally. It occurs when a child is not receiving adequate calories or is unable to properly use the calories that are given, resulting in failure to grow or gain weight over a period of time.

Once we are born again, we should see growth. - We grow by taking in an adequate portion of the Word of God each day.

We grow by properly using the calories we take in. This would mean that we read but we don’t meditate on the Word, we don’t ponder and meditate on what we read and therefore we don’t obey it/walk in it.

First, we need to answer these 2 questions:

1. **“What is your view of the Bible?”**
2. **“What is your relationship to the Word?”**

THESE ARE TWO DIFFERENT THINGS.

Many believe the Bible, Many believe it is inspired by the Holy Spirit, Many have memorized portions of the Bible, Many believe it is helpful - **but** they have NO relationship with it. RELATIONSHIP MAKES ALL THE DIFFERENCE. If we have no relationship, Bible reading with no relationship is just checking off a box in our “to do” list.

Relationships

Recipe for Good Relationships (of any type) (Think of your relationship with your spouse, or your best friend.)

Love
Commitment
Intimacy
Trust,
Fidelity
Effective Communication
Successful Conflict Resolution
Friendship
Growth

Our Relationship With the Word of God

Your perception of the Word will determine your relationship with the Word

Do you love it?

Do you believe it?

Does it impact your life?

Is it a priority in your life?

Duty or Delight?

Rules or Relationship?

First option or Last Resort?

Visible or Hidden?

History book or Love letter or manual for living?

Colossians 3:16 - Let the Word of Christ dwell in you richly

We can carry an umbrella and still get soaked in a rainstorm! You can open an umbrella and still get soaking wet in a rainstorm! To be rescued from the elements, we must have an umbrella, we must open the umbrella and we must put the umbrella over us! No different with the Word of God

You can read and not comprehend

You can read and not believe

You can read and not be encouraged and comforted

You can read and still live in anxiety and fear

You can read with the wrong attitude (the problem isn't me, its _(fill in blank)

You can read and not consider

You can read and not apply

You can read and not obey

DEVELOPING A RELATIONSHIP WITH THE WORD

COME TO YOUR APPOINTMENT **READY (RH)**

R- Come with Bible, Pen, Notebook

E- Eat - Come hungry! It is bread and Jesus desires to sup with you

Apply - Ready to surrender and apply whatever Holy Spirit tells you needs work

D - Ready to divulge (divulge- to make known private or sensitive information)

Y - Ready to say "yes" - You don't have to understand EVERYTHING, to KNOW every turn or twist in the plan in order to obey. You don't have to know anything in order to say "YES" to God.

1. **Start with prayer** - Open my ears that I can hear what you want me to hear, open my eyes that I see what you want me to see, open my mind that I may understand that which you want me to understand, open my heart that I may be willing to apply what you want me to apply
2. **Still your mind** - Don't be sidetracked by attempted interruptions! Do what you need to do
3. **Read** and see key words or phrases that jump out at you. Jot them down, if you don't understand a certain passage, don't spend a ton of time on it and don't be distracted by it jot them down and come back to them
4. **Meditate** - "Chew on it" - Meditation can be likened to our digestive system. Digestion starts in our mouth. We receive the food, we begin to chew it, breaking it down and as we chew, we release the nutrients and we chew it into sizes that we can swallow. After we swallow that food then our intestines take over.

We need food but we also desire food for the flavor. We don't just swallow our favorite food whole. We savor every single bite.

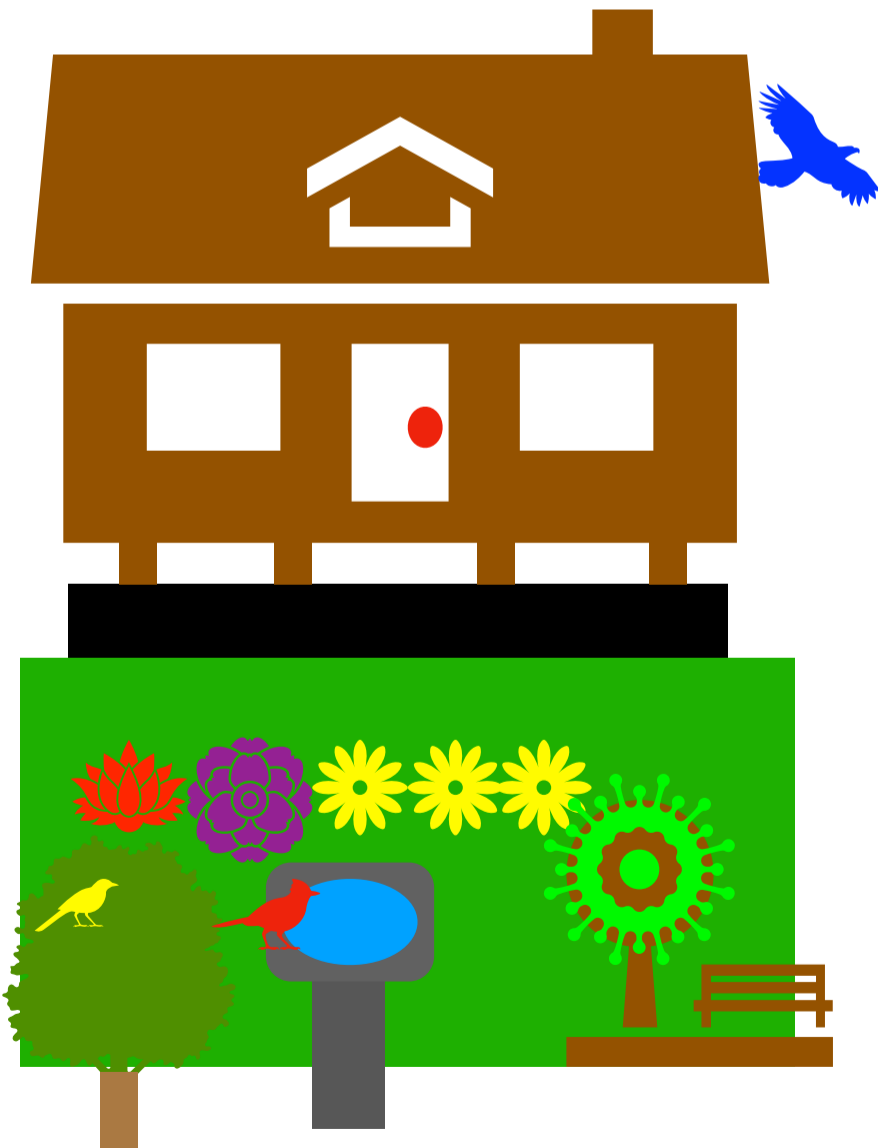
5. **Prayer of response**- There should always be a response to what we have read. Never just close the Bible and say "oh well, did that and check the box! We can even learn lessons from Leviticus, and Numbers!! _____"

WE ARE LIKE A HOUSE (RH)

Just as every part of a house is important and has a unique role. Yet, it must all work together. It is all connected-

A House	Our Walk with God
Foundation -The most crucial element of the house. If the foundation is not stable then it will bring great harm to the rest of the home (external and internal)	
Roof - Protection from the elements, energy conservation/security	
Chimney - Removes dangerous gases that arise from a stove, a fireplace or a furnace	
Door- Safety-Control of who is coming and going of your home, Privacy	
Window - Light, ventilation, enhances the aesthetics of the home	
Curb Appeal - First impression. We may have a beautiful house on the inside; however, if the outside is not appealing then they pass you up. You may have no other opportunity to get them to see the inside of your home. They aren't interested in buying it.	

Our Life has many different facets, yet each one is vitally important and to be considered. It is all connected



**THE THRIVE WALK IS A LIFETIME WALK
NOT A ONE TIME EVENT-
IT IS THE LIFETIME JOURNEY- ONE DAY AT A TIME**

Grow Become larger or greater over a period of time - Oxford Dictionary

When we think of growth, we think of words like “develop”, “gradual”, “process”, “mature”

Growing is not the same pace for everyone. In every area of life, there are factors that help to determine the speed of growing. (Human growth, growth of a business, plants, etc)

Fruits and vegetables grow at different speeds - fruit that is not yet ripe does not have the same flavor

“She’s thirteen going on 21” - Did your parents ever say this to you, or did you ever say this about your own children? No matter how hard we try, we can’t go from 13 to 21 overnight! We have to surrender to time! In the long run we see the importance of those years between 13 and 21.

Spiritual growth operates in the same way! We don’t get saved one day and become Billy Graham the next day! Spiritual growth is a process that is individual and just like other types of growth, there can be factors that influence that process.

We can’t always see what’s going on. In fact, at times, it might seem like nothing is going on. Remember the most important part of a tree is it’s roots. Roots anchor the tree. Roots also absorb water, and nutrients from the soil



We don’t see what is going on beneath the soil- but what is taking place is what will keep that tree anchored in storms and healthy for ages to come. In time, we see the fruit of all the work done “underground”



Spiritual growth is NOT a program, It is a lifestyle. Lifestyle is something that doesn’t happen overnight. Salvation is instant. Developing our walk with God is developed over time. It is an investment.

II Peter 3:18

Philippians 1:9

I Peter 2:2

II Timothy 3:16-17

Hebrews 5:11-14

Romans 12:2

Ephesians 4:15

GROWTH

Infancy to adulthood - Expectations of a baby are not the same expectations of an adult. This is the passage of time. It is a definite amount of time

Immature to mature -.This is more dependent upon you and what you're doing with what you're learning.

Important factors in spiritual growth - Our Responsibility as a branch - We need to have a mind renewal in this area. We want to do do do , but the command to us is "Abide" accomplished through repentance and remaining. Spiritual maturity is becoming more and more Christlike.

The purpose of the branch is to serve as a vehicle through which the vine expresses itself. The branch bears fruit which the vine produces. Grapes do not appear at the trunk of the vine. The branches serve the vine by bearing the grapes

"Bearing" focuses on my work for God

"Producing" is God's work through me

"John 15 is less a call to action than an invitation to intimacy." Scott Rodin Healthy Leaders (July 24, 2022)-

Thriving and Bearing Fruit John 15

1. It is God's will that you would bear much fruit! Fruit should be our desire because we want to please the Father

15:1. Jesus is the True Vine, God is the Husbandman

15:2 Barren branches get taken away, Fruitful branches will receive a pruning so that they will produce MORE fruit.

15:4. Branches **abide** they don't strive

15:7 - We ask and receive when we **abide**

15:8 - God is glorified when we bear much fruit

15:9 We are to continue in His love

15:10 - Our **abiding** is evidenced by our obedience

15:11 - It is His will that His joy would **remain** in us and not just joy, but joy that is **full**.

15:12 - Our **abiding** is evidenced by our loving others as Christ has loved us.

15:16 - We are to bear **fruit that remains**. ("Remains"= What started with God and spread through our lives is spread to others to continue doing good. The good works remain. "Remaining"- the ongoing way the fruit or works to continue to extend their effects.

2. All branches don't grow at the same time - the yardstick is not another Christian. Therefore we should not compare our spiritual growth to someone else's spiritual growth

3. Growth is halted when we are no longer connected to the Vine. The Vine feeds us. The death clock starts ticking at this point. Growth is halted when we continually refuse to hear the voice of the Holy Spirit and obey His leading.

A DEAD FAITH CAN NEVER THRIVE

AN ALIVE FAITH CAN ALWAYS THRIVE (RH)



1. **Get on the Right Road** - Not every road will lead to your destination. In fact, there are roads that will lead you away from your destination- therefore, the most vital first step is to be on the right road. All can look great, but if you're on the wrong road, nothing else matters!
2. **Have the map, or GPS and follow it!** Stay alert! If the area looks bad, it probably is
3. **Stay fueled up** - A car can't run on an empty tank.
4. **Heed the warning lights and signs along the way** - Don't ignore them! If a warning light comes on, get things checked out and get the problem taken care of. If a sign says "Road out Ahead" then don't keep traveling on it. If the speed limit changes, heed that!
5. **If you get a flat tire, fix it** - Driving on a flat tire doesn't just destroy the tire.
6. **Avoid the potholes** - Potholes can do a lot of damage to a car - more than what is visible to the naked eye.- tire damage, bend, crack our wheel, wheel alignment, steering, undercarriage , body and exhaust. We know this and we avoid the potholes. We know sin will cause significant damage to our lives, therefore, we should avoid "potholes" of sin.

II Peter 1:3-11

Faith Facts

We have the same faith that those listed in **Hebrews 11** (often referred to as "The Great Hall of Faith") We are all given the measure of faith when we get saved, but, we are responsible for exercising that faith so that it develops.

II Corinthians 4:13

Faith is a verb- always active and never passive - **James 2:26**

The moment we are saved we receive "the measure of faith" **Romans 12:3**

Faith is required - **Ephesians 2:8-9** It is required for salvation and **Hebrews 11:6**- It is necessary for our relationship with God

Faith is always for future - God's car has no reverse gear!! Faith is not needed for the past. We live the future by faith!

It is a lifestyle - We shape our life to line up with the Bible and then we walk in faith. We don't thrive when we try to compartmentalize our faith. "The just shall live by faith". **Hebrews 10:38**

God has operated by faith from the very beginning that we read about (Genesis- the creation story)

God rewards faith - **Hebrews 11:6**

Faith is a choice - Read Hebrews 11 and we see that every story starts with, "**By FAITH**"

Jesus operated by faith as He walked on this earth - He emptied himself to become a man- so yes, He possessed faith.

Faith comes by hearing and hearing by the Word of God - **Romans 10:17**. **You can talk about "getting muscles". However, li you don't lift weights and work out then you would not expect your muscles to develop! Faith is a "muscle" that must be developed through action, not words.**

Faith speaks - **II Corinthians 4:13**

Faith rests - Faith doesn't retreat, faith doesn't sit back eating bonbons until God does something! Faith lays hold, but in the reaching out and laying hold, is also a rest, a peace in our spirit that resists opening the door to fear, anxiety, discouragement, etc . Reaching out and laying hold does not operate in panic, rather it operates in peace!

What we are having faith for can never contradict the Word of God- Therefore, we must know that Word and what it has to say about what we are having faith for. Ex: You can't stand in faith that you're going to marry an individual that is already married. It is not God's will that a married couple divorce, it is not His will that you even enter into a relationship with an individual of the opposite sex who is married! Therefore, to "stand in faith" for you marrying this individual is a key piece of evidence that you have been deceived or that you don't know the Word of God, or you don't truly know the Lord.

Faith Contends- I Timothy 6:12 - Contending is not striving for faith. Contending for the faith is standing strong for the truth of God's Word in the face of opposition! "Contending" typically implies a more forceful or direct opposition against something. "Striving" is broader sense of diligent effort toward a goal, even if it doesn't involve direct conflict. " Faith doesn't come from striving, it comes from surrender" - Bill Johnson

Faith walks in expectancy - **Hebrews 11:1 - If you don't find yourself expectant, then you need to get with God and check things out. Faith and expectancy are like siamese twins! (Or conjoined twins)**

Faith doesn't display its reward according to our clock -**Galatians 4:4, Hebrews 10:36**

Faith endures **James 1:3-15**

Faith is the opposite of fear- You cannot have fear while also resting in faith - **Mark 5:36, Philippians 4:6-7**

Faith will be tested - **James 1:2-4**

Faith doesn't behave one way on the mountain and another way in the valley - **Mark 7:24-25**

Without faith it is impossible to please Him - **Hebrews 11:6**

"Don't cast away your confidence".Or "**faith**" There is a reward for those who those who nurture their faith.

Hebrews 10:35

A THRIVE WALK IS A FAITH WALK

A FAITH WALK IS A THRIVE WALK

“NAME IT CLAIM IT”

A FALLACY OR A REALITY

RECEIVING FROM THE LORD

Let me first be clear: I believe this doctrine can be abused and has been abused. However, we cannot throw the baby out with the bathwater! We must use the Word of God for our guideline. We never want to stand on a sermon, or teaching. We are called to search the Scripture, make sure what we are listening to aligns with the Word and then always choose the Word of God for our foundation! The best way to detect the lie is to know the TRUTH!

Mark 11:22-40

John 15:7

Romans 10:8-9

Some of the Reasons We Don't Believe This Teaching, and are our reasons legitimate?

- 1. It has been used and abused**
- 2. It didn't work for (_____)**
- 3. Sounds too good to be true**
- 4. Church tradition over Biblical truth**
- 5. It requires something of us (FAITH)**

Salvation is a promise from the Word of God that we can claim. Salvation is our first name and claim promise. We read what the Word says about how we are saved. We say it in mouth, we believe it in our heart and we are saved. We claim salvation. EVERY promise we have in the Bible is accessed in the same manner as salvation. We read the promise and the conditions, we obey and we have faith by claiming that promise.

The condition is that we repent, believe, invite, receive - We receive the promises of God in the same manner we receive salvation- by FAITH

GALATIANS 3:5

5 He [Paul] therefore that ministereth to you the Spirit, and worketh miracles among you, doeth he it by the works of the law, or by the hearing of faith?

The Bible tells us how the Apostle Paul was able to minister the baptism in the Holy Spirit and to work miracles among the people. It was "...by the hearing of faith." But if we're not careful, we'll think, *Well, yes, but Paul was an apostle, and God endowed the apostles with special power. If we had their same power and anointing, we could do the things they did.* But Galatians 3:5 just told us exactly how Paul ministered! He did it by the hearing of faith! In other words, those people received from God through Paul's ministry by their hearing faith preached to them.

The Word of God makes it clear that faith, or believing God's Word, brings results and that we receive from the Lord by faith. Let's look at several more scriptures that prove this important point.

MATTHEW 21:22

22 And all things, whatsoever ye shall ask in prayer, believing, ye shall receive.

MARK 9:23

23 Jesus said unto him, If thou canst believe, all things are possible to him that believeth.

We receive from the Lord in the same way that people in the Bible received from the Lord—whether it is salvation, healing, the baptism in the Holy Spirit, or some other gift God has provided. We receive by faith.

This fact is emphasized in **James 1:5–7**, which tells us what to do if we are lacking something in our life. The Apostle James said that we are to ask of God, but instructs us to ask in faith in order to receive.

JAMES 1:5–7

5 If any of you lack wisdom, LET HIM ASK OF GOD, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him.

6 But LET HIM ASK IN FAITH, nothing wavering. For he that wavereth is like a wave of the sea driven with the wind and tossed.

7 For let not that man think that he shall receive ANY THING of the Lord.

James begins this passage talking about receiving wisdom, but he ends the passage talking about receiving anything. Well, healing, or anything else the Word promises, is certainly included in “anything,” because “anything” includes all things!

Does “anything” also include the baptism in the Holy Spirit? Certainly, it does. And a person receives the baptism in the Holy Spirit the same way he or she receives anything else from God—by faith.

MARK 11:23–24

23 For verily I say unto you, That whosoever shall say unto this mountain, Be thou removed, and be thou cast into the sea; and shall not doubt in his heart, but shall believe that those things which he saith shall come to pass; he shall have whatsoever he saith.

24 Therefore I say unto you, What things soever ye desire, when ye pray, believe that ye receive them, and ye shall have them.

We are studying how to receive from God. We know from these verses that we receive by faith, or by believing. We also know from these verses that “all things” are possible to those who believe. Well, “all things” means anything, doesn’t it?

We know we must believe, but where does this believing take place? The verses we’ve studied so far show us that believing takes place in our heart, not in our head. Let’s look at another passage that further proves this fact.

ROMANS 10:8–10

8 But what saith it? The word is nigh thee, even in thy mouth, and in thy heart: that is, the word of faith, which we preach;

9 That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and SHALT BELIEVE IN THINE HEART that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved.

10 For WITH THE HEART MAN BELIEVETH unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.

Did you notice that the word “heart” and some form of the word “believe” or “faith” are used in each one of these verses? Verse 10 says, “. . . with the HEART man BELIEVETH unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.” But it’s also true that whatever we receive from God comes the same way—by faith, or by believing. And it’s with our heart, not our head—our intellect or our physical senses—that we believe.

**... BELIEVING
TAKES PLACE
IN OUR HEART,
NOT IN OUR
HEAD.**

What does the Word of God has to say about the heart. We’re told to believe with our heart, but what is the heart? **1 Peter 3:4** says, “But let it be the hidden man of the heart, in that which is not corruptible, even the ornament of a meek and quiet spirit, which is in the sight of God of great price.” Here Peter uses the terms “hidden man of the heart” and “spirit” interchangeably. Our heart is our inward man, or our spirit.

We know from Scripture that man is a three-part being: spirit, soul, and body (**1 Thess. 5:23; Heb. 4:12**). We don't believe God with our soul (which involves our intellect and emotions) or with our body. We believe God with our spirit, or heart.

When the Bible talks about believing with our heart, it isn't talking about believing with the physical organ that pumps blood throughout our body. It's talking about believing with the inward man, or our spirit.

Faith is of the heart, the spirit, of man. In other words, you believe on the inside. And what you believe on the inside is manifested on the outside. God starts working on the inside of a person and works to the outside. For example, healing doesn't start on the outside—it starts with your believing in your heart (on the inside). When you pray, you believe that you receive, and then you shall have the healing you desire (on the outside).

We saw in **Romans 10:17** that faith comes by hearing the Word of God. And we saw in **Galatians 3:5** that Paul was able to minister the baptism in the Holy Spirit, healing, and other miracles “by the hearing of faith,” or by the people hearing faith preached. But it's important to note that they had to accept and receive for themselves—into their own hearts—the Word that Paul preached.

Many times, Christians just accept what someone else says instead of studying the Bible for themselves. I've always encouraged people not just to take my word for something but to study the Bible for themselves. In other words, don't take this teaching and say, “Brother Hagin said such-and-such.” Find out for yourself what the Bible says and say, “The Bible says such-and-such.” What I say, or what anyone else says, is unimportant unless it's scriptural.

Find out for yourself what the Bible says and repeat that, not just what you heard someone else say. If the Bible says it, repeat it. But if the Bible doesn't say it, don't repeat it! Don't accept what any preacher says unless you can read it for yourself in the Word. We're not to follow any man; we're to follow God.

Faith for healing won't come just by hearing me preach about healing, unless you see it in the Word and accept the Word for yourself. And faith won't come just by listening to teaching tapes or to messages you hear on the radio or on television. **Faith comes when you hear God's Word, accept the Word for yourself, and believe it in your own heart.**

Christians ought to look up every scripture that's given in a sermon and feed on those scriptures on their own time. Instead, many of them just take the preacher's word for it and try to live off what the preacher knows and believes. I know good people who are saved and filled with the Holy Ghost who spend their time listening to all sorts of teaching tapes—they've been listening for years—yet they don't have an ounce of faith. They think they have faith. But they're big talkers and little doers. In other words, they're talking big, but they're actually living very little of what they've heard.

I can't emphasize enough the importance of hearing in connection with faith. But you must also study the Word of God for yourself for faith to come. You must believe God's Word for yourself—in your own heart—to receive from Him. Yes, God will work miracles and initiate some miraculous things on His own at times, but that is not the ordinary way to receive from Him. So don't sit around and wait for something to turn up. Get in the Word for yourself, believe it in your heart, and then do what the Word says!

Kenneth Hagin

WE ARE SNARED BY THE WORDS OF OUR MOUTH

PROVERBS 6:2A

“Snare” defined:

A contrivance often consisting of a noose for entangling birds or mammals

Something by which one is entangled, involved in difficulties, or impeded”

A surgical instrument consisting usually of a wire loop constricted by a mechanism in the handle and used for removing tissue masses or tumors

When I read these 2 definitions and I have spent sometime thinking about the “snare”. The trap (snare) clearly shows us that our own words trap us. Sometimes we know immediately that what we said has trapped us. Sometimes we don’t see that our words trapped us until the consequences become visible and we end up trying to do “damage control”

The second definition of a snare being surgical instrument to remove a growth This instrument can be used in two ways.

Our words can remove our joy, our peace, even our faith in the promises of God!, our fellowship with God. But, we also have the opportunity to use that instrument in removing that “tumor” that caused us to speak fear over faith, sadness over joy, anxiety over peace. When we are sensitive to the voice of the Holy Spirit and cooperating with His help and renewing our mind, we can see a transformation in our heart. When we renew our mind and allow this process we will see our words changed. We must deal with our heart because the Bible says; “Out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks!

Our words can TAKE

Our words can TAKE BACK

Our words can GIVE

When a patient is diagnosed with cancer, it is very important to find the primary site of the cancer. The primary site needs treatment lest it continue to attack the rest of our body. Knowing the primary site guides our treatment plan, optimizing the treatment ! When we speak anything other than the Word of God over our circumstances, we will fail to see the victory. The words are a diagnosing tool that reveals what is in our heart. When we treat the primary site (the heart), we will see victory.

How did God use words? - We see that God created the universe using words. God used His words to build. He has held everything together by His word.

God used words to write the Bible, our guidebook

God is still helping us, saving sinners through the power of His Words. God continues to speak

God’s words were faith filled- God called those things that were not as though they were.- **Romans 4:15**

How did Jesus use words - From the start of His earthly ministry to His last words from the cross as He was dying, Jesus used words carefully

Jesus resisted satan with the Word

Jesus used words when teaching His disciples , and the crowds

Jesus used words to bless, to heal and to deliver

Jesus used words to encourage

Jesus used words to rebuke

How does God want us to use our Words?

Preach the Gospel using words

Words that are helpful for building up others

Use words for worship and praise

Use few words

Speak truthful words

Use healing words

Speak faith

Speak to the mountain in our life

Mark 11

Jesus spoke to

Many Christians speak ABOUT their mountain. Many ask OTHERS to speak to their mountain. Many ask God to move their mountain- Yet, Jesus gave clear instruction regarding the “mountains” in our life

The next day what happened?

Jesus response to them - **This is FAITH 101 ! We will not be able to go farther and deeper in our faith and relationship with God until we have renewed our mind to this truth!**

For truly I say unto you that (fill in) shall (fill in)unto (fill in) Be thou (fill in), and does not (fill in) in his (fill in) but shall (fill in) those things which he (fill in) shall (fill in) he shall have (fill in) he (fill in)

Therefore I say unto you What things so ever ye desire, when ye (fill in) (fill in) that ye (fill in) and ye shall (have

Andrew Wommack says the following: **“If we want to start seeing the power of God manifest in our lives, we will have to start paying attention to what we say. Words have power - more than any of us realize, but we often speak them as though they are meaningless. Because of that, most believers at one time or another have been hung by their tongue!”**

THE THRIVE WALK IS A WALK OF ACTION

YOUR TALK TALKS, AND YOUR WALK WALKS, BUT YOUR WALK TALKS LOUDER THAN YOUR TALKS.

Matthew 12:36-37 “idle” means non-productive- words we speak but don’t believe. Ex: “I’m dying to see my grandchildren”. You really don’t mean that you’re dying, but you say it anyway to emphasize the importance of the relationship. Every time you say things that you don’t really mean, it begins to numb your heart. Unconsciously, each idle word is making it just a little bit harder to believe when you say it will actually come to pass when you mean it and it really counts.

We can see this today- people use words like “awesome” or “the best” so freely that they lose meaning and the impact isn’t there anymore when the word is used in its true sense.

Words that have power are words that are filled with faith. Not in human faith but in the very faith of God that He placed in us when we were born again. Faith comes by the Word, **1 Peter 1:23** are born again by the Word of God. If we do not grasp this truth then we will always be going to someone else to pray for us because we think they have more faith than us, and therefore God will act on your behalf when they pray. As a result, we begin looking to man rather than looking to God

Romans 12:3 THE measure of faith, not a measure of faith. Imagine you are filling soup bowls with a ladle. Everyone would get the same amount of soup because it’s coming from the same ladle. God is not giving some people a big amount of faith and others just get a small amount of faith. We grow that faith by exercising it and rightly appropriating what they have been given.

Hebrews 11:1 - God created everything with words. God’s Word, every word has unlimited power! God spoke creation into existence, and the substance of His faith manifested into what we see now. Each word is like a little capsule filled with faith waiting for us believers to release it in our hearts and speak it with our mouths.

Everything we see was created by words, and it is the very Word of God that holds the universe together! **Hebrews 1:3.** Therefore, everything we see will respond to faith filled words! They have to respond because those words are the parent force!!

“But my faith doesn’t work” - Well, we are not using the very faith of God. He placed THE measure of faith in you when you were born again and so we know His faith works just fine! The devil likes to whisper in our ear “You must not truly believe”, “God doesn’t care about you, if He did then (fill in the blank)”, “you aren’t even a Christian! If you were then (fill in the blank)”. The faith of God is never lacking, it is never out of stock, it is never “not enough”! Tell the devil to go back to hell and you stand in that faith!

It’s a Surrender

Surrender is a Choice- Therefore, surrendering to live out your faith is a choice. I will tell you that is the best choice I made, and any believer on this journey would agree. It’s not the easiest, and I don’t get it right every time, but it is the only way to live, and you will always have the Holy Spirit on the journey walking with you every single step.

Let’s talk about the faith path in greater detail.

When facing a challenge or difficult circumstance, you will always have 3 reports. Let me talk about the challenge of a health problem.

1. **The report coming from your body-** It is telling you “I have pain”, or whatever symptom you may be experiencing.
2. **The doctor’s report** - The lab tests, the X-rays, the physical exam will formulate a diagnosis. The doctor will then want to formulate a treatment plan.
3. **The report of the Lord** - that is a report that never changes. His will is healing, complete healing every time.

Whose report Will You Choose to Believe?

Walking in faith means that we choose to believe the report of the Lord. **Isaiah 53:1-6**

Opposition- Every time you make a decision to walk by faith, you WILL face opposition. It’s not a question of “if”. You can face opposition from different sources.

1. **Your flesh** - Your flesh will scream “I’m in pain!” (Or whatever situation you find yourself in, your flesh will remind you of all the fleshly issues!) Your flesh will remind you of all the negative possibilities, etc. Your mind will play back every conversation you have had with your doctor.
2. **Your friends and family** - They will remind you of whatever you tell them (so be careful with you verbalize), all the people they know or knew that had your “exact same problem”, giving you every detail of what they did and how it

helped or didn't help. They will tell you about every tv show they saw, every magazine article they read or what they saw on the internet.

3. **The devil** - He will find great delight in lying to you with statements that sound like this:

"If God really loved you, this would not have happened"

"If you had enough faith, you would already have overcome this"

"God's Word isn't true- after all look at you, you live for God and go to church and look at a your problem"

"You aren't even saved, If you were truly saved, this would not have happened"

"You still believing in that garbage, name it claim it stuff!! Really, look at how it's working for you"

Dealing With Opposition

Yourself- You cannot be subject to your thoughts. They must be under your subjection. You may be new at this. Perhaps, in the past, you have not taken every thought captive. Perhaps, you would say just the opposite, that your thoughts have taken you captive! This may be a little more difficult at first, but it is doable and God will help you when you ask Him for help in this area!.Thoughts come from many different sources.

Not every thought that comes to your mind is from you!

So, when a thought arrives, we must decide what to do with it.

This is done by filtering it through the Word of God! This means that we must be familiar with the Word! Make the Bible your best friend! The Word of God will never let you down or lead you astray!

When that thought lines up with the Word of God, then pray about how that thought applies to you or your circumstance.

Once you understand how that thought applies to your situation, CHOOSE OBEDIENCE and ask the Holy Spirit to help you with the changes. Make up your mind that by faith you will do this!

ITS A LIFESTYLE NOT A PROCESS

Walking in faith does not use our 5 senses - When you hear yourself saying "I feel", "I think", check yourself. Those statements are seldom in line with walking in faith.

Faith is not just believing - Even the demons believe! Many trip up with this !! Just like believing in God does not make you a Christian, believing in healing does not mean you're healed.

You need to check yourself if you hear yourself making states like:

"I know God heals but (fill in the blank)"

"I believe the Bible, but (fill in the blank)"

Also, I would be careful of keeping company with those that frequently make those statements when speaking to you (obviously, if they are your family, you may not have a choice). But, I certainly think you should have a talk with those who speak those statements when talking to you about your circumstance! It can have an effect on your faith. Lovingly request that they not speak those words to you.

Walking in faith is not an idle walk! It is not just words without action. You can't just say "I claim my healing" but in your heart and in your mind you aren't expecting one thing to change! If you walk into it that way, then you are speaking idle, faithless words that will not produce the desired result

Understanding Our Spiritual By Understanding our Physical Body (RH)

Our Physical Health	Our Spiritual Health
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<p>Mind- Positive thinking, exercising the mind through reading, stress relief. What one thinks influences one's physical health and recovery</p>	<p>As a man thinketh in his heart, so is he. What we are thinking about will manifest in our words and actions. Phil 4:8 tells us what to think on. We are required to renew our mind through the reading of the Word, and the hearing of the Word</p>
<p>Vision—Poor vision, blindness limits and confines an individual and can contribute to issues in other parts of our body (judgement, balance, mental health</p>	<p>What we look upon will affect our mind and our actions in time. We need eye gates to guard what we are watching on TV and internet!! What we do with our eyes can affect us in errors of covetousness, seeking first the temporal - sacrificing the eternal for temporal. These sins will begin to affect our walk in the area of giving, faith, trust.</p>
<p>Hearing- Deafness is somewhat limiting.-mental health (isolation) neurologic disorders (contributes to dementia), cardiovascular disease</p>	<p>Ear gates are very important. We should be careful to what we are listening to. The things we listen to affects our entire walk. Satan will speak loudly and he will lie, he will cause the world to speak loudly to you. Your own flesh will speak loudly to you. The Spirit is quiet.</p>
<p>Mouth (teeth) poor oral health can cause infection and inflammation in other parts of the body.(mental health, CV, Respiratory, Men's health, women's health (infertility), endocrine, cancer, renal</p>	<p>Life and death are in the power of the tongue. Our mouth is directly affected by our heart (Out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks.). Our words are very revealing. A sick mind leads to a sick heart which leads to a sick tongue</p>
<p>Skin- (the largest organ) -CV, intestinal, renal, rheumatoid issues, rheumatoid issues, respiratory system, our skin is our first line of defense against infection.</p>	<p>We are to be careful what we allow "on us". Humanly speaking, if we play in the mud, we are going to get dirty. In our spiritual life, we need to be careful in our relationships and how we spend our time. The influence of this world can contaminate us.</p>
<p>Skeletal-Provides structure and support. Bones protect our vital organs</p>	<p>The Word of God provides us with structure and support and it is vital to supporting all other areas of our life. When we don't feed on the Word daily, we begin to get weak and sin becomes much easier to be involved in. Just as a fall can break a bone, so a spiritual fall can cripple us. We must go back to the Father and allow Him to put things back in order</p>

WALKING BY FAITH IS ACCOMPLISHED IN THE SAME MANNER WE THINK OF TAKING CARE OF OUR PHYSICAL HEALTH

NAVIGATING STORMS

Most of the storms we face aren't directly related to something we sin we have committed.

6 Storms we face - I want to refer to an excellent article I read awhile back

"The Six Storms in Life" - Christina Patterson - Beloved Woman Ministries

1. **Storms of Obedience** - The tests and trials we face as a result of our following Christ. If God brought it to you, He will see you through!
2. **Storms of Disobedience** - Sin, wrong choices we made - These storms have the goal. The goal of waking us up that we may see the truth that God's ways are always better than our ways. The goal is for us to turn around and get back to the Father.
3. **Storms of Purification** - God uses these storms to prune us that we might bear more fruit, fruit that remains. This storm is like refining silver. The dross, what we don't need is removed, replacing it with what we do need.
4. **Storms of Protection** - A storm that acts to alarm us of a coming danger in our lives that we need to get away from or to lead us out of harms way. It is not a storm to harm us, rather, it is to protect us and keep us safe.
5. **Storms of Warfare** - Storms that initiate in the spiritual but manifest in the physical. A war between the kingdom of darkness and the kingdom of Light.- We have spiritual weapons for these storms!
6. **Storms of Heartbreak** - Storms that occur simply because we live in a fallen world (Loss, Disease, Relationships, etc)

Preparation for a Storm

Having lived in many different parts of America, I have been in severe thunderstorms, tornados, tropical storms, hurricanes, snow storms and earthquakes.

Some storms are foretold by the weather man and we have hours to days to prepare.

Some storms give no warning

Preparation is Different for somewhat different for each category.

Spiritual storms

We should live being prepared for a storm - The worst time to put up hurricane shutters is when the wind is 100 mph and you see trees being uprooted! The worst time to prepare for a storm in our lives is when we are right in the middle of it.

For the Spirit filled believer, you can still THRIVE in the midst of our storm. We must not let a storm dictate our faith!

We should use our faith to dictate the storm

What is right or wrong before the storm, does not change!. Storm conditions don't impact the character of our Heavenly Father

Begin developing your spiritual walk through prayer, Bible study and fellowship with believers Faith comes by hearing and hearing by the Word of God. As you exercise your faith, it grows stronger and deeper. **Shallow roots Shallow fruit.** Fellowship with other believers is important! A study concerning hurricanes and wind damage A few things they learned from this study are worth sharing as they can help us in a spiritual storm:(Winds and Trees: Lessons Learned From Hurricanes. University of Florida)

1. **Trees in groups survive winds better than trees growing individually.**- This is one reason why we should not forsake assembling with believers (church, Bible study groups, etc
Be about the Father's business- Help others prepare for the storm (Discipleship)
2. **Unhealthy trees are predisposed to damage** - An unhealthy spiritual walk is an open invitation to the enemy. The likelihood of these individuals coming out of the storm stronger, or just coming out of the storm are diminished.
3. **Well pruned trees survive hurricanes better than trees that have not been pruned.** This is also a Biblical principle in **John 15.** Welcome the pruning of God! While it may not be pleasant at the time, it could very well save your life when in the middle of the storm!

THE THRIVE WALK IS A GO WALK

THE GREAT COMMISSION



Evangelism is not Discipleship- We are not called to make converts, we are called to make disciples. We fulfill it as we: “go”, “baptize”, “teach”

Disciple- that title is used 569 times in the New Testament. Christian is used 1 time in the New Testament.

Matthew 28:18-20

Mark 16

Acts 1:8

Salvation is not fire insurance! - When we fail to disciple new converts, we set them up for failure. Salvation is not just a decision made for our eternal destiny. We don't get saved and then live however we want to live! A new believer has to understand that they are a new creation in Christ, no longer under the bondage of sin. Without discipleship it is safe to say that the enemy will come and rip out the Word of God that we planted in them.

Salvation is meant to be a total commitment of one's life to the Lord. That is what we call a Disciple. A disciple “continues” in the teachings of Jesus Christ, Salvation is the door that leads us into a true relationship, friendship with God.

We make a big decision when we choose to receive Jesus Christ. This decision means:

1. We have been forgiven of our sins
2. We have been made a child of God
3. We have been made a new creation
4. We have been given eternal life

WHEN THERE IS NO DISCIPLESHIP:

1. We are either indoctrinated by the world or the Word - When the Word is not in a believer then they have set themselves up to be taught by the World.
2. Deep roots are not developed. Speaking of trees, deep roots increase access to water and nutrients and help trees get through times of drought.
3. When one does not properly understand Scripture, they open themselves up to self interpretation or being deceived by false teachers. II Peter 1:20-21
4. The Gospel is not advanced at all or not as should be. (The Gospel must be taught or preached or explained with power of the Holy Spirit. When one does not understand that then they don't have that power activated in their life. When one does not have a clear understanding of the Bible, they are less likely to feel comfortable sharing the Gospel.
5. The disciple does not understand that they have spiritual armor or they don't know how to use it. They are more likely to be deceived by the enemy, and become discouraged and defeated from the assaults of the enemy.

How is Discipleship Modeled in the Scriptures

Jesus:

The Church

Paul and Timothy

Disciple -“a pupil follower of any teacher of any school.

John 8:31 - If you continue in my teaching, you are really my disciples.

A Christian disciple follows Jesus. A Christian disciple is one who loves God with everything one has. A Christian disciple, by God’s grace, becomes more and more like Christ through a life of faith and obedience.

Salvation is meant to be a one time event. It is acknowledging our sinful contention, repenting of our sin and placing our faith in the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus Christ as our only hope of salvation.

Discipleship is a lifestyle that is developed over time. Discipleship is developed through reading, understanding and applying the Scriptures, spending time in prayer and in fellowship with the body of Christ (the church).

Discipleship is not just the job of the Pastor, or the Pastor’s wife.. The best place to be discipled is not a Sunday morning church service. Discipleship is best accomplished when a mature Christian devotes themselves to a new Christian for the purpose of learning how to live out our decision

How did Jesus produce disciples?

1. **He invested in their lives** - He developed intimate relationships with them corporately and individually.
2. **He equipped them** - made them aware of the enemy and taught them spiritual warfare. He equipped them for ministry through teaching and then gave them opportunity to go out and apply what He had taught them. These opportunities let them put their faith into action.
3. **He taught them** - using words and the example of His own life. He taught them, thereby empowering them, and then He sent them out to do what He taught them. He taught in ways that they could understand, teaching them to develop heart knowledge, not just head knowledge. He taught them how to deal with sin in their lives. Jesus spoke to them about giving of their time, talent and treasure. He helped them understand what they would endure because of their association with them. He did not hide the fact that they would face many tribulations. He also taught them about healing the sick, and casting out demons. He did not discourage questions. He taught them multiplication.
4. **He dealt with their failures** through correction, guidance and encouragement, thereby helping them mature in their faith and knowledge.
5. **This relationship produced fruit and fruit that remains**

What was required of Him? It is also what is required of us!

Jesus discipled in love, showed patience, walked in humility and obedience to His Father,

Our Excuses:

1. I don’t know enough Bible to disciple someone. They will ask a question I do not know-
2. I’m too busy
3. I’m “shy”

