

Spiritual Growth Cycle *Becoming a Book of Acts Christian*

Becoming a Book of Acts Christian deals with spiritual growth of the individual. The initial conversion experience can be viewed as a straight line with four sequential steps that can be accomplished in one day:

**(1) Believing + (2) Repentance + (3) Baptism in Jesus name
+ (4) Receiving the Gift of the Holy Ghost = Conversion**

But spiritual growth must be viewed as a circle, a lifetime process with repeated **cycles** of continuous change and growth. As disciples of Jesus Christ, we are called to a life of constant renewal, revival, change and growth as we assume more of the nature and character of the Master Teacher.

The three key **spiritual growth cycle** concepts emphasized in this book are: **Relationship with God** (upward focus), **Transformation of the Inner Man** (inward focus) and **Dominion in the Harvest field and Battlefield** (outward focus), all working in the **agape love of God**.

- **Relationship** involves God and man sharing a mutual interaction of love, communication, and trust. God and man relationship roles include: Father / child, Groom / bride, Master / servant, Friend / friend.
- **Transformation** involves continuous change. It involves: less of my will, mind and limited human love and more of God's will, mind and perfect agape love. *"He must increase, and I must decrease."*
- **Dominion** involves God sharing His authority and power with man, as a son of God, to fulfill His will and work on earth as he is directed and driven by His perfect love. This involves engagement in the harvest field and battlefield with dominion over Satan and sickness. God and man dominion roles include: Great Physician / physician, Great High Priest / priest, Great Commander / soldier, King of Kings / prince, Lord of the Harvest / harvester.

The term "cycle" is used here with "spiritual growth" because it emphasizes the need for repeated actions that bring greater and increased levels and depths of spiritual growth and maturity.

Every concept in the Bible that pertains to Christian living and service relates to one or more of these three key concepts or processes. These three biblical concepts should be repeated in a continuous cycle in our lives as we mature and become more like our heavenly Father. These three inter-related concepts work together in the ecosystem (environment) of God's Kingdom to bring spiritual maturity and fulfillment of God's purpose and will for our lives.

- **New levels of relationship with God will always create new levels of revelation and transformation -- resulting in new levels of dominion in doing His will and work.**

God's Perfect Love (Agape) is the key overarching concept that is woven into these three processes that is superior to every theme or subject in the Bible. God's divine love is the highest law and strongest force in the Kingdom of God. The perfect love of God (agape) is the life flow in the body of Christ. Just as oxygen is the key element in our natural ecosystem for us to live, God's perfect love is the key element in the ecosystem of the Kingdom for the spiritual man to grow and be productive. It is the only motive accepted by God for working in His Kingdom: *"Though I have all spiritual gifts . . . give all my goods to the poor . . . give my body to be burned, and have not love [agape], it is nothing" (1 Cor. 13:1-3).*

Agape love is selfless, sacrificial and unconditional. It is the highest of the four types of love in the Bible. It seeks the welfare and betterment of another regardless of how one feels. Unlike other types of love, agape love is not motivated primarily by feelings or affection. Jesus displayed this love when He went to the cross and died for us in pain and agony.

Humility created by perfect love is the key to unity. The basic requirement for humility is: *"Esteeming and treating others better than ourselves."* Unity is the key requirement to create another Pentecost that shakes our city and world: *"And when the day of Pentecost was fully come, they were all with one accord [of one mind, harmonious] in one place" (Acts 2:1).*

Refer to the following page for the table of contents, followed by some of the key PowerPoint charts for this book.

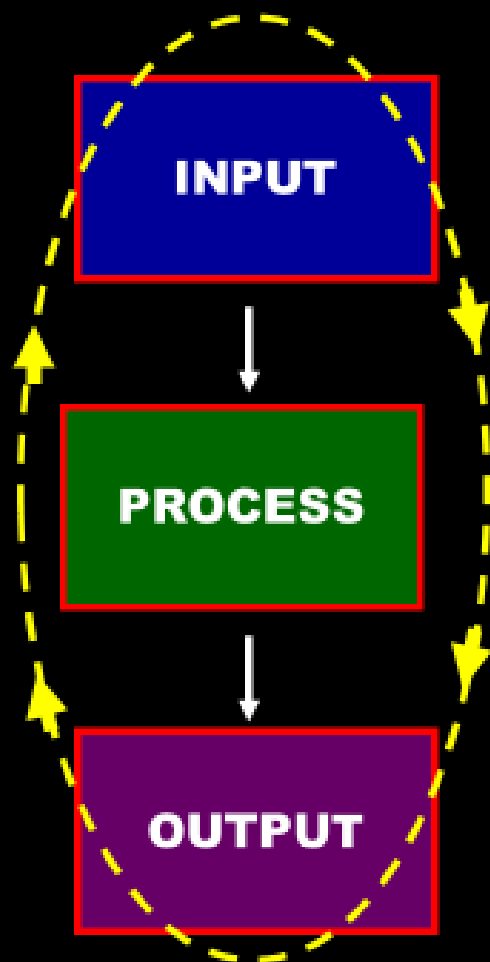
Chapter	Lesson	Chapter Name	Chapter / Lesson Description Summary
	1	Introduction	The greatest need for the believer today is to attain the spiritual maturity required to operate in the apostolic power and authority demonstrated in the book of Acts. The extreme importance of the Father's business (all others pale in comparison).
1	1	The Ecosystem of God's Kingdom	Overview of the interrelated key elements of the Kingdom: (1) Relationship with God (upward focus) (2) Transformation (inward focus -- spiritual growth) (3) Dominion (outward focus -- doing God's will and work) All of these operating and flowing in the love (agape) of God.
2	2 3	A Complete Relationship with God	Man sharing a mutual relationship of love, communication, and trust with God, as a son of God, a friend of God, a servant (love slave) of God and in the New Testament as the bride of Christ . This also includes love for our brother since our love for God is reflected and perfected by our love for our brother.
3	4 5	Transformation of the Inner Man (Spiritual Growth)	Dominion over sin and self (the will, mind and emotions). Less of my will, mind and emotions (limited love) and more of God's will, mind and perfect love. Continuous change - from glory to glory.
4	6	Dominion Doing God's Will & Work	God sharing His authority and power with man, as a son of God, in a partnership to fulfill His purpose and work on earth. This involves dominion over Satan and sickness. God and man dominion roles include: Great Physician / physician; Great High Priest / priest; Great Commander / soldier; King of Kings / prince; Lord of the Harvest / harvester. Restoration of the apostolic doctrine and ministry of the book of Acts church.
5	7	Dominion Soul Winning Like Jesus	Basic Soul Winning Concepts - using our dual nature like Jesus as a: - son of man (building relationships, breaking bread, ministering to physical needs) - son of God (ministering to spiritual needs) Ministering to man's complete needs (body, soul, spirit).
6	8 9	Perfect Love - The Highest Law and Strongest Force in the Kingdom of God	Love is the only acceptable motive for doing anything for God: <i>"Though I have all spiritual gifts . . . give all my goods to the poor . . . give my body to be burned, and have not love, I am nothing"</i> . It is the foundation and driving force for everything that is meaningful and lasting in the Kingdom of God. It is the key element required to produce the humility for the "one mind and one accord" unity essential for another "Day of Pentecost" with miracles and explosive evangelism.

Chapter	Lesson	Chapter Name	Chapter / Lesson Description Summary
7.1	10	Humility	Humility created by perfect love is the key to unity. The basic requirement for humility is: <i>“Esteeming and treating others better than ourselves.”</i>
7.2		Unity	Unity is the key requirement to create another Pentecost that shakes our city and world. <i>“Endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.” (Eph. 4:3)</i>
8	11	Prayer The Power Arm of the Christian and Church	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Relationship Prayers: Thanksgiving, praise, worship, petitions for my needs. • Transformation Prayers (<i>change me</i>): Repenting and emptying of self to be filled with more of God. Removing hindrances to the flow of His love and power through me. Less of my will, mind and emotions and more of God’s. • Dominion Prayers: Dominion over Satan and sickness: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Intercessory Prayer: Standing between God and man; interceding for our lost neighbor, city and world. - Spiritual Warfare: Standing between Satan and man; binding the powers of Satan that have bound and blinded people. Praying for wisdom and guidance to use the dominion and authority we have been given as a son of God.
9	12	Fasting Intensifies the Power of Prayer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fasting combined with prayer breaks barriers unmoved by prayer alone: <i>“Howbeit this kind goeth not out but by prayer and fasting.” (Matt. 17:2)</i> <i>“Turn to me with all your heart, and with fasting, and with weeping. Then I will restore to you the years. I will pour out my spirit upon all flesh.” (Joel 2:12, 28)</i>
10	13	Urgency of the Father’s Business	<p>Today many end-time prophetic events are converging and pointing to the midnight hour. Three great witnesses to the endtime are the calendar, the world news and the prophetic time clock of God’s Word. All of these are now in alignment much like a total lunar eclipse. They all signify the end of the Church Age, the end of Human Government and the soon coming of Jesus Christ.</p> <p>The times demand that our service in the Father’s business exceed the intensity of our efforts of yesteryear. We should pray for:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> (1) Understanding of the times and to know what we ought to do. (2) Wisdom to align our priorities and actions consistent with this knowledge.

Chapter	Lesson	Chapter Name	Chapter / Lesson Description Summary
11	14	Church Growth Vision & Planning	Revival and evangelism is the result of the moving of the Spirit of God. Organization, planning and measurement of results are not substitutes. They are only meant to facilitate the saint's involvement, enhance the effectiveness and retain the results.
12	15	Compassion and Care Ministry	<p>Genuine love or charity has two components: compassion and care. Compassion is the emotion. Care is the action</p> <p>The Compassion and Care ministry includes the organization structures and processes involved in attracting, winning, retaining and making disciples.</p>

Physical Life

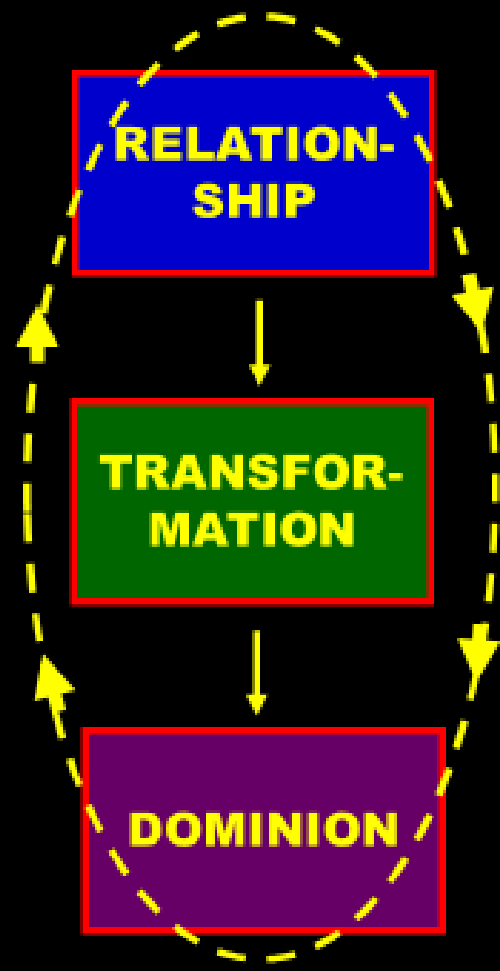
Every living thing is involved in and sustained by three functions: input, process and output. Even a computer program is defined by these three basic processes.



Spiritual Life

Likewise the life of a Christian revolves around these three processes redefined as:

- Relationship
- Transformation
- Dominion



Key Spiritual Growth Concepts Emphasized at the Individual Level

Spiritual Growth Cycle

Becoming a Book of Acts Christian

Just as oxygen is the key element in our natural ecosystem for us to live, **perfect love** is the key element in God's ecosystem for the spiritual man to grow and be productive. It is the key element and driving force in a **growing relationship with God**, **transformation of the inner man** and **dominion in the harvest field and battlefield** (doing God's will and work) *"Though I have all spiritual gifts . . . give all my goods to the poor . . . give my body to be burned, and have not love, it is nothing" (1 Cor. 13:1-3).*

God's
Perfect
Love

**Relationship
With God
(Impartation)**

Upward Focus

**Transformation
of the Inner Man
(Spiritual Growth)**

Inward Focus

**Dominion
(Engagement in
the Harvest Field
and Battlefield)**

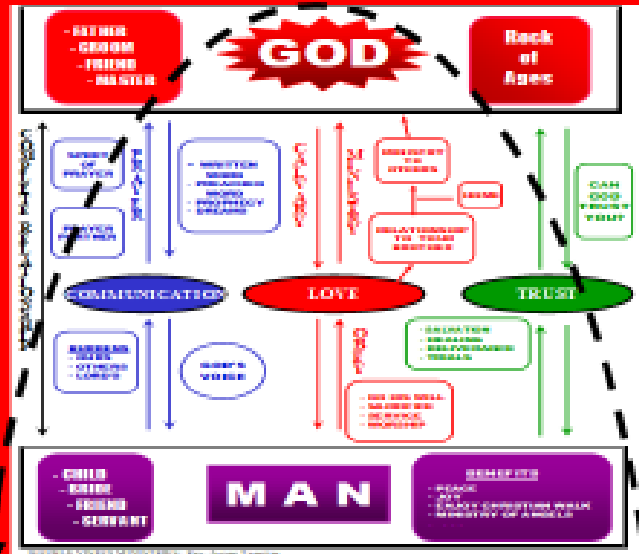
Outward Focus

Agape
Love

Spiritual Growth Cycle – Becoming a Book of Acts Christian

1. Relationship With God

Man and God sharing a mutual relationship of love, communication, and trust.



2. Transformation of the Inner Man

Continuous change:
Less of my will, mind & love
More of His will, mind & love



3. Dominion Doing God's Will and Work

God sharing His authority and power with man to fulfill His purpose and work on earth.

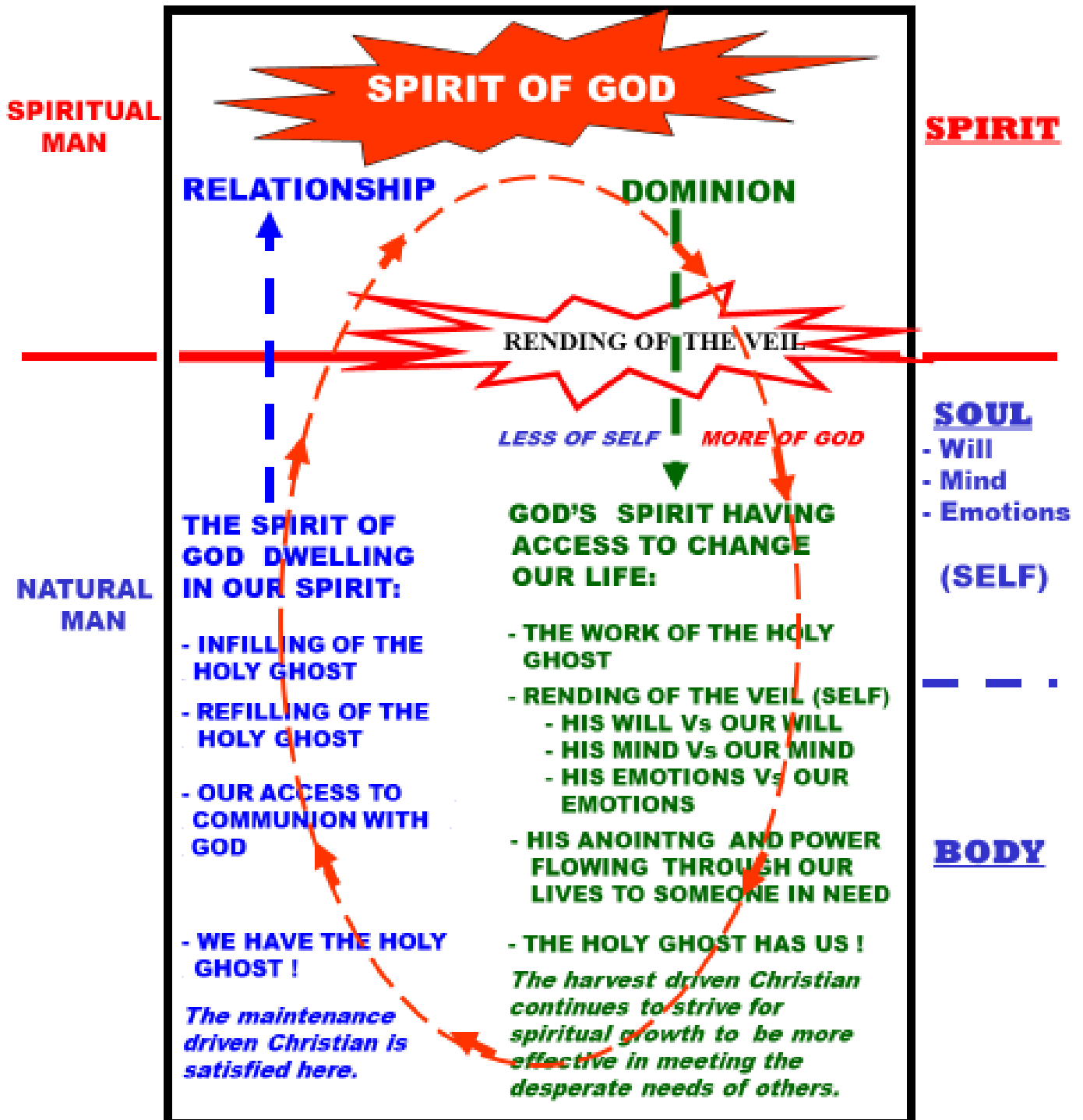


God's Perfect Love

God's Perfect Love

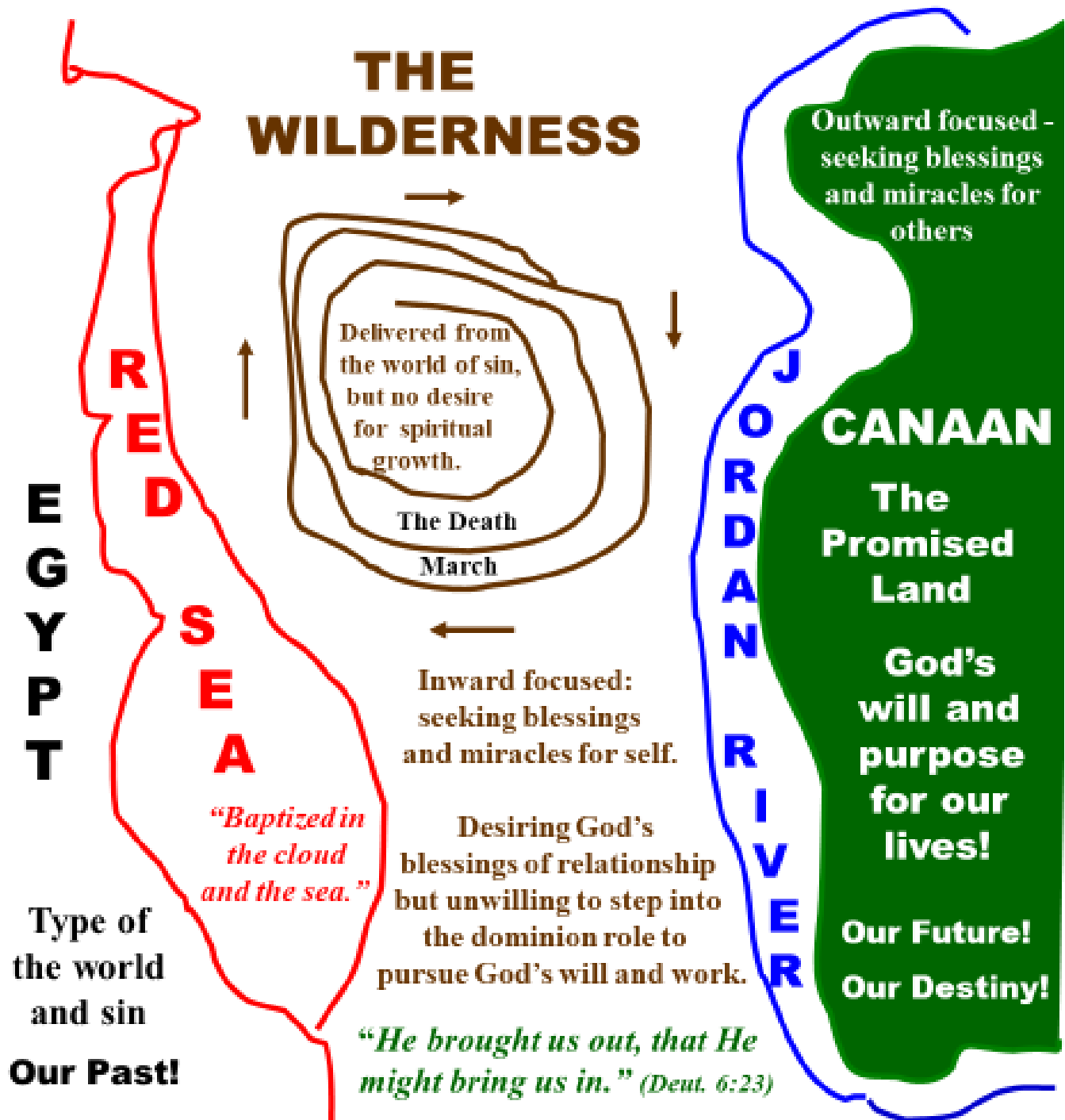
God's Perfect Love

**THE CYCLE OF SPIRITUAL GROWTH
ALLOWING THE SPIRIT TO WORK IN OUR LIFE TO CHANGE SELF**



1 Tim. 1:6 Stir up the gift of God which is in thee.

Fan into flame the gift of God, which is in you. ESV



The Children of Israel had God's miraculous blessings of provision because of their relationship privileges. But since they were not willing to change and step into the dominion role of God's will, they did not have His favor: Ps. 95:10 Forty years long was I grieved with this generation, and said, It is a people that do err in their heart, and they have not known my ways.

Relationship

Transformation

Dominion

Core Ministries Emphasized at the Church Level

Becoming a Book of Acts Church & Christian

The model of the Father's business (core ministries) is vividly demonstrated in the book of Acts: "Then they that gladly received his word were baptized: and the same day there were **added unto them about three thousand souls**. And they continued stedfastly in the **apostle's doctrine** and **fellowship**, and in **breaking of bread**, and in **prayers**. And the **Lord added to the church daily** such as should be saved." Acts 2:42, 46

