

I Must Be About My Father's Business

Volume I

God's Purpose for Man

- **Relationship**
With Heaven - Reaching Him
- **Dominion**
On Earth - Reaching Them

The Father's Business

Sword

1 John 3:8 For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that he might destroy the works of the devil.

Sickle

Luke 19:10 For the Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost.

Matthew 9:38 Pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he will send forth labourers into his harvest.

James A. Twentier

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Unless otherwise identified, Scripture quotations are from the King James Version. Scriptures included from other Bible versions are indicated as follows:

NLT - New Living Translation

TLB - The Living Bible

TEV - Today's English Version

ESV - English Standard Version

GNT - Good News Translation

MOF - Moffat

MSG - THE MESSAGE: The Bible in Contemporary
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PC STUDY BIBLE from BIBLESOFT was used as the source
for all Scripture references and commentaries.

Please note that the emphasis within Scripture is the author's
own. The name satan and related names are not capitalized
because we choose not to acknowledge him.

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Foreword

The Missionary Trip that Inspired this Book

During the summer of 2003 I began preparing for a trip to Barcelona and Madrid, Spain, to teach and preach in two Bible schools and churches. About three weeks before I was to leave for Spain, a strange thing happened. I began to feel a strong sense of direction and an urgency to immediately begin writing a book with the theme ***I Must Be About My Father's Business***. A few days before I began to write this book, I didn't have any plans to write a book, and it definitely was not the right time to devote a significant amount of effort to another project.

In the three weeks before leaving for Spain, I had completely put all of my planned studies on hold and worked on this book, almost as though the Spain project did not exist. That was in violation of what I had planned to do and against the way I like to operate, because usually my most intense work and study come from the pressure of the last few days before a deadline.

We had wonderful experiences during our four week stay in Spain, seeing the hand of God change the lives of saints and sinners. One of the highlights of the trip was an experience

teaching in the Bible schools. It was the last night of the Bible school in Barcelona and I was teaching through an interpreter. About half way through a two-hour class, the power of God fell simultaneously on every student and they began to cry and pray fervently. Some knelt at their desk and others knelt on the floor. This lasted 30-40 minutes and I was able to pray with each student. I did not anticipate this, and was surprised because I had never seen anything similar happen in the middle of a Bible lesson, much less one using PowerPoint slides. It was an unusual and uplifting experience for me, but there was more.

The next week, on the second night of the Madrid Bible School, with a different interpreter and teaching on a different subject, the exact same thing happened in the very same sudden, unusual, and powerful way. I was once again able to pray individually with each of the students.

These experiences and what they did for me personally are among those defining moments in my life and ministry, when the power of God fell and ministered to us in an unexpected and miraculous way. This was the result of a great hunger and passion for the word of God evident in the Bible schools and churches in Spain.

I am writing about this experience here, because the catalyst and inspiration for this book series was the Spain project. This writing project and the project of preparing for and ministering in Spain merged together into one experience because:

- The initial burden or call to write this book came out of my preparation and burden for Spain.

Foreword

- I was better prepared, through spending the final three weeks before leaving for Spain, in beginning to write this book.
- The ministry experiences in Spain and particularly teaching some of the concepts of this book in the Bible schools, were further confirmation to complete this book.
- After coming home, the energy and resolve to complete this book, was driven from the experiences just before going to Spain, the time spent in Spain and the burden and afterglow of which I am still feeling.

This has become one project because my awareness has been sharpened to the vast need and challenge for revival in Spain and all over the world. And the answer to that challenge is summed up in the title and theme of this book -- which are the same immortal words of Jesus Christ (*His first recorded words*) as He astounded the doctors of the Law in the temple, at the age of 12 -- ***“I Must Be About My Father’s Business”***.

Jesus frequently taught His disciples to pray and how to pray, but seldom what to pray. Jesus was concerned that the Father’s business would be carried on after He had departed this world, and His work was left in our hands. He made this request of what we should pray:

Matt. 9:36-38

36 But when he saw the multitudes, he was moved with compassion on them, because they fainted, and were scattered abroad, as sheep having no shepherd.

37 Then saith he unto his disciples, The harvest truly is plenteous, but the labourers are few;

38 Pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he will send forth labourers into his harvest.

The Father's business is labor intensive; it depends on laborers. He has chosen to do nothing on earth except through man. He is depending on you and me. He has no other plan.

Another unique thing that has brought our trip to Spain and the writing of this book together as one project, is that we studied and taught from Apostle Paul's writings, (e.g. spiritual growth, the complete man -- spirit, soul, and body, and doing God's will and work). We experienced the burden that Apostle Paul had for Spain that has transcended almost two millennia. He writes about this in Romans:

Rom. 15:24, 28

24 Whensoever I take my journey into Spain, I will come to you: for I trust to see you in my journey, and to be brought on my way thitherward by you, if first I be somewhat filled with your company.

28 When therefore I have performed this, and have sealed to them this fruit, I will come by you into Spain.

Neither the Bible nor historical writings confirm that Apostle Paul ever actually reached Spain, although it was his great desire and burden to do so. Whether he did or not, there are three words that still challenge us today, and that is -- there is still, **"THE UNFINISHED TASK"**.

Dedication

The Missions Work in Spain

We are dedicating this book to the church in Spain, to our good friends and missionary families of Rev. Howard Smith and Rev. Gary Sones, and to all the saints and Bible school friends we made and will never forget. We are praying and believing with you for the great endtime revival of Joel chapter two, which was the theme for our message (Restoration and Revival) in the last anniversary service.

Apostle Paul

I don't know if anyone has ever done this before -- I also want to dedicate this book to the memory and ministry of my hero and mentor, the great **Apostle Paul**, the great missionary, the anointed teacher and preacher: the one whose godly, powerful and anointed writings still guide the church and the saints of God after 2,000 years; who poured out his life like a drink offering for the cause of Jesus Christ; who reached his known world, and who reached for **SPAIN**.

Acknowledgments

My thanks and gratitude to all the following:

My dear wife, Marsha, who spent countless hours of word processing, editing and proofreading. Without her help and encouragement this book would not have been completed.

Joyce Houlette for proofreading and editing for clarity.

Roland Ramos for painting the cover scene.

My brother, Jerry Twentier, for his help and suggestions.

Many friends who offered their support and encouragement.

Purpose and Scope

The primary aim of Volume I and Volume II is to deal with the purposes for which God created man. That includes the foundational concept that **God works only through man to accomplish His will and work on earth**. While God's purpose for creating man included **relationship**, it was much more; it was to bring man into a partnership with Himself, and give him **dominion** to carry out His mission, will, and work on earth. God's decision to make Himself dependent upon man created a balanced relationship with God needing man and man needing God. That is an exciting concept -- God needs you and me! So the two themes are:

- **Relationship** - Man's relationship with God.
- **Dominion** - God partnering with man and working through man to carry out His mission, His will, and His work on earth.

The purpose of Volumes III, IV and V is to build on the foundation of Volumes I and II, in moving toward the vision and goal of becoming a harvest-driven Christian.

Refer to the following pages for a brief description of this project.

This Project

The six volumes in this project are shown here to:

- Briefly describe the complete scope of this project.
- Define the purpose and scope of each volume and where this volume fits in this progressive series.

Volume I

God's Purpose for Man Relationship and Dominion

Volume I sets forth God's purpose for man -- relationship and dominion. It addresses in more depth man's **relationship** with God and God's desire to have a close and growing relationship with man.

It describes God and man relationship roles: Father / Child, Groom / Bride, Friend / Friend, Master / Servant (love slave).

Volume II

Dominion Doing God's Will and Work

This volume emphasizes the importance of **dominion**, since we often lead people to a relationship with God, but fail to help them take the next important step -- exercising dominion in the Kingdom of God. The two concepts of **relationship** and **dominion** working together in a believer's life will bring **balance**, **spiritual growth**, and **fulfillment**.

This book addresses the subject of **dominion** and **why** we need to be involved in the mission and work of the Father's business. It includes many examples from both the Old and New Testaments of God's plan to work through man to accomplish His will on earth.

It also describes God and man dominion roles: Great Physician /

physician; Great High Priest / priest; Great Commander / soldier;
King of Kings / prince; Lord of the Harvest / harvester.

Volume III

Transformation

• Dominion Over Sin and Self

This book addresses **what** we need to do to become more effective in the Father's business. This encompasses **foundational principles of spiritual growth** that will prepare individuals to be more fruitful Christians. The primary emphasis is dominion over self (the will, the mind and the emotions) vs. dominion over sin.

Spiritual growth results from a hunger and a **passion** for the things of God - “**Loving God with all of our heart, soul, and mind**”. The will of God will always lead us beyond where we are now in our spiritual growth.

Spiritual growth at the individual level will result in church growth at the corporate level.

Volume IV

Unlimited Partnership

With a Supernatural God

The greatest reason for God's first creation of man at the dawn of creation was that He might obtain sons to carry out His will and work on earth. He desired to reproduce His image in a creature.

The greatest reason for God's new creation of man (through a new birth, a spiritual birth) first recorded in the book of Acts, was that He might obtain **sons to carry out the supernatural work of His Kingdom**. True son-ship is an obligation to live out, or put in practice, the nature of the Father. It is the Father's will for us as sons of God, to become, “*Partakers of His divine nature*”, His supernatural nature -- partnering with Him in His business.

Volume V

Revival and Evangelism

- **Passion for God**
- **Compassion for the Lost**

The key to soul winning is love and compassion while exercising **dominion** in the harvest field.

This book describes some of the biblical foundational principles of revival and evangelism. Discussed in more detail is the “**how to**” of putting the evangelism principles into practice through the two arms of the church:

- The **Prayer Ministry** - reaching for Him.
- The **Compassion and Care Ministry** (attracting, winning and retaining) -- reaching for them.

Revival and evangelism at the personal level will result in revival and evangelism at the corporate level.

Volume VII

Addendum

PowerPoint Charts for All Volumes

The Addendum Volume contains the 8.5 X 11 copies of the PowerPoint charts supporting the themes and concepts presented in Volumes I, II, III, IV and V of the series entitled, “***I Must Be About My Father's Business***”.

The full color charts are available on CD in Adobe Acrobat and PowerPoint formats. For group teaching, these can be printed on printer transparencies for presentation on an overhead projector or with a computer and multi-media projector.

Refer to Appendices 1 and 2 for the Addendum Volume charts applicable to this book.

Author's Note

The project of writing this six volume progressive series of books is very challenging in both scope and content. This First Edition is a work in progress and is by no means a complete exposition of the subjects. It is only a summary of themes that God has dealt with me regarding these inexhaustible subjects. It is my thesis and collection of findings at this point in my Christian experience from:

- Several thousand hours of studying various themes and subjects related to God's purpose and will for man, the restoration of the church, the end-time harvest, passion for God, compassion for the lost, and soul winning which involves the salvation of both the sinner and the saint.
- A theme that began a few years ago as a slice of bread from the Word of God, the Bread of Life. As my studies continued, it became a loaf of bread, and another, and another. As many of the things I had been studying came together, it became a bread truck, an overwhelming burden driving through my spirit, soul, and mind that had to be delivered.
- Many years of trying to apply these principles in my life and ministry. I have not attained all that I should, and I should be

I MUST BE ABOUT MY FATHER'S BUSINESS - Volume I

further along in His work and kingdom, but I am reaching and striving for more.

- A direction and a burden from God, accompanied by an unusual urgency to very quickly write and complete this project. This is comparable to the burden of a message waiting to be preached. However, this feeling has lasted throughout years of work and preparation.

This project includes much Scripture text and commentary from both the Old and New Testaments. Considered redundant to some readers, I mention it here to explain that it is intentional. These collectively demonstrate the importance of themes and concepts describing the eternal purpose and will of God for man's involvement in His work on earth.

The Word of God is like a hammer. The hammer that has worn out many anvils throughout time and has not become weakened or diminished in its effectiveness. I pray that God will hammer these messages and themes into your spirit like He is hammering them into mine. ***Jeremiah 23:29 Is not my word like as a fire? saith the LORD; and like a hammer that breaketh the rock in pieces?***

This book is a product of hearing several thousand messages, reading and studying the greatest Book, the Bible, and from many other sources of great writers over many years. I have tried to give proper credit to sources where appropriate. If I have overlooked someone or something, it is unintentional and only an indication that their individual message or work has blended into the larger themes of my studies and ministry.

Your comments for changes and additions to the content of this book are welcomed and will be considered for future revisions. God bless and multiply your harvest as we labor together with Him.

Introduction

There are two foundational themes woven throughout the pages of God's Word from Genesis to Revelation -- **Relationship** and **Dominion**.

Relationship with God

This involves God and man sharing a mutual commitment of love, communication, and trust.

In our **relationship prayers** the focus of need and benefit is God and me. This includes thanksgiving, praise, worship, and request for needs:

- Talking to God and listening to God, not just our words of worship, but our actions of worship.
- Holy living and obedience.

“If you love me, keep my commandments”.

Dominion

This means to dominate with authority and power -- to rule in a territory or domain. This involves God sharing His authority and power with man in a partnership to fulfill His purpose, His mission and to do His will and work on earth.

“Workers together with God”.

In our **dominion prayers** the focus of need and benefit is God and someone in need:

- **Intercessory prayers** involves standing in the gap between God and man and interceding to God for another man's needs.
- **Spiritual warfare** - This involves standing between the powers of darkness (the satanic kingdom) and man. It is binding and destroying the works of satan and his kingdom with the authority and power we have as a son of God. Satan, the god of this world, has blinded and bound those in his kingdom to keep them from coming to *the light of the glorious gospel of Christ. (2 Cor. 4:4)*

The only dominion prayer that includes me is "change me" prayers. This involves dominion over self (less of self and more of Him), removing hindrances to the flow of His love, His will and His power through my life.

"He must increase, but I must decrease".

Relationship and Dominion - Mutual Need

For a relationship or covenant to be valid, it must involve mutual need -- God meeting man's needs (*come unto Me*) and man meeting God's needs (*go and minister to those in need*).

- **Man needs God (in a relationship role).**
- **God needs man (in a dominion role).**

I. The Purpose of Man

*They that do know their God (Relationship)
Shall be strong and do exploits (Dominion)*

Daniel 11:32

1. Relationship and Dominion

From the beginning of time God's two purposes in His plan for the creation of man were: **Relationship** and **Dominion**.

Relationship - Man sharing a mutual commitment of love, communication, and trust with God, as a son of God, as a friend of God and in the New Testament as the bride of Christ.

Dominion - God sharing His authority and power with man to fulfill His purpose, His mission and to do His will and work on earth. God's decision to do nothing on earth except through man created a valid relationship of mutual need in which God would need man and man would need God.

The primary focus of this book (Volume I) deals with the first theme:

- Man's **relationship** with God.
- **Passion** for God: *Matt. 22:37 Jesus said unto him, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with **all thy heart**, and with **all thy soul**, and with **all thy mind**.*

The primary focus of Volume II deals with the second theme:

THE PURPOSE OF MAN

- Man exercising **dominion** in carrying out God's mission and purpose to do God's will and work on earth.
- **Compassion** for man: *Matt. 22:39 And the second is like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself.*

Matt. 22:40 Jesus speaking.

40 On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.

40 Keep only these and you will find that you are obeying all the others. TLB

The two purposes for man are summarized by Jesus in His teaching and example of the first two commandments:

First Commandment - Love God with all your heart, soul, mind, and strength	Second Commandment - Love your neighbor as yourself
- Relationship with heaven	- Dominion on earth doing God's will and work
- Relationship with God	- Relationship with your neighbor
- Passion for God	- Compassion for the lost
- Worshipping God	- Intercessory prayer for those in need
- Reaching Him	- Reaching them
- Produces inward fruit (love, joy, peace, ... faith)	- Produces outward fruit (soul winning)
- Man needing God's help <i>Psalms 121:1 I will lift up mine eyes unto the hills, from whence cometh my help.</i>	- God needing man's help <i>Judg. 5:23 Curse ye Meroz, said the angel of the LORD, curse ye bitterly; because they came not to the help of the LORD.</i>

Relationship: God loving man -- Man loving God

In just one word, one can describe the theme of the whole Bible -- **love**, the key element of a relationship.

- God's love for man, and man's love for God.
- God's desire for a close relationship with man.
- God's will for man to desire a close relationship with Him.

Deut. 6:5

*And **thou shalt love the LORD thy God** with all thine heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy might.*

Deut. 11:1

***Therefore thou shalt love the LORD thy God**, and keep his charge, and his statutes, and his judgments, and his commandments, alway.*

Ex. 34:14

For thou shalt worship no other God: for the LORD, whose name is Jealous, is a jealous God.

Jer. 31:3

*The Lord hath appeared of old unto me, saying, yea, **I have loved thee with an everlasting love**: therefore with loving kindness have I drawn thee.*

Deut. 7:7-8

7 The lord did not set His love upon you, nor choose you, because ye were more in number than any people; for ye were the fewest of all people:

*8 But **because the Lord loved you.***

THE PURPOSE OF MAN

Deut. 33:26-29

*26 People of Israel, **no God is like your God**, riding in splendor across the sky, riding through the clouds **to come to your aid**.*

*27 God has always been your defense; **his eternal arms are your support**. He drove out your enemies as you advanced, and told you to destroy them all.*

28 So Jacob's descendants live in peace, secure in a land full of grain and wine, where dew from the sky waters the ground.

*29 Israel, how happy you are! There is no one like you, **a nation saved by the LORD**. The LORD himself is your shield and your sword, to defend you and give you victory. TEV*

Isa. 49:15-16

*15 Can a woman forget her sucking child, that she should not have compassion on the son of her womb? Yea, they may forget, **yet will I not forget thee**.*

*16 **behold, I have graven thee upon the palms of my hands;***

John 3:16

For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.

Rom. 5:8

But God commendeth His love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.

I John 3:1

Behold, what manner of love the father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons of God.

Dominion - What Man Allows God to do Through Him to Accomplish His Work

From the very beginning of time, it was God's plan that His mission and His will and work here on earth, be governed and carried out through man. Man was created to rule the earth for God - to have His dominion, authority, and power. He was to reflect the glory of God -- revealing God here on earth. They worked together. He said, "Adam, you have dominion; you are in charge of My mission, My purpose, My will, and My work on earth".

Gen. 1:26, 28

*26 And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness: and let them have **dominion** over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth.*

*28 And God blessed them, and God said unto them, Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth, and subdue it: and have **dominion** over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over every living thing that moveth upon the earth.*

Dominion OT: 7287 radah to rule, to have dominion, to dominate, to tread down

a) (Qal) to have dominion, to rule, to subjugate

b) (Hiphil) to cause to dominate¹

God's decision to work His plan on earth through man is an exciting concept. God placed Himself in a relationship with man that required man to carry out His work and will on earth. God gave man dominion and power to defeat the enemies of God and to carry out His mission and purpose. God needed man to carry out His plan and His work. And man would need God to empower him, equip him, and to supply his needs.

THE PURPOSE OF MAN

This describes a wonderful, balanced mutual relationship where God needs man and man needs God. In fact, the **relationship of God and man would not be valid if there was not a mutual need in the relationship for one another** (Refer to Chart A-1 in Appendix 1). As born-again Christians, this understanding should make us rejoice: God needs me and God needs you! And oh, how we need God!

Psalms 8:6

*6 Thou madest him to have **dominion** over the works of thy hands; thou hast **put all things under his feet**:*

*6 You put us **in charge** of everything you made, **giving us authority** over all things. NLT*

*6 You have **put him in charge** of everything you made; everything is put **under his authority**: TLB*

*6 You appointed him **ruler** over everything you made; you **placed him over all creation**: TEV*

Dominion OT:4910 mashal a primitive root; to rule: KJV - (have, make to have) dominion, governor, indeed, reign, (bear, cause to, have) rule (-ing, -r), have power.²

God created this earth and He owns it, but He has assigned it to man to govern and rule here. Man is the chosen intercessor to carry on His purpose and work here.

Psalms 115:16

*16 The heaven, even the heavens, are the Lord's: **but the earth hath He given to the children of men**.*

16 The heavens belong to the Lord, but He has given the earth to all mankind. TLB

16 the earth He has assigned to men. MOF

God's decision to do His work through man cost Him His life as Son of Man. When the first man Adam sinned in the garden, God promised that a Redeemer would come from the seed of the woman. **God had to become a man to redeem man.** The second Adam, Jesus Christ, became Son of Man to enable us to become sons of God through His death, burial, and resurrection.

Refer to the charts in Sections A and B of the Addendum Volume for:

- **Relationship with God.**
- **Dominion - Doing God's Will and Work.**

God is seeking for two things:

- ***Worshippers (Relationship)***
- ***Intercessors (Dominion)***

John 4:23-24 Ezekiel 22:30 Isaiah 59:16

2. *God Seeks Worshippers and Intercessors*

The two purposes for which God created man (**relationship** and **dominion**) is related to the two things that God seeks from His people: **worship** and **intercession**.

- **Our relationship with God requires worship. God is seeking for worshippers.**

John 4:23

... The true worshippers shall worship the Father in spirit and in truth: for the Father seeketh such to worship Him.

Prov. 15:8

... The prayer of the upright is his delight.

Isa. 66:23

And it shall come to pass, that from one new moon to another, and from one sabbath to another, shall all flesh come to worship before me, saith the LORD.

- **Our dominion role involves intercessory prayer and actions for the lost. God is seeking intercessors.**

THE PURPOSE OF MAN

An intercessor is a “go between”, standing between two forces or causes.

- If the forces are unfriendly, there will be a clash. Standing between satan and man in need is spiritual warfare and a form of intercessory prayer.

1 John 3:8

*For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that he might **destroy the works of the devil.***

- If the forces are friendly there is a pleading to the one in position of power for the one in need. This is standing between God and man. Intercessory prayer is Abraham pleading for Sodom and Gomorrah to be spared; and Moses pleading for Israel to be spared.

Psalms 106:23

*So the Lord declared he would destroy them. But Moses, his chosen one, **stepped into the breach between the people and their God and begged him to turn from his wrath and not destroy them.** TLB*

Isa. 59:16

*And he saw that there was no man, and **wondered that there was no intercessor.***

One of the greatest needs and challenges of the endtime is for the New Testament Church and every born-again Christian to step into the dominion role and answer the call for intercessors.

GOD'S TWOFOLD PURPOSE FOR MAN
Relationship and Dominion
God is Seeking for: Worshipers and Intercessors

GOD CREATED MAN FOR TWO PURPOSES	GOD IS SEEKING FOR TWO THINGS FROM MAN
<p><u>1. RELATIONSHIP</u></p> <p>God's desire for the mutual sharing of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- COMMUNICATION- LOVE- TRUST <p>GOD / MAN RELATIONSHIP ROLES:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Father / Child- Bride / Groom- Friend / Friend- Master / Servant (love slave) <p>God's decision to work through man created a valid, balanced relationship requiring man to take dominion in carrying out God's will and work on earth.</p>	<p><u>1. WORSHIP</u></p> <p>A. <u>Words</u> - Worshipping God with the sacrifice of our lips: Prayer, Thanksgiving, Praise, and Worship. Our communion and communication with God in our daily devotion.</p> <p><i>"For the Father <u>seeketh</u> such to worship Him".</i></p> <p>B. <u>Actions</u> - Worshipping God with our sacrifice of service: fulfilling God's will in our lives in ministering to the needs of others. Our actions should lead us to intercession and dominion in carrying on the Father's business.</p>
<p><u>2. DOMINION</u></p> <p>God shares His authority and power with man to fulfill His mission, purpose, will and work on earth.</p> <p>GOD / MAN DOMINION ROLES</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Great Physician / Physician- Great High Priest / Priest- King of Kings / Prince- Great Commander / Soldier- Lord of the Harvest / Harvester <p><i>Gen. 1:26 And God said let us make man ... let them have dominion ... over everything upon the earth.</i></p> <p><i>Psalms 8:6 Thou madest him to have dominion over the works of thy hands; thou hast put all things under his feet.</i></p>	<p><u>2. INTERCESSION</u></p> <p>Taking dominion to affect the kingdom of God and the kingdom of satan through our intercessory prayers and actions.</p> <p>Jesus came to this world to be an intercessor. Now it is His will for us to be the intercessors.</p> <p>A. Standing between God and man</p> <p><i>Ezek 22:30 And I sought for a man among them, that should make up the hedge, and stand in the gap before me for the land, that I should not destroy it; but I found none.</i></p> <p>B. Standing between satan and man</p> <p><i>1 John 3:8 For this purpose was the son of man manifest that he might destroy the works of the Devil.</i></p>

3. Relationship and Dominion in Bible History

The importance of **relationship** and **dominion** is repeatedly shown throughout the Old and New Testaments. So this book includes many Scripture references of this theme to emphasize this important concept.

This theme and concept is of great importance because it has to do with spiritual growth, which has to do with revival and reaping the endtime harvest. These two elements of spiritual growth work hand in hand because **spiritual growth will cease, if one is interested in the benefits of relationship without the responsibility of doing God's will and work on earth.** The depth of relationship with God of a mature Christian will be reflected in the amount and depth of dominion exercised in carrying out God's purpose, plan, will and work. Refer to Charts B-2, C-5, and C-6 in Appendix 1.

Many Christians behave as though they are still living under the Law in the Old Testament where only a few holy men, kings, priests and prophets - (pastors and leaders), carried out

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God's work. Christianity in general has promoted this culture and concept. That must be changed if we are to reach the world. Thank God for His gift to the church of godly leaders and the fivefold ministry; His work can't be accomplished without them. But the tremendous needs and hurts of our generation, with time running out, demands that every believer thrust themselves into the will and work of God with the empowerment of dominion as sons of God.

Through the incarnation of God in flesh and His suffering and sacrifice, He has created a new plan, different from the Law of the Old Testament. It is His purpose and will for every believer to fulfill the calling of a priest as a holy and anointed man, as an intercessor to reach the desperately lost of our world. For every believer that does not get involved and step into his dominion role, there will be souls that are lost.

1 Peter 2:9

But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light:

1 Peter 2:9-10

9 But you are the ones chosen by God, chosen for the high calling of priestly work, chosen to be a holy people, God's instruments to do his work and speak out for him, to tell others of the night-and-day difference he made for you

10 from nothing to something, from rejected to accepted.
MSG

The following are key examples of the relationship and dominion themes at five significant milestones in Bible history:

1. At the creation of the earth - Adam.
2. Before Calvary - King David, the man after God's own heart.
3. Jesus' ministry.
4. The birth of the New Testament Church.
5. Apostle Paul's teaching to the church.

3.1 At Creation - Adam

Gen. 3:8 God walking and talking with man -- **relationship**.
And they heard the voice of the LORD God walking in the garden in the cool of the day:

Gen. 1:26 God's purpose for man in the beginning at creation -- **dominion**.
*And God said, Let us make man in our **image**, after our **likeness**: and let them have **dominion** over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth.*

3.2 Before Calvary - King David

Psalms 91 is one of the many worship Psalms that describes King David's great **relationship** with God, and its wonderful blessings and benefits, which also includes **dominion** on earth and over the enemy.

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Psalms 91:1-5 (Relationship with God); 13-14 (Dominion over the enemy).

*1 He that dwelleth in the secret place of the most High shall **abide under the shadow of the Almighty.***

*2 I will say of the LORD, He is my **refuge and my fortress:** my God; in him will I trust.*

3 Surely he shall deliver thee from the snare of the fowler, and from the noisome pestilence.

4 He shall cover thee with his feathers, and under his wings shalt thou trust: his truth shall be thy shield and buckler.

5 Thou shalt not be afraid for the terror by night; nor for the arrow that flieth by day;

*13 Thou shalt **tread upon the lion and adder: the young lion and the dragon shalt thou trample under feet.***

*14 Because he hath set his love upon me, **therefore will I deliver him:** I will set him on high, because he hath known my name.*

Psalms 8:3-5 (Relationship with God); 6 (Dominion on earth).

3 When I consider thy heavens, the work of thy fingers, the moon and the stars, which thou hast ordained;

*4 What is man, that thou art **mindful of him?** and the **son of man, that thou visitest him?***

5 For thou hast made him a little lower than the angels, and hast crowned him with glory and honor.

*6 Thou madest him to have **dominion** over the works of thy hands; thou hast **put all things under His feet:***

3.3 Jesus' Ministry

Relationship

Jesus built a strong personal relationship with His disciples and other followers -- walking, talking, eating, teaching, and living with them on a daily basis. At the same time He taught the most important commandment -- to love God with all of their being.

Matt. 22:36-40

36 Master, which is the great commandment in the law?

*37 Jesus said unto him, Thou shalt **love the Lord thy God** with **all thy heart**, and with **all thy soul**, and with **all thy mind**.*

38 This is the first and great commandment.

*39 And the second is like unto it, Thou **shalt love thy neighbour as thyself**.*

40 On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.

Loving God with **all** of your heart, soul, and mind deals with our **relationship** with God, **worshipping** God and a **passion** for God.

Dominion

Loving your neighbor as yourself deals with **compassion** for someone in need and exercising **dominion** to do God's will and work in ministering to their needs.

First Jesus exemplified to His disciples dominion over the devil, unclean spirits and dominion over sickness, disease and even death. (Luke 7:21-22)

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Then He commissioned the 12 disciples (representing the fivefold ministry of the church), giving them dominion and sending them out to exercise their God-given dominion over sickness and satan. (Matthew 10:1-8, Mark 6:7-13, Luke 9:1-6)

Afterward, Jesus commissioned 70 unnamed others (representing the laity of the church - every believer) and gave them power to heal the sick, cast out devils, and have dominion over all the power of the enemy. (Luke 10:1-9)

3.4 Birth of the New Testament Church

- **The outpouring of the Holy Ghost in the second chapter of Acts.**

This experience is the beginning of our **relationship** with God as a son of God.

- **The actions of the apostles and believers that received the Holy Ghost.**

The remainder of the Book of Acts is the fulfillment of Jesus' words, "*Ye shall receive power after the Holy Ghost is come upon you and ye shall be witnesses unto me.*" The Book of Acts records the actions of the New Testament Church as they stepped into their **dominion** role doing God's will and work.

3.5 Apostle Paul's Teaching to the Church

- **Apostle Paul - at the point of his conversion.**

Paul's first question while lying on the Damascus Road was one of **relationship**: "*Who art thou Lord?*" The answer and

revelation to Paul marked the beginning of his relationship with Jesus Christ.

The second question he asked concerned **dominion**: “**Lord what would thou have me do?**” “*And the Lord said unto him, arise, and go into the city, and it shall be told thee what thou must do.*” His obedience to this instruction began his relationship with God and then to dominion and power to perform God’s will and work.

- **Apostle Paul’s relationship with God after his conversion.**

Paul did not have the privilege to personally walk and talk with Jesus, like the 12 disciples, for three and one half years. But he chose after conversion to isolate himself for three years in the Arabian Desert to commune with Jesus, pursuing a relationship to know his God.

Gal. 1:15-18

15 But when it pleased God, who separated me from my mother’s womb, and called me by his grace,

16 To reveal his Son in me, that I might preach him among the heathen; immediately I conferred not with flesh and blood:

17 Neither went I up to Jerusalem to them which were apostles before me; but I went into Arabia, and returned again unto Damascus.

18 Then after three years I went up to Jerusalem to see Peter, and abode with him fifteen days.

After the desert experience and a short trip to Jerusalem, Apostle Paul went back to his home in Tarsus and submitted

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himself to God's time test -- waiting for God's time to begin his ministry. After an unknown period of time, Apostle Paul began his great ministry of **dominion** -- in doing God's will and work to reach the known world with the message of Jesus Christ.

Acts 19:1, 8, 10-12

1 And it came to pass, that, while Apollos was at Corinth, Paul having passed through the upper coasts came to Ephesus: and finding certain disciples,

8 And he went into the synagogue, and spake boldly for the space of three months, disputing and persuading the things concerning the kingdom of God.

*10 And this continued by the **space of two years; so that all they which dwelt in Asia heard the word of the Lord Jesus, both Jews and Greeks.***

*11 And God wrought **special miracles** by the hands of Paul:*

*12 So that from his body were brought unto the sick handkerchiefs or aprons, and the **diseases departed** from them, and the **evil spirits went out** of them.*

1 Cor. 15:32

*If after the manner of men **I have fought with beasts at Ephesus,***

1 Cor. 16:8-9

8 But I will tarry at Ephesus until Pentecost.

9 For a great door and effectual is opened unto me, and there are many adversaries.

Acts 17:6 Apostle Paul with Silas in Thessalonica.

*Paul and Silas have **turned the rest of the world upside down,** and now they are here disturbing our city. They are all guilty*

of treason, for they claim another king, Jesus, instead of Caesar. TLB

- **Apostle Paul wrote 85% of the New Testament which deals with Christian living and service (God's will for everyone to be involved in reaching a lost world).**

Mirrored in Paul's writings are the same two purposes for which God created man (relationship and dominion) -- the purpose of the fivefold ministry stated in Ephesians 4:11-12:

- 1. To perfect the saints (relationship with God).**
- 2. To equip the saints for the work of the ministry.**

This speaks of **dominion** of the saints to complete the mission and work that Jesus exemplified for us in His ministry to reach a lost world.

I am a son of God

I Must Be About My Father's Business !

II. Relationship with God

The Two Commandments:

- *Love God with all your heart (Relationship)*
- *Love your neighbor as yourself (Dominion)*
(Ministering to their needs)

Matthew 22:37-40

1. God and Man Relationship Roles

Principles in God's Word are like lighthouses that never change. Standing resolutely, they point the way. They remain unchanged since the beginning of time.

It is impossible for us to destroy these principles or laws. We can only break ourselves against these laws. One of the key principles is -- seeking first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and putting Him in the center of our lives. Refer to Chart A-4 in Appendix 1.

For many people, there is a gap between what is really important and the way they spend their time. But when a tragedy or life-threatening crisis occurs, this gap is immediately closed and priorities rearranged.

I have been painfully reminded of this while working with terminally ill people, as we tried to minister comfort in the last hours of their fading life. The common message is always the same:

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1. It is easy to say good-bye to all the material things, careers, and accomplishments, they do not even register on the scale of importance.
2. It is difficult saying good-bye to loved ones.
3. The most significant message from saints of God is that their relationship with God transcends death and the grave. Their relationship with God is the bridge to eternal life. And that is what sustains them in their final hours of life.

The subject of this chapter is more than a lesson - it is a lifestyle. The most important concept regarding God and man is “**Our Relationship with God**”.

It applies equally to those who are just coming to God, and to those who have known Him for a long time.

For those just coming to God:

- God is pursuing and reaching for you to establish a relationship.

For those who have known God for some time:

- God wants you to pursue Him and establish a deeper level of relationship.

When we want to really know someone, we study them. I am studying God. I want to know Him (not just know about Him). I want to know what He loves -- and hates. I want to know His passion and His compassion.

I want to please Him. I want to know His nature, His ways, and His will. I want His favor. I want to know what He would

be doing and how He would be doing it, if He were here on earth. Because, it is His will for us to carry on His business in the same way.

One of a Christian's highest goals should be to develop a close and growing relationship with God. A relationship that is not growing eventually will die. The term "relationship with God" is so commonly used that it could very easily lose its real meaning and value. This section will briefly describe:

- God's plan and desire for a close relationship with man.
- The basic components of a complete and growing relationship with God.

God's desire to have a close relationship with man goes back to the beginning of time, in the garden of Eden. God prepared a wonderful paradise for Adam and Eve, where He communicated with them every day. Because of sin, their close relationship with God was broken. But God had another plan for a closer relationship with man. And in three tabernacles, we see God's progressive plan for a closer relationship with man

God Dwelling in the Tabernacle of Moses

When the children of Israel were delivered out of Egyptian bondage, God gave Moses instructions and plans for the tabernacle. Moses was instructed to place the tabernacle in the middle of the camp because **He wanted to be in the center of His peoples' lives**. God's Spirit dwelt in the ark of the covenant, behind the veil, in the most holy place. Man could not directly approach God because sin was not forgiven, merely rolled ahead each year. Only one priest once a year could go behind the veil into the presence of God.

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Jesus Christ - God Tabernacled in Human Flesh

God had another plan for a closer relationship with man. In the New Testament, He came to earth veiled in human flesh - the one true God. He came to where we were that we could go to where he is. He became the Son of Man that we might become a son of God. He became part of our humanity that we might become part of His deity.

Jesus Christ as a Son of Man became the Tabernacle of Almighty God, replacing the need for the Moses' tabernacle. He walked among man and set an example to follow with the Spirit of God dwelling in Him. Jesus had a dual nature. He was both God and man, and His mission was to reconcile humanity with deity.

While Jesus was here on the earth He was with His disciples and followers only at certain times. The man Christ Jesus had limitations as the Son of Man. He could not be in two places at one time. If He was in John's home He could not be in James' home at the same time. Jesus told His disciples in *John 16:7 -- But I tell you the truth: It is for your good that I am going away. Unless I go away, the Counselor will not come to you; but if I go, I will send him to you. NIV*

God Tabernacled in the Born-again Believer

God had yet another plan, to provide a closer relationship with man. And that was provided through His suffering and death on Calvary. The very instant that Christ died on the cross, God's hand tore the veil in the temple that had separated man and God for thousands of years. A way was opened up for each of us to talk with God at any time, 24 hours a day, and seven days a week. God's plan of grace provided man the

opportunity to have a close and growing relationship with Him. This provided the privilege of access to a far greater relationship with God than was possible in the prior 4,000 years of man's day.

Like the tabernacle of Moses with three parts (outer court, holy place, most holy place), our tabernacle is made up of three parts (body, soul, and spirit). And when we are born again of the water and the Spirit, **we become the tabernacle of God's Spirit** with a dual nature as a son of man and a son of God.

Human Relationships Used to Describe Our Relationship with God.

In the Holy Scriptures God used every human relationship to help us understand how He wanted our relationship to be close and grow:

- Father / Child relationship. He is the Father, we are His children.
- Bride / Groom relationship. He is the Groom, we are His bride.
- Friend-to-Friend relationship. He is our Friend.
- Master / Servant relationship. He is the Master, we are His servants (love slaves).

These examples of relationships teach how God sees our relationship with Him -- how He wants to relate to us and how He wants us to relate to Him.

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1.1 Father / Child

This is the most frequently used relationship in the Bible to describe the relationship between God and man. In my kingdom I am a son of man. **In His kingdom I am a son of God.**

Luke 12:32

Fear not, little flock; for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom.

1 John 3:1-3

*1 Behold, what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the **sons of God**: therefore the world knoweth us not, because it knew him not.*

*2 Beloved, now are we the **sons of God**, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is.*

3 And every man that hath this hope in him purifieth himself, even as he is pure.

Phil. 2:15

*That ye may be blameless and harmless, the **sons of God**, without rebuke, in the midst of a crooked and perverse nation, among whom ye shine as lights in the world;*

The Father / Child relationship depicts provision for every need we have:

- | | |
|---------------|---|
| Mark 11: 25 | - Forgiveness when we fail. |
| Psalms 103:13 | - Divine sympathy. |
| Matthew 7:11 | - Gives us good gifts. |
| Matthew 10:29 | - Cares about every detail of our life. |
| Luke 11:13 | - Gives precious and valuable gifts. |
| 2 Samuel 7:14 | - Correction when we sin. |

God and Man Relationship Roles

- Isaiah 1:2 - Gives us nourishment.
- Matthew 6:6 - Rewards us when we pray.
- Romans 5:8 - Unconditional love.

The list of Scriptures is endless that speaks of the Father / Child relationship. This relationship provides unconditional love. In other relationships there is conditional love. If feelings of love are not mutual, the relationship will not survive. But our heavenly Father has given us unconditional love -- "*While we were yet sinners Christ died for us*". He loved us and sought us before we knew Him.

Rom. 5:8

But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.

God created Adam in His image because He wanted a son that was like Him. The more a son is like his father, the more the father is fulfilled. God wanted a son that would fulfill His purpose. He wanted a son that would think like Him, act like Him, and be His heir. He desired a mutual relationship of communication, love, and trust.

When we are born again of the water and the Spirit we become sons of God. But that is just the beginning -- we must allow the Spirit to lead us, guide us, and change our lives.

Rom. 8:14

For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God.

As sons of God we have an inheritance in His kingdom. We inherit not only His benefits and blessings, but also His business. Our heavenly Father left His business in our hands.

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He is out of the country, but there is a hot line to get in touch with Him for direction, advice, and power regarding His will and His work.

However, even this relationship must change and progress. The different stages of maturity -- infant, child, youth, young adult, and a mature adult, bring new levels of relationship with the father. A small child loves his parents for what they do for him, not for who they are. Our relationship with our heavenly Father must likewise mature and grow beyond seeing Him as the provider of our needs.

1.2 Bride / Groom

The bride and groom relationship depicts:

- Closeness and intimacy
- Lifelong commitment
- Bonding together as one

At the beginning of this relationship, in the courtship phase, it is often love at first sight -- often one-sided. If it remains one-sided, the relationship cannot develop. God loved us at first sight - "*While we were yet sinners, Christ died for us*". He courted us and pursued us even when we weren't looking for Him.

It is not a coincidence that you are where you are in your relationship with Him today. He followed you; He set Himself up in your path. He allowed circumstances and even problems in your life for you to feel your need of Him. He courted and wooed you.

Jer. 31:3

The LORD hath appeared of old unto me, saying, Yea, I have loved thee with an everlasting love: therefore with lovingkindness have I drawn thee.

Isa. 54:5

For thy Maker is thine husband; the LORD of hosts is his name; and thy Redeemer the Holy One of Israel; the God of the whole earth shall he be called.

2 Cor. 11:2

For I am jealous over you with Godly jealousy: for I have espoused you to one husband, that I may present you as a chaste virgin to Christ.

Rev. 19:7

Let us be glad and rejoice, and give honour to him: for the marriage of the Lamb is come, and his wife hath made herself ready.

Rev. 21:9

And there came unto me one of the seven angels which had the seven vials full of the seven last plagues, and talked with me, saying, Come hither, I will shew thee the bride, the Lamb's wife.

Often, the longer a husband and wife live together in a good relationship, the more they think and act alike. Similarly, it should be likewise with our heavenly Bridegroom. We need to think like Him, “*Let this mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus*”, act like Him, look like Him and be holy like Him. The bride and groom relationship must continue to grow and mature. It cannot exist on just the initial attraction basis.

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1.3 Friend / Friend

The friendship relationship depicts:

- Someone in which to confide
- Someone you choose to be with, no strings attached
- Someone you choose to be with, every time you get together
- Someone with whom you are comfortable

John 15:13-15 Jesus told His disciples, you are My friends.

13 Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends.

14 Ye are my friends, if ye do whatsoever I command you.

15 henceforth I call you not servants; ... But I have called you friends;

Ex. 33:11 Moses talked to God as a friend.

And the LORD spake unto Moses face to face, as a man speaketh unto his friend.

Abraham was called the friend of God. He had a great relationship with God. There are many examples of God and Abraham talking together. Before God destroyed the city where Lot lived, He said “I must tell My friend Abraham”.

Gen. 18:17

*And the LORD said, **Shall I hide from Abraham** that thing which I do;*

2 Chron. 20:7

*Art not thou our God, who didst drive out the inhabitants of this land before thy people Israel, and gavest it to the seed of **Abraham thy friend for ever?***

Isa. 41:8

*But thou, Israel, art my servant, Jacob whom I have chosen, the seed of **Abraham my friend**.*

James 2:23

*And the scripture was fulfilled which saith, Abraham believed God, and it was imputed unto him for righteousness: and he was **called the Friend of God**.*

1.4 Master / Servant

The employer / employee relationship in today's business world does not properly depict the master / servant relationship described here. Our dedication and allegiance to our Lord and Master should go far beyond what we give to an employer.

The relationship intended here is best described in the Old Testament setting, when the slave that had completed his term of service and was free to leave the master's house, says "I love you and I want to stay and voluntarily be your love slave or servant for the rest of my life". A special ceremony was performed with a blood covenant that bound him to the master as a **love slave** forever.

Deut. 15:16-17

16 But if your slave, because he loves you and your family and has a good life with you, says, "I don't want to leave you," 17 then take an awl and pierce through his earlobe into the doorpost, marking him as your slave forever. MSG

-- From "Jamieson, Fausset, and Brown Commentary,"

If he say ... I will not go away. If they declined to avail themselves of the privilege of release, and chose to remain with their master, then, by a special form of

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ceremony, they became a party to the transaction, voluntarily sold themselves to their employer, and continued in his service until death.¹

This relationship depicts a servant carrying out his master's desires and orders based on his love for the master. A dedicated servant never says what he will or will not do. He finds out what the master wants. The good servant is accountable and follows his master's laws and management style. Jesus related a parable of the king who left talents with his servants before departing on a long journey. When he returned, he demanded an accounting of their labor.

The dedicated servant never puts his desires ahead of the master's. He says, "Whatever you want, I am happy to do". In the workplace we tell our employers:

- We are willing to learn new things that are difficult.
- For additional financial reward, we are willing to do things we are not naturally talented to do.

Our Lord and Master deserves the same allegiance. Why should we choose what we will do? Why should we rely on our strengths and weaknesses to determine what we will do for Him? He is the King, He is the Master, and we must do His bidding.

All through Scripture, we see God using man without natural ability to accomplish His work. It is good and needed to dedicate our natural talents and giftings to the service of the Master. But God wants to use us beyond our abilities, with His ability, in the supernatural, to accomplish His purpose and work -- reaching a lost world.

In 1977 my job required me to advance into a leadership position from a computer systems specialist. My natural talent was in math and logic -- left brain function. My public speaking and presentation abilities were very poor. I was required to go to London to make a presentation to representatives from 40 countries, regarding a project on which I was working. I struggled to prepare for this assignment. But since there was a financial incentive, I developed skills in an area of real weakness.

When I got back home, God began dealing with me about being willing to do something for my employer that I had not been willing to do for Him. Not long after, I purchased a **Search for Truth Home Bible Study** chart and began to prepare to teach. My wife became my advertising agent telling our neighbors that I was a Bible teacher. That is how I began teaching home Bible studies. That has been one of the best decisions of my life, because I have found that as I began to teach others, a new dimension of revelation in the Word opened up to me. God's law is: "*Give and it shall be given unto you.*"

Luke 6:38

If you give, you will receive. Your gift will return to you in full measure, pressed down, shaken together to make room for more, and running over. NLT

Time won't permit me to describe the Master's payment plan, because there are some things that cannot be purchased with money -- His blessings on earth and eternal life. His retirement plan is out of this world. When we work for the Master, He solves problems and situations in our lives that we could never solve in a lifetime.

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The Master / Servant relationship is a partnership. We are workers together with Him. We need Him -- He needs us.

1.5 Beyond Human Relationships

(a) The greatest love in this world is the love of a mother for her child, but His love is far beyond the greatest of human love.

Isa. 49:15-16

*15 Can a woman forget her sucking child, that she should not have compassion on the son of her womb? Yea, **they may forget, yet will I not forget thee.***

16 Behold, I have graven thee upon the palms of my hands.

(b) He knows us better than anyone else. He knows all about us, more than our companion and closest friends. The very hairs on our head are numbered. He knows exactly where we are, not only our physical location, but our emotional and spiritual location also. We may be smiling on the outside, and have everyone fooled. But He knows and cares that we are crying on the inside.

Matt. 10:30

But the very hairs of your head are all numbered.

(c) He records every sincere conversation we have with Him. He stores our prayers in golden containers in heaven.

Rev. 5:8

*And when he had taken the book, the four beasts and four and twenty elders fell down before the Lamb, having every one of them harps, and **golden vials** full of odours, which are the **prayers of saints.***

(d) He knows every tear. David said, “He has bottled up my tears”. He not only knows every time that you have cried, He knows how many teardrops were shed.

Psalms 56:8

You keep track of all my sorrows. You have collected all my tears in your bottle. You have recorded each one in your book.
NLT

(e) He takes our weaknesses and anoints them to do His exploits. My wife and children depend on my strengths and talents. But our heavenly Father uses our weaknesses to do His work.

2 Cor. 12:9

My gracious favor is all you need. My power works best in your weakness. *NLT*

(f) He knew me before I was born and He already had a plan for my life.

Jer. 1:5

Before I shaped you in the womb, I knew all about you. Before you saw the light of day, I had holy plans for you.
MSG

(g) He forgives and forgets. My sins will not be remembered against me. Humans can forgive, but they have difficulty forgetting.

Rom. 4:7

Saying, Blessed are they whose iniquities are forgiven, and whose sins are covered.

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(h) He will not forget me when I die. He will remember me, and resurrect me.

1 Thess. 4:14

For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so them also which sleep in Jesus will God bring with him.

(i) He knows the thoughts and the intents of our heart.

Psalms 139:2

Thou knowest my downsitting and mine uprising, thou understandest my thought afar off.

(j) He knows me better than I know myself. David prayed this prayer:

Psalms 139:23-24

23 Search me, O God, and know my heart: try me, and know my thoughts:

24 And see if there be any wicked way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting.

(k) He sees the future and directs my paths.

Psalms 37:23

The steps of a good man are ordered by the lord: and he delighteth in his way.

(l) He knows our needs before we ask.

Matt. 6:8

For your Father knoweth what things ye have need of, before ye ask him.

(m) When entering the presence of a friend, a spouse, or a father, there is a warm loving feeling. In His presence there

is a holy, hallowed feeling. Moses was standing on holy ground; and his burning bush experience was a life-changing encounter. His relationship with God was never the same. After that, he spoke face to face with God as a friend.

Ex. 33:11

And the LORD spake unto Moses face to face, as a man speaketh unto his friend.

Deut. 34:10

And there arose not a prophet since in Israel like unto Moses, whom the LORD knew face to face,

(n) Human relationships only last for a space called time, a few short years. And we are so concerned with our short 70, 80, or 90 years, but He is working on **my glory in eternity - my eternal life**. When I don't understand the difficulties and trials in my life, God knows and cares. He is working on my eternal life, while I am focusing on my natural life. It may be the Master Potter making a new vessel for His glory.

Jer. 18:4

And the vessel that he made of clay was marred in the hand of the potter: so he made it again another vessel, as seemed good to the potter to make it.

The old song, "We'll Talk It Over in the By And By", written by Ira Stamphill says:

"We'll talk it over, in the by and by.
We'll talk it over, my Lord and I.
I'll ask the questions, He'll tell me why.
When we talk it over, in the by and by".

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Many painful things that we encounter and endure will never be understood in this lifetime. But on the other side, just inside the gates of that heavenly city, there will be no questions, because we will no longer, “*Look through a glass darkly*”. But on that glorious day, there will be immediate and complete revelation as we look back on our lives. There will be 30 minutes of silence in heaven. Could this possibly be the time of awesome revelation concerning the purpose of every trial that has caused us pain in this life?

(o) Our relationship with God transcends death. Relationship with our loved ones stops at the grave even though we will be reunited in heaven. But our relationship with God goes with us beyond the grave. It is an eternal relationship. **It is eternal life!**

1 John 2:25

And this is the promise that he hath promised us, even eternal life.

In every valid relationship there are two parties to the contract or covenant. God will fulfill His part of the relationship, but will we? A relationship is weakened and eventually dies, when one of the parties doesn't fulfill their commitment.

2. Foundational Relationship Elements

What makes a good relationship? What are the key components of a good relationship? How do they interact? What are the dynamics of the relationship process?

In the business world we develop a business model or systems model to describe an intangible process with several interrelated components. A model clarifies all the components in the process and their relationship to each other. To help describe and understand the relationship process, let's examine a summary model of the relationship between God and man.

Refer to Chart A-2, "Relationship With God - Overview Model" and Chart A-12 "Relationship Model - A Continuous Cycle of Growth" in Appendix 1.

The following are the basic foundational elements of a relationship with God.

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RELATIONSHIP ELEMENT	MAN TO GOD	GOD TO MAN
Communication	Man Talking to God	God Talking to Man
Love	Man Loving God	God Loving Man
Trust	Man Trusting God	God Trusting Man

These components of the relationship are interrelated. **So, what is the sequence or the order of this model?** It depends on each individual's level of experience or relationship with God. God initiates the relationship with a sinner and a new convert. It is initially one-sided.

- God loved us, before we loved Him.
- God began speaking to us through various means, before we began talking to Him.
- God began to trust us before we trusted Him. He trusted us and invested in us because He saw what we could become. He saw beyond where we were and what we were and He saw His eternal purpose and will for our lives.

But when we mature as Christians, I believe God expects us to initiate the process and pursue Him. There will be some point in your relationship that God will wait on you to pursue Him. And if this doesn't happen, this is the point where the relationship stops growing. I repeat: there will be some point in your relationship that God will wait on you to pursue Him and if this doesn't happen, this is the point where the relationship stops growing and begins to grow cold.

Matt. 5:6

6 Blessed are they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness: for they shall be filled.

6 Happy are those whose greatest desire is to do what God requires; God will satisfy them fully! TEV

1 Cor. 12:31

But covet earnestly the best gifts: and yet shew I unto you a more excellent way.

1 Peter 2:2

As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow thereby.

2 Peter 3:18

But grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

It was a few years ago in the after-service of a great altar service that I asked God, “What do I have to do to have a closer relationship with You?” God’s answer came back to me in an immediate and strong response:

- “I pursued you to find you.”
- “I pursued you to save you.”
- “I pursued you to establish you.”
- “If you want more of Me, you must pursue Me.”

Psalms 42:1 King David’s pursuit of God.

As the hart panteth after the water brook, my soul pants after You oh, God. My soul thirsteth for God, for the living God.

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Psalms 63:1

O God Thou art my God; early will I seek Thee: my soul thirsteth for Thee, my flesh longeth for Thee in a dry and thirsty land, where no water is; to see Thy power and Thy glory. My soul followeth hard after Thee.

David was pursuing God; he was escalating his relationship with God, and God was pleased. He was called the man after God's own heart.

Matt. 7:7 Pursuit of God shown in the New Testament.

Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you.

Matt. 5:6

Blessed are they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness: for they shall be filled.

Now we will look in more depth at the basic elements of our relationship with God: **Communication, Love, and Trust.**

First and most important is: **Communication - Talking to God in Prayer.**

2.1 Communication - Talking to God

Many books have been written on prayer - our communication and communion with God. Presented here is a very brief summary of why we need to pray and our motivation for prayer.

Prayer fuels and keeps the relationship engine running. All of the aspects of our relationship with God are enabled only by communication with Him. Without prayer the relationship will not grow, resulting in a lukewarm and distant relationship.

In any relationship the most difficult and important part is communication. My wife and I have been married for almost 40 years. There has never been a question of love or trust. But some difficulties have occurred because of a lack of understanding due to our failure to properly communicate.

Lack of communication causes divorces, estranged families and friends. In many cases there was silence. Words that should have been spoken were tragically unspoken. If you are ever estranged from God, or terminate your relationship with Him, it will be because of your lack of communication with Him. It will be because of your lack of talking to Him in prayer on a consistent basis.

Your long term relationship with God will not survive without talking to Him often and for quality periods of time in prayer. To know someone you have to spend time communicating - - you must talk to them. That is how two people bond together as one. You understand who someone is, what they stand for, what their goals are, and what their values are by

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communicating with them. This is true in our relationship with God. By talking to God we get to know Him.

So what compels us to pray? What drives us to our knees in prayer? It is usually three things: burdens, burdens, and burdens. Through our burdens God gets our attention. Sometimes He isolates us with a trial to purify and draw us closer to Him. Our response should be to pursue a closer relationship with Him.

Then as we get beyond **our own burdens**, we begin to have a **burden for others** and a concern for their needs. (We will explore that further in 2.4 of this chapter). Ministering to the desperate needs of others brings about the **burden of the Lord**.

The burden of the Lord is that we, as sons of God, would do what He would be doing if He were still on earth --ministering to the sick, the bruised, the hopelessly lost, and dying. The burden of the Lord embodies His will for His church, local and international. The burden of the Lord is that the church be restored to the apostolic ministry of the first century church in the Book of Acts, with all of its power, miracles, and evangelism.

His ministry is in our hands, and the burden of the Lord is that His work would be carried on through His children and through His church. The burden of the Lord is for us to duplicate the ministry that He exemplified in His earthly ministry as the Son of God. It is being burdened with His burdens -- a burden for a lost world, loving what He loves and hating what He hates.

Our world today has yet to see the impact of a church that is completely fulfilling the burden of the Lord in their local assembly. The first century church in the Book of Acts still challenges us today. With the fire, the heat and the purity of its birth there came an energy that has been unequaled in almost 20 centuries. We see in the Book of Acts the intensity of desire, the results, the miracles, the evangelism, the enthusiasm, and the shaking of cities and nations.

The Word of God prophesies: *“that the glory of the latter house will be greater than of the former”*, greater than the first church in Acts. It is beginning to happen in other countries of the world. But we must desire it to happen in our churches, in our cities and in our nation. When will we see our churches restored to the Book of Acts and beyond? It will begin to happen when the burden of the Lord drives us to our knees and then to apostolic actions. We will have apostolic results when we become apostolic believers. *Mark 16:17 “These signs shall follow them that believe”*.

Jesus set the example of prayer by praying often and sometimes all night. Jesus also set the example of intercessory prayer.

Heb. 5:7-9

7 Who in the days of his flesh, when he had offered up prayers and supplications with strong crying and tears unto him that was able to save him from death, and was heard in that he feared;

8 Though he were a Son, yet learned he obedience by the things which he suffered;

9 And being made perfect, he became the author of eternal salvation unto all them that obey him;

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In the garden of Gethsemane, we see the burden of the Lord. God in human form agonized in prayer to bring us to grace and to a closer relationship with Him. It was a time of transition from the Dispensation of the Law to the Dispensation of Grace. Jesus alone in intercessory prayer birthed the New Testament Church. He called to His disciples, “*Will you not watch and pray with Me for one hour*”? **Today that request still resounds after 2,000 years.**

We are in a transition time at the end of the Grace Dispensation that involves completing the works of grace and restoration of the church to the power of the Book of Acts. Jesus is not here in the flesh to pray. We are the ones He has called to pray the prayers of intercession. If we are to be a part of the restoration of the church, we must answer His call to prayer, “*Will you not watch with Me for one hour*”?

The devil will let you do anything but pray. He will let you go to church; he will let you teach Bible lessons; he will let you pay your tithes and be faithful in other ways. But he will challenge you every day at your prayer closet door, because that is the key to a deeper relationship and power with God.

Martin Luther said: “If I fail to spend time in prayer each morning, the devil gets the victory through the day. I have so much business I cannot get on without spending time daily in prayer.”

Prayer is the last frontier of a mature Christian. In order to experience new places in the Spirit where we have never been

before, there is only one door and one path, and that is through the door of consistent, persistent prayer.

The story is told about Napoleon and his generals on one of their expeditions. Having looked at the maps they could not agree on their location. After awhile Napoleon stood and said, “Gentlemen we have just marched off the maps. We are somewhere we have never been before, we are in uncharted territory.” It is time for Christians to leave the status quo and our comfort zones and, “march off the maps”, into new places in the kingdom of God where we have never been before. And that will happen through the power of prayer (relationship) and our actions of care (dominion).

We must experience prayer where we look forward to it as the highlight of our day. The choice is ours. We can choose between repetitious prayers or fervent prayers. We can pray lifeless, timed prayers or pray prayers that reach around the world. But, without prayer, the rest of the relationship model does not work properly.

E.M. Bounds said: “The crying evils of these times, maybe of all times is little or no praying. Of these two evils, perhaps little praying is worse than no praying. Little praying is a kind of a salve for the conscience.”

The highest calling is that of prayer. Regardless of your assignment in the kingdom of God, it will be ineffective without prayer. Answering the call to prayer is the best thing you can do for yourself, your family, your church, and your relationship with God.

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Prayers are not temporary; they are permanent assets stored somewhere in God's kingdom until the end of time. The prayers of the saints live on, even after death. Many mother's prayers for a lost child have been answered after her death. And her prayers have made the difference in the lives of a family for generations after her death.

God places such high value on our prayers that He has stored every sincere prayer you have prayed in a golden vial in heaven. *Rev. 5:8 And when he had taken the book the four and twenty elders fell down before the lamb, having everyone of them harps, and golden vials full of odors, which are the prayers of the saints.* The prayers of the saints are precious to God. He records them and remembers them. Cornelius' prayers came up as a memorial to God and an angel was dispatched from heaven with a message of salvation.

-- From "Prayer" by E.M. Bounds

The prayers of God's saints are the capital stock in heaven by which Christ carries on His great work upon the earth. The earth is changed, revolutionized; angels move on more powerful, more rapid wings; and God's policy is shaped when the prayers of His people are more numerous and more efficient.

The most important lesson we can learn is how to pray. Indeed, we must pray so that our prayers take hold of God. The man who has done the most and the best praying is the most immortal, because prayers do not die. Perhaps the lips that uttered them are closed in death, or the heart that felt them may have ceased to beat, but the prayers live before God, and God's heart is set on them. Prayers outlive the lives of those who

uttered them -- outlive a generation, outlive an age, and outlive a world.

Prayer is no fitful, short-lived thing. It is no voice crying unheard and unheeded in the silence. It is a voice that goes into God's ear, and it lives as long as God's ear is open to holy pleas, as long as God's heart is alive to holy things.

The life of the church is the highest life, and its office is to pray. Its prayer life is the highest life, the most fragrant, the most conspicuous. When God's house on the earth is a house of prayer, then God's house in heaven is busy and powerful in its plans and movements. *'For mine house shall be called an house of prayer for all people'* (Isa.. 56:7), says our God. Then, His earthly armies are clothed with the triumphs and spoils of victory, and His enemies are defeated on every hand.

God shapes the world by prayer. The more praying there is in the world, the better the world will be and the mightier the forces against evil everywhere. The very life and prosperity of God's cause -- even its very existence -- depend on prayer.¹

The sands of time are running out on this sin-cursed world. We're so near to the end of time -- we should be spending a significant amount of time each day in our personal devotion of prayer and the Word. We can live in an attitude of prayer on the highway or at the work place. However, our quality time in communion with God needs to be in our prayer closet, somewhere we can shut out distractions and be alone with God.

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We must pray in the will of God, not for our prosperity and selfish pursuit -- not for my kingdom, but for His kingdom. Answered prayers are those prayed in the will of God. We need to pray, "Not my will but Your will be done." We can't do enough praying to get God on our side. We must get on God's side and be willing to do His will, His way.

2.2 Communication - God Talking to Us

God's communication to us is much more effective if we have consistently talked to Him. Electronic communication devices have a **transmitter** and a **receiver**. Regardless how strong the transmitter is, the receiver must be turned on and tuned in.

Jer. 23:29

29 Is not My word like fire?" declares the LORD, "and like a hammer which shatters a rock? NASU

29 My message is like a fire and like a hammer that breaks rocks in pieces. GNT

The transmitter (God's voice) has no weakness -- "*The Word of God is **powerful** and sharper than any two-edged sword*". But it takes prayer to tune our spiritual receiver to receive God's message. It takes prayer to open our spiritual ears to hear with clarity what God is speaking to us. Prayer opens up our spiritual ears and prepares our spirit to receive His Word.

Matt. 11:15, 13:43; Mark 4:9, 4:23, 7:16; Luke 8:8, 14:35
He that hath ears to hear, let him hear.

Rev. 2:7, 2:11, 2:17, 2:29, 3:6, 3:13, 3:22, 13:9

He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches.

The Written Word

When our spirits are tuned to His Spirit through prayer, the Word should leap from the page and stir our spirit. Our hands should tremble when we hold God's Word because it was

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written by holy men of God as they were moved on by the Holy Ghost.

2 Peter 1:19-21

19 We have also a more sure word of prophecy; whereunto ye do well that ye take heed, as unto a light that shineth in a dark place, until the day dawn, and the day star arise in your hearts:

20 Knowing this first, that no prophecy of the Scripture is of any private interpretation.

*21 For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but **holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost.***

The Bible is in a category of its own. It is the only Book that authenticates itself through prophecy. Critics throughout the centuries have tried to disprove it. But their theories have been discredited, and the Bible stands alone as the eternal Word of God. Study it, memorize it, cherish it, teach it and live it.

-- From "God's Infallible Word" by David Bernard

According to the Bible, in the final analysis its author is God Himself. "All Scripture is given by inspiration of God" (II Timothy 3:16). In this verse, "inspiration of God" is translated from the Greek word *theopneustos*, which literally means "God-breathed." The picture is of God breathing out the words from His mouth (Matthew 4:4), creating Scripture similar to the way He created the universe (Psalm 33:6). In other words, the Bible emanated from God. It is God's communication to humanity.

This message uses “inspiration” to mean more than the general creative impulse that prompts poets, musicians, and other writers; it specifically refers to action by God. In this sense inspiration means “a supernatural influence of the Holy Spirit upon divinely chosen men in consequence of which their writings become trustworthy and authoritative.”

The Bible teaches that it is infallible—never wrong; incapable of error; not subject to mistake or failure. It is neither misleading nor misled. It is a reliable, trustworthy guide in all matters.

God is faithful and true (II Corinthians 1:18; Revelation 6:10; 19:11). “It is impossible for God to lie” (Hebrews 6:18). (See also Numbers 23:19; I Samuel 15:29; Titus 1:2). Therefore, God’s “law is truth,” and His “word is truth” (Psalm 119:142; John 17:17). It is “the word of truth” (II Timothy 2:15).

Every word of God is true. “You are God, and Your words are true” (II Samuel 7:28). “Your word is very pure . . . All Your commandments are truth” (Psalm 119:140, 151). “The law of the Lord is perfect . . . the testimony of the Lord is sure . . . the commandment of the Lord is pure . . . the judgments of the Lord are true and righteous altogether” (Psalm 19:7-9).

We can identify several characteristics of truth that are essential to its very nature; without them truth would not be truth. The Bible, as the true Word of God, necessarily exhibits these characteristics.

Absolute: not relative; not dependent on anything else; real; actual. “Let God be true but every

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man a liar. As it is written: That You may be justified in Your words” (Romans 3:4).

Precise: accurately stated; correct even to minute details. “Every word of God is pure” (Proverbs 30:5).

Immutable: never changing or varying; constant; stable; remaining the same. “Forever, O Lord, Your word is settled in heaven” (Psalm 119:89).

Whole: entire; complete; to be taken as a body. “You shall not add to the word which I command you, nor take anything from it” (Deuteronomy 4:2). “The law of the Lord is perfect” (Psalm 19:7).

Consistent: in agreement or harmony; in accord, unified; not contradictory. “The entirety of Your word is truth” (Psalm 119:160).

Eternal: everlasting; timeless. “The word of our God stands forever” (Isaiah 40:8). “Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will by no means pass away” (Matthew 24:35).

Unbreakable: incapable of failing, being disproven, or being destroyed. “The Scripture cannot be broken” (John 10:35). “There has not failed one word of all His good promise” (I Kings 8:56).

Irrevocable: incapable of being withdrawn, repealed, canceled, or annulled. “Assuredly, I say to you, will heaven and earth pass away, one jot or one tittle will by no means pass from the law till all is fulfilled” (Matthew 5:18). “All

things must be fulfilled which were written in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms concerning Me” (Luke 24:44). “Scripture had to be fulfilled” (Acts 1:16).

All of these points establish and underscore the infallibility of the Bible.²

- **The final authority is the written Word of God and although God uses other means to talk to His people through the preached Word, the gifts of the Spirit, dreams and a still small voice, no message from God will ever supersede His written Word.**

The Preached Word

Your pastor is one of the most important persons in your life, because he ministers the Word of God. Your employer provides your financial needs, and he is important. Your doctor assesses your health needs, and he is important. Your lawyer helps you with your legal needs, and he is important. But **your pastor is the most important of these**, because he is one of the ways that God speaks to you. He is helping you get to heaven and there is nothing else more important. When our spirits are really tuned in, the Word should leap from the pulpit and affect our lives.

Many times I have entered the doors of church, bruised and hurt from the trials of life, and received a healing touch with new hope in my soul through the ministry of the Word. I thank God for the fivefold ministry (apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors and teachers) that God has placed in my life for correction and instruction in righteousness.

The Gifts of the Spirit

It is God's will to speak to His people through the revelation gifts (the mind of Christ) and through the utterance gifts (the voice of Christ) as described in the twelfth chapter of First Corinthians. However, these supernatural gifts are given to complement and never to replace the written Word of God. The word spoken through these gifts must always be in alignment with the written Word of God because God will never tell an individual anything contrary to His written Word.

God speaking through the gifts of the Spirit is a part of the apostolic ministry of the New Testament Church. And hearing God's voice in this manner is a powerful and wonderful experience that we should cherish.

Dreams and Visions

God speaks to us in the nighttime. God speaks to us in our subconscious mind while we sleep. Sometimes that is the only time we are quiet enough to hear His voice and listen. God does speak in dreams and visions. The word *dream* or *dreams* is used in the Bible 95 times and the word *vision* or *visions* is used 103 times.

Acts 2:17-18

17 And it shall come to pass in the last days, saith God, I will pour out of my Spirit upon all flesh: and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams:

18 And on my servants and on my handmaidens I will pour out in those days of my Spirit; and they shall prophesy:

What are you dreaming? It is important what you are dreaming -- because what you are dreaming today is what you will be doing tomorrow. It is God's will for us to be filled with His Spirit; to have dreams and visions of our involvement in His kingdom beyond what we have done in the past; and then to exercise our faith to bring the invisible into the visible and the impossible into the possible.

Vision is a picture of what you are going to be and what you are going to do for God. Vision is seeing the end from the beginning. Everything is created twice -- first in the mind and then in the real world. Vision is the object or target of faith. *Faith is the substance of things hoped for* -- the substance that connects what exists today to our vision of what will be in the future.

The Still Small Voice

God speaks to us personally and directly at times through a **still small voice** into our spirit. Hearing the voice of God is a wonderful thing, because the message is personalized just for us. When we feel that we have heard a message from God, there may be a need for a special time of prayer and fasting to confirm it was God. This will be to confirm that it is God's thoughts vs. our thoughts and God's will vs. our will. A confirmation may come through the preached Word or from another prayerful person. But God's voice will always be in alignment with His written Word.

We don't have to be super spiritual to hear God's voice. Just take time to talk to Him, and listen to Him. The more we talk to God, the more He will talk to us.

2.3 Love - God's Love to Us

God's love to us can be described in one word -- Calvary. God drove a stake in the ground at Calvary displaying His great love for man. Calvary was the greatest event in all of history. Nothing was the same after Calvary. The single event of Calvary changed the way man recorded time on the calendar: **BC** - before Christ, and **AD** - after the dissension of Christ.

The message of the sufferings of Jesus, and what was accomplished through His death, burial and resurrection is the cornerstone of our salvation.

The plan of Calvary goes back to the garden of Eden. When Adam and Eve sinned, God's hand of judgment should have destroyed them. But His hand of love reached out and saved them. God's hatred for sin demanded that someone must die. Adam was spared; and God promised to come and die in man's place. God killed an animal and wrapped Adam and Eve in the bloody skins and atonement was made for sin. That was the beginning of the Law of Substitution, the innocent dying in the place of the guilty. For the next 4,000 years in the Old Testament a trail of sacrificial blood rolled mans' sins ahead for another year.

Heb. 10:4-5

4 For it is not possible that the blood of bulls and of goats should take away sins.

5 Wherefore when he cometh into the world, he saith, Sacrifice and offering thou wouldest not, but a body hast thou prepared me:

At Calvary the Law of Substitution was fulfilled. Christ the supreme sacrifice, the ultimate sacrifice was given -- the **sinless innocent** dying for the **sinful guilty**.

2 Cor. 5:21

*For he hath made him to be sin for us, **who knew no sin**; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him.*

John 15:13-14

*13 **Greater love** hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends.*

14 Ye are my friends, if ye do whatsoever I command you.

The painful side of Calvary reveals His suffering, His torture, and His death. At Calvary, Jesus ended His natural life with a tremendous display of physical, mental, and spiritual suffering -- more than any human would ever be called on to endure. Thus we can never say to God, "You don't understand what I am going through with trials, with pain and suffering", because He understands every heartache and pain.

Imagine a healthy, strong, young man being nailed to a cross and the resulting convulsions His body goes through as His nervous system and vital organs slowly shut down because of extreme trauma from the excruciating suffering and pain. That was the great price He paid to provide us a close relationship with Him.

Then there is the beautiful side of Calvary. God's suffering and love at Calvary provided deliverance, forgiveness, salvation, healing -- provision for everything we need. There is also the privilege to boldly approach the throne and talk to

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Him at any time in a close relationship. The veil that separated God and man was torn away.

When I see a sinner in desperate need of deliverance and God's grace, three words scream in my ear, "Calvary is enough" -- "Calvary is enough" -- "Calvary is enough". Enough blood was shed at Calvary to redeem all of mankind. Enough love was given to save the entire world.

More channels are needed to flow the love and grace of God to the world. Many battles have been lost because supplies did not reach the front lines. The enemy's strategy is to cut the supply line and keep the supply source from reaching the need.

If we are saved, and walk on streets of gold, it will be because of Calvary, and returning that love by taking up our cross to follow Him. Jesus' last prayer request was, "*Pray ye the Lord of the harvest to send forth laborers into the harvest*". Let us all answer that call to flow the love of God to a desperately lost and hopeless world.

2.4 Love - Our Love to God and Our Neighbor

The more we know Him the more we should be hopelessly in love with Him. He is the groom, we are His bride. He is the lover of our soul and He gave His life for us.

One of the saddest things on earth is a relationship where the love of one grows cold for the other. In all of the affairs of man, since the beginning of time, there is nothing more tragic as a relationship when one stops loving and the other is still in love. There have been more poems, more songs, more books written, more tears shed, more broken hearts, and more untimely deaths because of a love that has grown cold.

The same is true concerning the love of God for us and our response to that love -- our love for Him. He loves us unconditionally. He has always loved us and He always will.

Jer. 31:3

I have loved thee with an everlasting love: therefore with lovingkindness have I drawn thee.

Isa. 54:8

With everlasting kindness will I have mercy on thee, saith the LORD thy Redeemer.

The old song says, “Oh, how He loves you and me; Oh, how He loves you and me. He gave His life what more could He give? Oh, how He loves you; Oh, how He loves me; Oh, how He loves you and me.”

To return that great love He has for us, we should hopelessly fall in love with Him. We're so in love with Him that our

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goals are lost in His goals, our will is lost in His will, and our kingdom is lost in His kingdom.

This love relationship in the Bible is described as the bride and groom relationship. The heavenly bridegroom is wooing His bride, wanting to destroy all the other lovers in her life. He wants to destroy everything that we love more than we love Him.

What do we love? What are the loves in our life? What are the priorities in our life -- how do we spend our time and resources that He has loaned to us? God is a jealous groom -- a jealous lover of our soul.

Zech. 8:2

Thus saith the lord of hosts; I was jealous for Zion with great jealousy, and I was jealous for her with great fury.

He demands to be first, because He will not tolerate idolatry and fornication, the two sins for which He destroyed Israel in the Old Testament. When He is not first in our life -- we have an idol in our life. And when He is not first in our life, we have another lover in our life.

Our love for God is shown by our dedication to Him through worship and service. Many Christians willingly take up their cross and follow Him, but they must also be willing to be crucified with Christ. This basic New Testament principle means death of the carnal man (death to self) so the spiritual man can experience resurrection power to more effectively do God's will and work.

God's first and greatest commandment is to love Him with all of our heart, soul, mind and strength.

- **“All” puts Him in the very center of our lives -- our relationships, our plans, and our daily activities.**

**When you love Jesus Christ
with all your heart, soul and
mind – true love, agape love:**

You love to talk about Him.

You love to talk to Him.

You love to hear about Him.

You love to go to His house.

You love to think about Him.

You love to read about Him.

You love to walk with Him.

You love to work for Him.

You love His lost children
-- even those treating you wrong.

- **Love is the oil that greases the wheels of obedience.**
Obedience is not only saying “no” to satan and the world, but it is also saying “yes” to God and His will for your life. Agape love for God enables us and energizes us to pursue and fulfill all of God’s will. Without love we will struggle with obedience to His will. To love is to live -- if we love Christ, we live Christ.

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When your ardent, agape love for Christ cools:

The Bible is neglected.

Prayer becomes a form – praying survival prayers (for self) Vs. revival prayers (for the lost).

Church services are neglected or become mechanical.

Witnessing and soul winning ceases.

Other priorities and activities replace Him as number one in your life.

- **The first and greatest commandment recorded under the Law dealt with love for God.**

Deut. 6:5

And thou shalt love the LORD thy God with all thine heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy might.

- **Jesus repeated, emphasized and reaffirmed the importance of this first and greatest commandment in the gospels of Matthew, Mark and Luke.**

Luke 10:25-28; Matt. 22:35-40; Mark 12:28-31

25 And, behold, a certain lawyer stood up, and tempted him, saying, Master, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?

26 He said unto him, What is written in the law? how readest thou?

27 And he answering said, Thou shalt **love the Lord thy God** with **all** thy heart, and with **all** thy soul, and with all thy strength, and with **all** thy mind; and **thy neighbour as thyself**.

28 And he said unto him, Thou hast answered right: **this do, and thou shalt live.**

- **The Ten Commandments under the Law, are summarized by Jesus in just two commandments -- love God and love your neighbor:**

Matt. 22:36-40

36 Sir, which is the most important command in the laws of Moses? 37 Jesus replied, Love the Lord your God with all your heart, soul, and mind. 38 This is the first and greatest commandment. The second most important is similar: Love your neighbor as much as you love yourself. 40 All the other commandments and all the demands of the prophets stem from these two laws and are fulfilled if you obey them. **Keep only these and you will find that you are obeying all the others.** TLB

- **After the birth of the New Testament Church on the day of Pentecost, Apostle Paul summarizes the Ten Commandments into just one commandment:**

Gal. 5:14

14 For all the law is fulfilled in one word, even in this; Thou shalt **love thy neighbour as thyself**.

14 For the whole Law can be summed up in **this one command: "Love others as you love yourself."**

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- **In the last book of the Bible, God's commandment to love Him first and foremost is once again repeated. And the message was, "Repent, because you don't love Me as you should".**

Rev. 2:1-5

1 Unto the angel of the church of Ephesus write; These things saith he that holdeth the seven stars in his right hand, who walketh in the midst of the seven golden candlesticks;

2 I know thy works, and thy labour, and thy patience, and how thou canst not bear them which are evil: and thou hast tried them which say they are apostles, and are not, and hast found them liars:

3 And hast borne, and hast patience, and for my name's sake hast laboured, and hast not fainted.

4 Nevertheless I have somewhat against thee, because thou hast left thy first love.

5 Remember therefore from whence thou art fallen, and repent, and do the first works; or else I will come unto thee quickly, and will remove thy candlestick out of his place, except thou repent.

- **In Jesus' description of the final test at the Judgment, He says that our love for Him is shown by our relationship and love for our neighbor or brother by ministering to their needs.**

Matt. 25:40

And the King will tell them, 'I assure you, when you did it to one of the least of these my brothers and sisters, you were doing it to me!'

Relationship with Your Brother or Neighbor

To demonstrate our love for God, there is one step beyond just loving Him, and that is our love and ministry to our brother in need. Refer to Chart G-27 in Appendix 1, “Loving God is Loving People”.

- **Who is our brother? It is everyone on planet earth because we all have one father -- one God created us all. And He loves all His children alike (saved and unsaved) – and we must do the same.**

Mal. 2:10

Have we not all one father? hath not one God created us? why do we deal treacherously every man against his brother, by profaning the covenant of our fathers?

Think with me for a moment, put on your father’s hat and look through the eyes of a father. You can do something for me, but if you really want to please me, do something for my children. Let us go one step further. If I lived out of the country and you owed me a great debt of gratitude, you could repay me by doing something for my children. That is how we please our heavenly Father through our dealings with His children -- both saved and unsaved.

Our relationship with our brother or neighbor is so very important. Jesus said our relationship with our brother or our neighbor must be right in order for our relationship with Him to be right. Those around us can know that our relationship with God is right when they see that our relationship with our brother is right. Our dealings with our brother is a good self-exam to assure that our relationship with God is right.

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A very important principle that is repeated many times in God's Word is: "If your relationship with your brother is not right, your relationship with God is not right". He said, "*By this shall all men know you are my disciples, because you have love one to another*".

You can't nail yourself to the cross, but another brother can. Sometimes that is how you will be tested to determine what is in your heart.

- **If your relationship with your brother is not right, your relationship with God is not right.**

James 2:8-9

*8 If ye fulfil the **royal law** according to the Scripture, Thou shalt **love thy neighbour as thyself**, ye do well:*

9 But if ye have respect to persons, ye commit sin, and are convinced of the law as transgressors.

Loving our neighbor as ourselves -- if we obey this one commandment, all other principles will also be followed. This is the royal treatment when we treat everyone as well as we treat ourselves. Without God's love flowing through us it is impossible to love others as much as we love ourselves.

There is no subject that is dealt with more in Holy Writ than the love of God which is exhibited by:

- Loving one another.
- Loving our neighbor (anyone in need).
- Loving our brother (everyone in this world is our brother, since God is Father of all creation).
- Loving our enemies and those who spitefully hurt us.

Our heavenly Father loves our enemies, and He tells us to do the same.

Matt. 5:44-45

*44 But I say unto you, **Love your enemies**, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you;*

*45 **That ye may be the children of your Father** which is in heaven: for he maketh his sun to rise on the evil and on the good, and sendeth rain on the just and on the unjust*

If I have already forgiven people before they treat me unfairly, I can't be offended. That is a wonderful, peaceful way to live. Apostle Paul taught this and exemplified this in his life -- no offense toward God or man.

Acts 24:16

*And herein do I exercise myself, to have always a conscience **void of offence toward God, and toward men.***

-- From "Barnes' Notes"

Acts 24:16

[And herein] In this, or for this purpose.

[Do I exercise myself] I accustom or employ myself; I make it my constant aim. Paul often appeals to his conscientiousness as the leading habit of his life. Even before his conversion he endeavored to act according to the dictates of conscience.

[To have always a conscience ...] To do what is right, so that my conscience shall never reproach me.

[Void of offence] That which is inoffensive, or which does not cause one to stumble or fall. He means that he endeavored to keep his conscience so enlightened and

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pure in regard to duty, and that he acted according to its dictates in such a way that his conduct should not be displeasing to God or injurious to man. To have such a conscience implies two things:

(1) That it be enlightened or properly informed in regard to truth and duty; and,

(2) That what is made known to be right should be honestly and faithfully performed. Without these two things no man can have a conscience that will be inoffensive and harmless.

[Toward God] In an honest endeavor to discharge the duties of public and private worship, and to do constantly what he requires believing all that he has spoken; doing all that he requires; and offering to him the service which he approves.

[Toward men] In endeavoring to meet all the demands of justice and mercy; to advance their knowledge, happiness, and salvation; living so that I may look back on my life with the reflection that I have done all that I ought to have done, and all that I could do to promote the welfare of the whole human family. What a noble principle of conduct was this! How elevated and how pure!

The great and noble aim of Paul was to be pure; and no slander of his enemies, no trials, persecutions, perils, or pains of dying could take away the approving voice of conscience. Alike in his travels and in his persecutions; among friends and foes; when preaching in the synagogue, the city, or the desert; or when defending himself before governors and kings, he had this testimony of a self-approving mind. Happy they who

thus frame their lives. And happy will be the end of a life where this has been the grand object of the journey through this world.³

The person who is offended by others reveals that death to self has not been finished. One of the signs of the endtime is, ***“many shall be offended”***. If we let things that happen in the church drive us out of the church, we will never make it to heaven. God may be testing our spirit to reveal a dormant spirit of offense in our life.

- **We can’t be offended unless there is a spirit of offense in our life.**

Only His refiner’s fire will reveal the impurities in the gold. And when that happens we should thank God for loving us enough to reveal the impurities in our life.

When He is Lord -- You Are Not Your Own -- You Have Relinquished Your Rights

If we live in agreement with the Scripture ***“Ye are not your own”***, then we demand no rights – because we have no rights. This is a difficult subject – a hard saying. And I include it here because the understanding and acceptance of this foundational principle of God’s Word will bring **unity** and peace to the church, and the born-again believer and it will prevent many from falling into satan’s trap of offense. The misunderstanding of this principle and failure to apply it in our lives will hinder our relationship with God and man.

Lest someone misunderstand what is being said here, this is not inferring that we may not seek for “justice” in a regular and proper way before civil tribunals when our rights have been violated (assault, robbery, etc.). Refer to the first

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paragraph of Barnes Notes regarding Romans 12:19, reference (3) in this chapter. This is referring to relationship with your brother or neighbor (saved or unsaved), and especially those of the household of faith.

Gal. 6:10

10 As we have therefore opportunity, let us do good unto all men, especially unto them who are of the household of faith.

10 Whenever we have the opportunity, we should do good to everyone, especially to our Christian brothers and sisters.

NLT

If He truly has purchased us and we are His, we can't demand our rights, because we have no rights. He is our owner / agent and when He purchased us, He purchased our rights under His blood covenant (contract).

- **As a servant of God, when we relinquish our rights to Him, we relinquish our right to be treated right.**

1 Cor. 6:19-20

*19 What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and **ye are not your own?***

*20 **For ye are bought with a price:** therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's.*

Acts 20:28

... the church of God, which he hath purchased with his own blood.

2 Cor. 5:15

He died for everyone so that those who receive his new life

*will no **longer live to please themselves**. Instead, they will live to please Christ, who died and was raised for them. NLT*

Eph. 1:7

*In whom we have **redemption** through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of his grace;*

Redemption - apolutroosis, apolutrooseoos

a. to redeem one by paying the price

b. to let one go free on receiving the price: a releasing effected by payment of ransom; redemption, deliverance, liberation procured by the payment of a ransom;⁴

We are not our own, we belong to Him. He purchased us with His own blood. When we entered the blood covenant of redemption with Jesus Christ we relinquished our rights and no longer exercise our rights as a servant of Jesus. Therefore, we can never demand our rights – including the right to be treated right. When we demand to be treated in any way, we demand our rights. As a born-again child of God -- a son of God:

- We must esteem every man better than ourselves (even our enemies).
- We must exhibit an humble attitude in all lowliness and humility.

Phil. 2:3

*3 Let nothing be done through strife or vainglory; but in lowliness of mind let each **esteem other better than themselves**.*

*3 . . . be humble, thinking of others as better than yourself.
TLB*

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Phil. 2:5-8

*5 Your attitude should be the same that Christ Jesus had. 6 Though he was God, **he did not demand and cling to his rights as God.** 7 He made himself nothing; he took the **humble position of a slave** and appeared in human form. 8 And in human form he obediently **humbled himself** even further by dying a criminal's death on a cross. NLT*

- **Pure humility demands no rights. When pride is replaced completely with humility we have given up our rights to be treated fairly and right.**

James 4:6-7

*6 God resisteth the proud, but giveth **grace unto the humble.** 7 Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.*

1 Peter 5:5-6

*5 Likewise, ye younger, submit yourselves unto the elder. Yea, all of you **be subject one to another, and be clothed with humility:** for God resisteth the proud, and giveth **grace to the humble.***

*6 **Humble yourselves** therefore under the mighty hand of God, that he may exalt you in due time:*

- **When we are treated fairly, that is a blessing that we can thank God for. And when we are not treated fairly, we must leave it in God's hand, then love and pray for those who despitefully use us.**
- **Only when we relinquish our rights to Him will we experience the true peace of God.**

Prov. 16:7

*When a man's ways please the Lord, He maketh even His enemies to be at **peace** with him.*

Psalms 119:165

Great peace have they that love thy law and nothing shall offend them.

- **When we are secure in our relationship with God, we trust Him by relinquishing our rights and allowing Him, and Him alone, to become our defender and defense attorney -- leaving the matter in His hands.**

Deut. 32:35

35 To me belongeth vengeance, and recompence

35 I will take vengeance; I will repay those who deserve it.
NLT

Rom. 12:19-21

19 Dear friends, never avenge yourselves. Leave that to God, for he has said that he will repay those who deserve it. [Don't take the law into your own hands.] 20 Instead, feed your enemy if he is hungry. If he is thirsty give him something to drink and you will be "heaping coals of fire on his head." In other words, he will feel ashamed of himself for what he has done to you. 21 Don't let evil get the upper hand, but conquer evil by doing good. TLB

Rom. 12:19

Dearly beloved, avenge not yourselves, but rather give place unto wrath: for it is written, Vengeance is mine; I will repay, saith the Lord.

-- From “Barnes’ Notes”

[Avenge not yourselves] To “avenge” is to take satisfaction for an injury by inflicting punishment on the offender. To take such satisfaction for injuries done to society, is lawful and proper for a magistrate; Rom. 13:4. And to take satisfaction for injuries done by sin to the universe, is the province of God. But the apostle here is addressing private individual Christians. And the command is, to avoid a spirit and purpose of revenge. But this command is not to be so understood that we may not seek for “justice” in a regular and proper way before civil tribunals. If our character is assaulted, if we are robbed and plundered, if we are oppressed contrary to the law of the land, religion does not require us to submit to such oppression and injury without seeking our rights in an orderly and regular manner. If it did, it would be to give a premium to iniquity, to countenance wickedness, and require a man, by becoming a Christian, to abandon his rights.

[But rather give place unto wrath] This expression has been interpreted in a great variety of ways. Its obvious design is to induce us not to attempt to avenge ourselves, but to leave it with God. To “give place,” then, is to leave it for God to come in and execute wrath or vengeance on the enemy. Do not execute wrath; leave it to God; commit all to him; leave yourself and your enemy in his hands, assured that he will vindicate you and punish him.

[Vengeance is mine] That is, it belongs to me to inflict revenge. This expression implies that it is “improper” for people to interfere with that which properly belongs to God. When we are angry, and attempt to avenge

ourselves, we should remember, therefore, that we are infringing on the prerogatives of the Almighty.

[I will repay ...] This is said in substance, though not in so many words, in Deut. 32:35-36. Its design is to assure us that those who deserve to be punished, shall be; and that, therefore, the business of revenge may be safely left in the bands of God. Though “we” should not do it, yet if it ought to be done, it will be done. This assurance will sustain us, not in the “desire” that our enemy shall be punished, but in the belief that “God” will take the matter into his own hands; that he can administer it better than we can; and that if our enemy “ought” to be punished, he will be. “We,” therefore, should leave it all with God. That God will vindicate his people, is clearly and abundantly proved in 2 Thess. 1:6-10; Rev. 6:9-11; Deut. 32:40-43.³

We often spend too much time and energy determining who is right and who is wrong. In our kingdom there are two sides to a conflict or misunderstanding. In His kingdom there is only one side -- the **humble side**. We must choose the humble side or He will humble us. Oh God, teach us humility like You displayed in coming to earth and while living here on earth. Carnal thinking and carnal actions lead to being defensive, vengeful, and destroying others’ influence or character.

The heavenly Father wants us to be reconciled. I believe He urges the one closest to Him to initiate reconciliation. And that will usually be the one who is in the right. Looking through the eyes of the father / child relationship, that is what I would expect of my grown children if they were in a

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conflict. By example that is what Jesus did to reconcile us to God.

2 Cor. 5:19

To wit, that God was in Christ, reconciling the world unto himself, not imputing their trespasses unto them; and hath committed unto us the word of reconciliation.

Old Testament and New Testament Scriptures repeat the message from our heavenly Father, “Your love and relationship with God is measured by your love and your relationship with your brother, even your enemy”. **Don’t jeopardize your eternal life in the next life with a relationship with a brother that is not right in this life.**

Then the next step beyond a good relationship with our brother is ministering to our brother’s needs.

Ministering to Your Brother or Neighbor

Jesus said, *“If you see a brother in need and shut up your bowels of compassion how dwelleth the love of God in you?”* The word *love* means to seek the highest good of another even though it costs inconvenience. And there will be some inconvenience in ministering to the needs of others.

A lawyer asked Jesus, *“Who is my neighbor”?* Jesus gave the parable of the Good Samaritan. He said our neighbor is anyone wounded and hurting and has fallen on life’s road -- anyone in need.

Two religious men came and looked on him, then passed by on the other side. But the Good Samaritan stopped and came to where he was and ministered to his need. Then Jesus said,

“Go thou and do likewise”.

- Let's not be guilty of passing up someone that is wounded and in need on life's road.
- Let's go to where they are and minister to their needs.

Jesus addressed such ministry in His teaching about the final test at the Judgment in *Matthew 25:32-46* *“I was hungry and you gave Me meat, I was thirsty and you gave Me drink, I was a stranger and you took Me in, I was naked and you clothed Me, I was sick and you visited Me, I was in prison and you came unto Me. Then shall the righteous say Lord when did we see You in need?”*

Jesus answered, *“Inasmuch as you did it to the least of these you did it to Me, come ye blessed of my Father enter into the Kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world.”*

Then He turned to those on the left, and repeated the same list of needs. He said: *“Inasmuch as you did it not to the least of these, you did it not to Me, depart from Me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels.”*

He made the point that we can love Him only by loving and ministering to our neighbor. It is good to worship, rejoice and feel His awesome presence. That is needed and that is a great and wonderful experience. But one of the greatest blessings is when we get between a needy soul and Calvary's love allowing God to flow to them through us. It leaves us feeling cleansed, blessed, joyful, and fulfilled. There is no other feeling like it. And there is another benefit -- ministering to the needs of others will also provide healing for many of our own problems. It meets their needs. It meets our needs. And it meets our heavenly Father's needs.

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A Flowing Well

The Scripture says, *“It will be in you a well of living water springing up into everlasting life”*. It is like a well that is flowing, but it has to flow somewhere. How will the Spirit be in us a flowing well of living water unless we channel it somewhere? It must flow through us to someone in need. If we keep it to ourselves, we will fill up and become stagnant. We must choose between being a container holding a limited supply, or being a pipeline with an unlimited flow..

A Bridge of Love

Love is the bridge over which truth is transported. The love of God flows through relationships. We must first establish relationships with people. They don't care how much we know until they know how much we care. Jesus ministered first to people's physical needs to establish a relationship with them. We must follow His example in ministering to people's physical needs as well as their spiritual needs. The bridge between God's love and the desperate needs of the lost world is love and compassion.

His dying at Calvary was enough for the whole world. But more people are needed that will channel His love and compassion to the world. Who will carry the burden of the Lord and weep over the lost like He wept in the days of His flesh? Who will sigh and cry for the abominations of our city, our country, and our world? Who will weep over lost souls and the needs of desperate people? Some of us have been saved so long that we have forgotten the desperation of being lost. Where would we be today, if someone hadn't ministered to us?

The year was 1946 and my parents were struggling with a critical decision to leave a church that did not embrace the apostolic doctrine. They were deeply involved in that church. Although I was only four years old, I can still picture those precious saints who drove out to the country to visit, befriend, and minister to my parents. I remember their names and the old Packard and Chrysler DeSoto cars they drove. I can still feel the great difference they made in our lives. How do I repay them for their sacrifice of love? They are all deceased, so the only way to repay them is to minister to someone else, as they did for me and my family.

Everyone is a **minister** even if we are not all preachers. To accomplish our task **everyone must get involved in ministry** because there is a big shortage of laborers in His vineyard.

Matt. 20:26-27

*26 But it shall not be so among you: but whosoever will be great among you, let him be your **minister**;*

27 And whosoever will be chief among you, let him be your servant.

NT:1249 **Minister**

diakonos (dee-ak'-on-os); (to run on errands; compare NT:1377); an attendant, i.e. (genitive case) a waiter (at table or in other menial duties); servant⁵

Solomon and Daniel illustrate our heavenly Father's desire and approval for ministering to the needs of others.

Prov. 11:30

*The fruit of the righteous is a tree of life; and **he that winneth souls is wise.***

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Dan. 12:3

And they that be wise shall shine as the brightness of the firmament; and they that turn many to righteousness as the stars for ever and ever.

Those Crying Beneath the Steeple

Two kinds of people comprise the church. If we drew a line down the center of the church there would be those on one side with needs, crying on the inside, and those on the other side in victory. Those in victory should minister to those hurting and crying. The cycles and seasons of life deal all of us similar hurts and trials. Everyone, at some time or another needs our brother's compassion and ministry.

These are the ones who are crying beneath our steeple, within the church. We need to find them all and minister to them. The pastor cannot accomplish this alone. The job will get done when everyone becomes involved. A sobering thought, indeed, is to know without our participation some people will never be touched. **When the in-reach of the church is effective, the outreach of the church will be more effective.**

Those Crying in the Shadow of the Steeple

There is a song about people crying in the shadow of the steeple within the reach of the church. How long is the shadow of the church? How far does our outreach extend and affect people? That depends on how many are involved in the care ministry of the church. As one more person gets involved, the outreach is extended a little further.

What can we do?

- Visitor Follow-up
- New Convert's Care System
- Mentoring
- Rest Home Ministry
- Home Bible Studies
- Prison Ministry
- Hospital Ministry
- Homeless and Poor
- Backsliders
- Elderly and Shut-ins
- ... The list is endless

We must involve ourselves in ministering to the lost, the sick, and the hurting. Doing this is how we show our love to God.

Our Home

The head of each household should be the priest in your own home. Ministry in your home should be your first priority. Pray with your family. Talk about the messages preached the prior week. On their level of understanding, discuss the meaning of the sermons with your children and teach them how it applies to their lives. What have we accomplished in this life if anyone in our family is lost?

Even when your children become adults, continue to be the spiritual leader and example to them and their children. Our responsibility is to ensure that righteousness and truth is passed to the next generation. We can be a steppingstone or a stumbling block to our children and future generations. Whether we accept it or not, we are cabled to our family.

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Like a mountain climbing team, we are the lead man. If we are careless and fall, it will affect all of them. They are depending on us. We must be the careful, spiritual leader in our home. There is nothing more rewarding and fulfilling than to see our children following in our footsteps as we follow Christ.

We need good strong spiritual leaders in the home. When there are strong leaders in the home, there will be strong leaders in the church. Revival should start in the home and spread to the church.

- **When we have real revival in all of our homes, we will have an explosion of God's power and revival in the church!**

2.5 Trust - Trusting God

The theme and concept of trusting God is repeatedly demonstrated in God's Word. It is one of the foundational principles of our relationship with God.

Psalms 118:8

It is better to trust in the LORD than to put confidence in man.

Psalms 125:1

They that trust in the LORD shall be as mount Zion, which cannot be removed, but abideth forever.

Prov. 3:5-6

5 Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding.

6 In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths.

The biggest conflict in my approach to life and God's approach to my life is -- my way vs. God's way:

My Way	God's Way
I want to plan my life out into the future (my whole life if possible).	God wants me to live one day at a time and depend on Him and trust in Him for tomorrow.
I want to be in control and build on my strengths and feel self-confident.	God wants to be in control, He wants me to depend on His strength, and have my confidence and trust in Him.

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Apostle Paul's experiences taught this concept well, "*For when I am weak, then I am strong*". Trials remove us from control and cause us to live and trust Him one day at a time -- they make earth seem less desirable and the things of God more desirable. Trial enhances our awareness of our need for Him. God uses trouble to sharpen our communication to Him in prayer and our trust in Him.

The paradox of suffering is that when I am weak (in the flesh), then I am strong (in the Spirit). When we walk through the valley:

- The natural man may be hurting, discouraged, confused.
- But the spiritual man is strengthened, drawing closer to God in relationship, revelation, and restoration. "*In the valley He restoreth my soul.*"

When the natural man is experiencing setbacks:

- The spiritual man is experiencing advances.
- The spiritual man is experiencing a testimony of God's grace and keeping power, because we can't have a testimony without a "test".

Hab. 3:17-19 Rejoicing in God, even in trouble and trial.

17 Although the fig tree shall not blossom, neither shall fruit be in the vines; the labour of the olive shall fail, and the fields shall yield no meat; the flock shall be cut off from the fold, and there shall be no herd in the stalls:

18 Yet I will rejoice in the LORD, I will joy in the God of my salvation.

19 The LORD God is my strength, and he will make my feet like hinds' feet, and he will make me to walk upon mine high places.

God's Timing vs. Our Timing

There are times in life when it seems life is falling apart around us. Although we are living right and praying for direction and answers, it seems that God is doing nothing to remedy our situation. This is the most difficult time to trust God -- waiting on God's time. It is the time between the prayer and the answer, the time between the promise and the fulfillment.

This waiting period may be a testing time to test our trust in God. It may be a fiery trial for a period of time that must run its course to burn things out of our life and to strengthen the steel in our character to support what God's wants to do through our lives.

Job in his suffering of terrible loss and sickness had this incredible revelation while he waited for relief, with no answers in sight.

Job 23:10

*But he knoweth the way that I take: **when he hath tried me, I shall come forth as gold.***

Joseph in his suffering of many years between the dream and the fulfillment, trusted God as the refiners fire purified him and strengthened the steel in his character -- preparing him for God's promotion in God's time to rule the world.

Gen. 50:20

*But as for you, ye thought evil against me; but **God meant it unto good**, to bring to pass, as it is this day, to save much people alive.*

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When Moses was trapped in a difficult place between the pursuing armies of Egypt and the impassable Red Sea, he had assured the nation of Israel with His trust in God -- “just stand still, wait on God to work”.

Ex. 14:13

*And Moses said unto the people, **Fear ye not, stand still, and see the salvation of the LORD**, which he will shew to you today: for the Egyptians whom ye have seen today, ye shall see them again no more forever.*

Trusting God - Waiting on God

God's time clock is different than our time clock. When the answer doesn't come in our time frame, we are prone to run ahead of God and put our hands on the controls and work it out our way vs. trusting God. But in these trying times, God simply instructs us to wait -- to trust Him.

Isa. 40:30, 31

30 Even the youths shall faint and be weary, and the young men shall utterly fall:

*31 But they that **wait upon the LORD** shall **renew their strength**; they shall mount up with **wings as eagles**; they shall run, and **not be weary**; and they shall walk, and **not faint**.*

Psalms 27:14

***Wait on the LORD**: be of good courage, and he shall strengthen thine heart: wait, I say, on the LORD.*

Psalms 37:34

***Wait on the LORD**, and keep his way, and **he shall exalt thee to inherit the land**:*

Psalms 40:1-4

***I waited patiently** for the LORD; and he inclined unto me, and*

heard my cry.

2 He brought me up also out of an horrible pit, out of the miry clay, and set my feet upon a rock, and established my goings.

3 And he hath put a new song in my mouth, even praise unto our God: many shall see it, and fear, and shall trust in the LORD.

4 Blessed is that man that maketh the LORD his trust.

Prov. 20:22

Wait on the LORD, and he shall save thee.

Lam. 3:25-26

*25 The LORD is **good unto them that wait for him**, to the soul that seeketh him.*

*26 It is good that a man should both hope and **quietly wait for the salvation of the LORD.***

- **God is worth waiting for and the waiting period will teach us patience and teach us to trust Him.**

James 1:2-4

2 My brethren, count it all joy when ye fall into divers temptations;

*3 Knowing this, that the **trying of your faith worketh patience.***

4 But let patience have her perfect work, that ye may be perfect and entire, wanting nothing.

2 Consider it a sheer gift, friends, when tests and challenges come at you from all sides. 3 You know that under pressure, your faith-life is forced into the open and shows its true colors. 4 So don't try to get out of anything prematurely. Let it do its work so you become mature and well-developed, not deficient in any way. MSG

God is in Control -- We can Trust Him

In Isaiah chapter 40 God testifies of His own greatness and power and that He alone created the universe -- He alone is in control.

Isa. 40:12-14, 21, 22, 25-29

12 Who hath measured the waters in the hollow of his hand, and meted out heaven with the span, and comprehended the dust of the earth in a measure, and weighed the mountains in scales, and the hills in a balance?

13 Who hath directed the Spirit of the LORD, or being his counsellor hath taught him?

14 With whom took he counsel, and who instructed him, and taught him in the path of judgment, and taught him knowledge, and shewed to him the way of understanding?

21 Have ye not known? have ye not heard? hath it not been told you from the beginning? have ye not understood from the foundations of the earth?

22 It is he that sitteth upon the circle of the earth, and the inhabitants thereof are as grasshoppers; that stretcheth out the heavens as a curtain, and spreadeth them out as a tent to dwell in:

25 To whom then will ye liken me, or shall I be equal? saith the Holy One.

26 Lift up your eyes on high, and behold who hath created these things, that bringeth out their host by number: he calleth them all by names by the greatness of his might, for that he is strong in power; not one faileth.

*28 Hast thou not known? hast thou not heard, that **the everlasting God, the LORD, the Creator of the ends of the earth, fainteth not, neither is weary? there is no searching of his understanding.***

*29 He giveth **power to the faint** and to them that have no might **he increaseth strength**.*

Trials are under His control and cannot enter our lives except with His divine permission. God sits on the circle of the earth, He is in control. *Isa. 40:22 "It is he that sitteth upon the circle of the earth"*. He knows what is best for us -- His children, His bride, and His friends. He will do the right thing for us, because He is working for **our good in time**, but more importantly He is working out **our glory in eternity**. Our trials work for us as we cooperate with God in prayer, because prayer in time of trouble aligns our spirit into subjection to the will of God.

God is sovereign, He has all wisdom. His thoughts are above our thoughts. We can trust Him, even when we don't understand. The true peace of God only comes with childlike trust in God. God makes no mistakes -- He never has, He never will. He is working on our eternal life to bring us to glory.

Everyone wants to go to heaven, but no one wants to suffer through trials. But we must learn to embrace the cross because it is the bridge to eternal life.

2 Tim. 2:12

If we suffer, we shall also reign with him: if we deny him, he also will deny us.

Rev. 7:13-14

13 . . . Who are these that art arrayed in white robes?

14 . . . These are those that have come out of great tribulation and washed their robes.

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These are those who endured the purification process of fiery trial and learned to trust God through it. Paul wrote: *“We must, through much tribulation, enter into the kingdom of God”*.

Trust - Not My Will

Trust is the highest level of faith. Trusting God is more difficult than just believing that He can do it. Trust goes beyond believing. Trust says, “Lord, I really want this miracle and I believe You for it. However, I want You more; I want Your will more. I relinquish my will -- Thy will be done. You know what is best for me. Whether You deliver me or not, I will still trust and serve You.” Trust and submission of our will removes the fear from receiving our miracle. It places the outcome in His hands (where it really is anyway).

In the garden of Gethsemane, the night before His crucifixion, Jesus set an example for us of relinquishing His will, which is the result of trust.

Matt. 26:39

And he went a little further, and fell on his face, and prayed, saying, O my Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me: nevertheless not as I will, but as thou wilt.

Trusting the Rock of Ages

When I think about trust, I visualize security and stability. God is called “**The Rock**” or “**Rock of Ages**” many times in Scripture. When everything else is shaking, that Rock is secure, it will hold. Insurance companies use a rock as their symbol to identify with something that is stable and secure.

I want to carve a place into that Rock on my knees in prayer. I want to dig my soul's anchor so deep into the Rock, that I can't be shaken loose by the storm. We can put our trust in the **Rock of Ages**. It will be secure when everything else is shaking. He is our **Rock** -- our fortress, our refuge, our deliverer.

2 Sam 22:2, 3

*2 And he said, The **LORD is my rock**, and my fortress, and my deliverer;*

3 The God of my rock; in him will I trust: he is my shield, and the horn of my salvation, my high tower, and my refuge, my saviour; thou savest me from violence.

2 Sam. 22:32

*For who is God, save the LORD? and **who is a rock**, save our God?*

2 Sam. 22:47

*The LORD liveth; and blessed be my rock; and exalted be the God of the **rock of my salvation**.*

Psalms 18:2

***The LORD is my rock**, and my fortress, and my deliverer; my God, my strength, in whom I will trust; my buckler, and the horn of my salvation, and my high tower.*

Psalms 27:5

*For in the time of trouble he shall hide me in his pavilion: in the secret of his tabernacle shall he hide me; he shall **set me up upon a rock**.*

Psalms 61:2

*From the end of the earth will I cry unto thee, **when my heart is overwhelmed: lead me to the rock that is higher than I**.*

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Psalms 62:2

He only is my rock and my salvation; he is my defence; I shall not be greatly moved.

Psalms 71:3

Be thou my strong habitation, whereunto I may continually resort: thou hast given commandment to save me; **for thou art my rock and my fortress.**

E.M. Bounds said “We must by all means and fastenings we can find, cable ourselves to the Rock of Ages through prayer. To be loose in time and place is to open the door to satan.”

The small sea creature in the ocean is buffeted around with the wind and waves. But when it clings to the rock, it receives the rock’s strength and is no longer controlled by the wind and waves. When we cling to the Rock of Ages and anchor ourselves to Him, we take on the strength and attributes of the Rock.

The Rock of Ages can be trusted. It is something powerful that we need to better understand. It has to do with what God brings into the relationship.

- **We, as a part of the human race, have so many limitations, but our eternal God has none.**

Foundational Relationship Elements

MAN	GOD
We are weak	He is strong – all powerful (omnipotent)
We are small	He is big
We are one small grain of sand on the shores of time	He covers the entire universe and beyond - everywhere (omnipresent)
We are insecure and unstable	He is secure and unmovable
We can do nothing	He can do anything
Our life is but a vapor and so temporal	He is eternal and everlasting
Our knowledge and wisdom is so inadequate	He has all knowledge, wisdom and understanding (omniscient)
We are unworthy	He is worthy
We are unholy	He is holy
We are nothing	He is everything

God brings so much more into the relationship than we do, thereby we, the weaker party benefit greatly. He brings all the resources into the relationship (99.999999999), and we only bring our will and availability (.0000000001). This is why God demands 100% from us and to be first in our life. We benefit so much from a close relationship with the Rock of Ages.

2.6 Trust - God Trusting Us

This is a subject that is seldom addressed or discussed: “**Can God Trust You**”?

Can He Trust You? Can He Trust Me? Can He Trust Us?

If all of our burdens and difficulties were removed and we had no fear or negative influences; if our jobs were perfect with a seven digit income or better yet, if we didn't have to work; if we were happy, peaceful and joyful all of the time, would we live for God just as consistently as when difficulties and struggles drive us to our knees?

If God promoted us in His kingdom with a special ministry to others -- gifts of the Spirit, healing, etc., -- would we remain humble like Joseph when he was promoted from the dungeon to the palace in Egypt?

Can God trust us -- can He trust us with great blessings? Our trustworthiness is tested most in times of peace vs. trial -- in times of peace, when everything is going good in our lives rather than times of trial, when we have no option and are forced to seek Him.

Can God trust us with miracles, or would we take some of the credit? If we were used by God in a number of notable miracles of healing, would we make sure someone knew who prayed the prayer of faith? Or would we follow the example of Jesus and say, “Don't tell anyone about this, give God the Glory”?

Matt. 9:30

*And their eyes were opened; and Jesus straitly charged them, saying, **See that no man know it.***

Matt. 12:16

And charged them that they should not make him known:

Mark 1:44

*And saith unto him, **See thou say nothing to any man:** but go thy way, shew thyself to the priest, and offer for thy cleansing those things which Moses commanded, for a testimony unto them.*

Mark 3:12

*And he straitly charged them that they **should not make him known.***

Mark 5:43

*And he **charged them straitly that no man should know it;** and commanded that something should be given her to eat.*

Mark 7:36

*And he charged them that they **should tell no man:** but the more he charged them, so much the more a great deal they published it;*

Luke 5:14

*And **he charged him to tell no man:** but go, and shew thyself to the priest, and offer for thy cleansing, according as Moses commanded, for a testimony unto them.*

Luke 8:56

*And her parents were astonished: but **he charged them that they should tell no man what was done.***

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If Jesus is our example, we must follow His lead. What would Jesus do (**WWJD**) is still the best and most successful guideline. When giving a good report or testimony, we must ensure it is not to advertise our success in ministry, and that **all** the glory goes to God. One of the requirements to be used by God is humility, which means giving Him all the glory. We are merely the vessel and cannot take any of the glory.

- Why did God use Gideon (no military talent)?
- Why did God use David (inexperienced warrior)?
- Why did God use the boy with the loaves and fishes to feed the 5,000?

Because He could trust them!

Can we afford to be blessed by God? Can God trust us? When we can say, “yes” to this, we are progressing toward a complete relationship with God.

3. New Levels of Relationship and Revelation

There is always another level and another depth of relationship to reach for in our walk with God. This subject will be dealt with in more detail in Volume III:

Spiritual Growth - Passion for God

- Dominion Over Sin and Self

There is always more revelation for a greater understanding of God, His will and His ways. John, the disciple closest to Jesus in relationship, received the greatest revelation of Jesus. Banished to the Isle of Patmos, he penned the concluding book of the Scriptures known as “The Revelation of Jesus Christ”.

So what does God require of us to receive a greater revelation of Himself? Part of the answer to this question lies in the story of Joseph. Joseph in the Old Testament is a type of Jesus Christ in the New Testament.

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The following is a brief summary of the many parallels in the comparison of Joseph and Jesus:

Joseph and Jesus Comparison Summary

Each was beloved by his father.

Each was sent to his brethren.

Each was hated by his brethren.

Each was rejected by his brethren.

Each was delivered to death.

Joseph was sold by his brothers for 20 pieces of silver, suggested by Judah, one of the 12 brothers. Jesus was sold by Judas, one of the 12 disciples, for 30 pieces of silver.

Each was falsely accused, condemned and sentenced, although they were innocent and had done no wrong.

Joseph was cast into a dungeon, symbolic of death and the tomb. Jesus was put to death and placed in the tomb.

While in prison Joseph interprets the dreams of two prisoners -- one was restored, one was put to death. While on the cross Jesus spoke to the two thieves hanging on each side -- one was saved, one was lost.

Each brought about a deliverance to the world through their suffering. The purpose of Joseph's suffering was the salvation of the whole world from physical death. The purpose of Christ's suffering was salvation of the whole world from spiritual death.

Both took a Gentile bride. (*Gen. 41:45; Acts 15:14*)

Joseph's forgiveness of the terrible wrongs done to him by his brothers is a type of Christ's forgiveness of us.

Joseph tested his brothers. He yearned to reveal himself to them, but he would not until he saw that they had changed.

He tested them severely to see that they:

- Cared for each other.
- Cared for their father.
- Cared to know who he was.

When he saw that they had changed, he could not refrain himself and he wept as he revealed himself to them.

God yearns to reveal more of Himself to us, but will not until we change -- until He sees that we:

- Care for each other.
- Care for His lost children.
- Desire to know more about Him.

Receiving a greater understanding and revelation of God involves continuous change in our lives. In the relationship that God desires to have with us, this cycle of change should be repeated over and over again in our Christian walk:

- We change, and He reveals Himself to us.
- We change again, and He reveals more of Himself to us.

A greater dimension and depth of relationship with God and revelation of God will come to those who are willing to change and those who have an insatiable desire and hunger for the deeper things of God.

Psalms 107:9

For he satisfieth the longing soul, and filleth the hungry soul with goodness.

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Matt. 5:6

Blessed are they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness: for they shall be filled.

Spiritual growth will come with a deeper relationship with God, and a greater revelation of God, as we continue to step into the second purpose God has for our lives: **dominion** - doing His will and work on earth. Refer to Charts C-5 and C-6 in Appendix 1.

4. Urgency of the Times

A “sense of urgency” is a core value in the business world, and it should also be in the church today. We are living at the beginning of the Third Millennium, at the very end of time. We don’t have time to make mistakes and correct them.

Relationships usually develop over a long period of time. We do not have a lifetime or a few decades to gradually improve our relationship with Him. A change of 5 - 10% a year may have been sufficient in the past, but it is not sufficient in these endtimes.

If there is to be a quick work in the harvest, there must be a quick work in the harvester. In the past, what may have taken a born-again Christian years to attain in spiritual growth, must now be accelerated to meet the demands of the kingdom of God for a great harvest to be reaped with time running out.

The business world has goals of 10x improvement -- (1000%) over a short period of time. They are pursuing an exponential improvement in a short period of time to enable them to

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survive and compete in a changing world. The church must match this, reaching for this same excellence and improvement.

We must have an encounter of the changing kind, a breakthrough change that will be permanent and lasting -- one that will propel our personal relationship with God to a higher level.

As we propel ourselves to a deeper relationship with God, we will automatically have a greater role of dominion in completing the mission of Jesus Christ of reaching a desperate, sick, and hurting lost world.

As we accelerate our relationship with God -- our **prayer**, our **love** to Him, and our **trust** in Him; we will step further into our dominion role of fulfilling the Father's business. A hopelessly lost and hurting generation is awaiting our response to this endtime call and challenge.

I am a son of God

I want to be a good son

I Must Be About My Father's Business !

III. Relationship and Dominion

- ***Man needing God's help (Relationship)***

*I will lift up my eyes to the hills from whence
cometh my help. Psalms 121:1*

- ***God needing man's help (Dominion)***

*Curse ye Meroz, said the angel of the LORD, because
they came not to the help of the LORD. Judges 5:23*

1. Relationship & Dominion Comparison Table

Refer to the following pages for a summary of God's twofold purpose for creating man.

The purpose of the table format is an attempt to show at a summary level, side-by-side comparisons of the **relationship** and **dominion** themes and concepts. This is to emphasize the importance of **dominion**, since in the Christian culture we often lead people to a relationship with God, but fail to help them understand and take the next important step -- exercising dominion in the kingdom of God.

- **These two concepts working together in a believer's life will bring balance, spiritual growth and fulfillment -- God's purpose and will for man.**

RELATIONSHIP AND DOMINION

This table presents a great amount of detailed information in a small space and may require the reader to slow down to a study mode to review its contents.

The subject of dominion will be dealt with in greater detail in Volume II:

Dominion Doing God's Will and Work

Relationship & Dominion Comparison Table

1. RELATIONSHIP His Blessings and Power Flowing To Us !	2. DOMINION His Blessings and Power Flowing Through Us !
<p>The pages of time open at creation with God desiring to have a close relationship with man. He created a beautiful garden for man to enjoy and have all his needs met. God walked and talked with man in a beautiful relationship and fellowship.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - God loving man / Man loving God - God talking to man / Man talking to God - God trusting man / Man trusting God 	<p>God chose in the beginning to do nothing on earth except through man. God created and owned the earth, but He assigned the earth to man to have dominion to rule here and carry out His will and purpose and work.</p> <p><i>Gen. 1:26 And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness: and let them have dominion over all the earth.</i></p>
<p>God's relationship with man was broken because of sin.</p>	<p>Man lost dominion over the earth to satan. Satan became the god of this world. God anointed a few holy men, prophets, kings, and priests, in the Old Testament to lead and carry on His work.</p>
<p>The nation of Israel wanted to enjoy the blessings of relationship with Jehovah God, but they were often unwilling to step into the dominion role of doing God's will and fighting God's battle on earth.</p> <p>It is God's will for His people to be involved in the battle against the enemies of God.</p> <p>In the Old Testament, it was a physical battle with physical enemies. In the New Testament, it is a spiritual battle with spiritual enemies.</p>	<p>God wanted His people to take dominion over His enemies.</p> <p><i>Judg. 5:23 Israel's battle with Sisera.</i> <i>Curse ye Meroz, said the angel of the LORD, curse ye bitterly the inhabitants thereof; because they came not to the help of the LORD, to the help of the Lord against the mighty.</i></p> <p><i>Judg. 5:24 Jael became involved in the battle.</i> <i>Blessed above women shall Jael the wife of Heber the Kenite be, blessed shall she be above women in the tent.</i></p> <p>Those who got involved were blessed! Those who did not get involved were cursed!</p> <p>The nation of Israel were cursed to wander in the wilderness and die because they were not willing to get involved in the purpose and will of God to fight and drive out the enemies of God from the Promised Land -- claiming their promised inheritance.</p>
<p>There must first of all be a private anointing, a private victory over satan, and a personal dominion over self, that comes through our seeking a depth of relationship with God,</p> <p style="text-align: right;">>>>>>></p> <p>Examples in Scripture: Facing a lion is a type of a one-on-one personal victory over satan (hand-to-hand combat).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - David killing the lion - Samson killing a lion - Daniel in the lion's den 	<p>before there can be a public anointing and a public victory to step into the public domain with dominion to do God's will and work (defeating the enemy and bringing deliverance, healing and salvation to the lost).</p> <p>Examples in Scripture:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - David killing the giant and giving Israel a victory over the Philistines - Samson's victory over the Philistines - Daniel's dominion in the kingdom of Babylon

Relationship & Dominion Comparison Table

1. RELATIONSHIP His Blessings and Power Flowing To Us !	2. DOMINION His Blessings and Power Flowing Through Us !
<p>As a result of sin, Adam lost his dominion of the earth to satan.</p> <p>God's decision in the beginning to work on earth through man, resulted in the incarnation. He had to become a man and come to this world to suffer, bleed, and die for man's redemption.</p>	<p>Jesus took dominion from satan at Calvary and has given it to every believer to become a soldier in the army of God, a king, a priest and a physician to do His will and work on earth - ministering to needs.</p>
MAN'S RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD God / Man Relationship Roles: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Father / Child - Master / Servant - Friend / Friend - Groom / Bride 	MAN'S DOMINION WITH GOD God / Man Dominion Roles: <i>(New Testament)</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Great Physician / Physician - Great Commander / Soldier - King of Kings / Prince - Great High Priest / Priest
<p style="text-align: center;">THE SALVATION MESSAGE</p> <p>Our relationship with God, what God does for us and to us.</p> <p>When we are born again it begins our relationship with God as sons of God and as the bride of Christ.</p> <p>DELIVERANCE FOR OURSELVES</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Getting out of Egypt (world) - Getting Egypt (world) out of us 	<p style="text-align: center;">THE SOUL WINNING MESSAGE</p> <p>What we let God do through us to bring about His will and work on earth.</p> <p><i>Rom. 8:14 For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God.</i></p> <p>DELIVERANCE FOR OTHERS</p> <p>Crossing Jordan into Canaan and stepping into God's will and purpose for our lives in completing the mission Jesus started on earth.</p>
GOD BLESSES US God's Blessings Flow to Us <i>Gen. 22:17 God speaking to Abraham.</i> <i>That in blessing I will bless thee, and in multiplying I will multiply thy seed as the stars of the heaven, and as the sand which is upon the sea shore; and thy seed shall possess the gate of His enemies.</i>	TO BLESS OTHERS God's Blessings Flow Through Us to Bless Others in Need God's promise to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob: <i>Gen. 12:3, 18:8, 22:18, 26:4, 27:33, 28:14</i> <i>In thee shall all the families of the earth be blessed.</i>
<p style="text-align: center;">I Need God and You Need God ! We Desperately Need God !</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">God Desperately Needs You and Me to Do His Work and Will on Earth !</p> <p><i>Luke 10:2 Jesus' prayer request.</i> <i>The harvest truly is great, but the labourers are few: pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that He would send forth labourers into His harvest.</i></p>

Relationship & Dominion Comparison Table

1. RELATIONSHIP His Blessings and Power Flowing To Us !	2. DOMINION His Blessings and Power Flowing Through Us !
<p>Jesus is the captain of our salvation:</p> <p><i>Heb. 2:10</i> <i>For it became Him, for whom are all things, and by whom are all things, in bringing many sons unto glory, to make the captain of their salvation perfect through sufferings.</i></p>	<p>We are in a battle - we are in a war: Jesus asks us to engage in the battle against satan and his evil forces for the salvation of others: <i>2 Tim. 2:3 Thou therefore endure hardness, as a good soldier of Jesus Christ.</i> <i>1 Cor. 16:8-9 I will be staying here at Ephesus until Pentecost, 9 for there is a wide open door for me to preach and teach here. but there are many enemies.</i> TLB</p>
<p>As a son of God we have inherited not only His blessings but we have inherited His business and His mission.</p> <p>The last command and request of Jesus was: The Great Commission - Go minister to needs.</p> <p><i>Matt. 28:18-20, Mark 16:15-18, Luke 24:45-49, Acts 1:4-8</i> Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature.</p> <p><i>Go into the world. Go everywhere and announce the Message of God's good news to one and all. MSG</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - All the world (global) - To every creature (personal) 	<p>At the Judgment, the first question will be: DID YOU GO? Did you minister to the hungry, the thirsty, the stranger, the naked, the sick and to those in prison?</p> <p><i>Matt 25:40 To those who ministered to needs Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto Me. Come inherit the kingdom.</i></p> <p>New Testament Christians are commissioned to carry out the role and actions of a physician (caregiver), a priest (intercessor), a prince and a soldier ministering to the needs of our lost world.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">PASSION FOR GOD</p> <p>Jesus was asked: "What is the greatest commandment?" <i>Mark 12:30 Loving Him - Relationship.</i> Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">COMPASSION FOR THE LOST</p> <p>Love - Ministering to the needs of others: <i>Mark 12: 31 Loving them - Dominion.</i> And the second is like, namely this, <i>thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself</i>. There is none other commandment greater than these. <i>Gal. 5:14 For all the law is fulfilled in one word, even in this; Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself.</i></p>
<p>Jesus was asked two times - "What must I do to inherit eternal life?"</p> <p>How can my relationship with God be in good standing at the Judgment?</p> <p><i>Matt. 19:21 Rich young ruler's question:</i> What shall I do to inherit eternal life? <i>Jesus said unto him, If thou wilt be perfect,</i> >>>></p>	<p>His answer had to do with dominion: - Ministering to those in need</p> <p>(1) <i>Luke 10:25-37</i> The story of the Good Samaritan is about ministering to the needs of your neighbor. Your neighbor is anyone in need.</p> <p>(2) <i>Matt. 19:21 Go and sell that thou hast, and give to the poor, and thou shalt have treasure in heaven: and come and follow Me.</i></p>

Relationship & Dominion Comparison Table

1. <u>RELATIONSHIP</u> His Blessings and Power Flowing To Us !	2. <u>DOMINION</u> His Blessings and Power Flowing Through Us !
<p style="text-align: center;">Savior Speaks of Relationship</p> <p>Jesus is referred to as Savior 24 times in the New Testament. We needed a Savior when we were lost. It was too painful under the taskmaster of satan and his kingdom.</p> <p>When He saved us and put His Spirit in us, He brought us into relationship with Him.</p> <p><i>Acts 2:36</i> <i>Therefore let all the house of Israel know assuredly, that God hath made that same Jesus, whom ye have crucified, both Lord and Christ.</i></p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Lord Speaks of Dominion</p> <p>Jesus is referred to as Lord over 400 times in the New Testament, so the emphasis is on His being our Lord and Master.</p> <p><i>Luke 6:46</i> <i>And why call ye me, Lord, Lord, and do not the things which I say?</i></p> <p><i>Matt. 7:21</i> <i>Not everyone that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven.</i></p> <p>Will we allow Him to be Lord, to have dominion in our lives and through our lives, with His will vs. our will, His ways vs. our ways, His love and compassion vs. our human love and compassion?</p> <p>This is His only plan for reaching our lost world.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><u>THE TWO PURPOSES</u> >>>>>>></p> <p>1. PERFECT THE SAINTS - RELATIONSHIP</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>THE TWO ARMS</u> >>>>>>></p> <p>1. PRAYER MINISTRY:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Relationship with heaven. - Building our relationship with God. - Reaching Him. <p>The challenge of the endtime harvest is to mobilize the two arms of the church:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Prayer Ministry - Compassion and Care Ministry 	<p style="text-align: center;">>>>>>>> <u>OF THE CHURCH:</u></p> <p>2. REACH THE LOST - DOMINION</p> <p style="text-align: center;">>>>>>>> <u>OF THE CHURCH:</u></p> <p>2. COMPASSION & CARE MINISTRY:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Dominion on earth. - Building a relationship with man. - Reaching them (ministering to needs). <p>Dominion in fulfilling the two purposes for which Jesus came into this world:</p> <p><i>1 John 3:8</i> Destroy the works of the devil. <i>For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that he might destroy the works of the devil.</i></p> <p><i>Luke 19:10</i> Seek and save the lost. For the Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost.</p>

Relationship & Dominion Comparison Table

1. <u>RELATIONSHIP</u> His Blessings and Power Flowing <u>To Us</u> !	2. <u>DOMINION</u> His Blessings and Power Flowing <u>Through Us</u> !
<p style="text-align: center;">HAVING THE HOLY GHOST</p> <p style="text-align: center;">The filling and refilling of the Spirit</p> <p><i>Acts 2:4</i> Jews on the day of Pentecost. <i>And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.</i></p> <p><i>Acts 8:17</i> The Samaritans filled.</p> <p><i>Acts 10:44</i> The Gentiles filled.</p> <p><i>Acts 19:2-6</i> John's disciples filled.</p> <p><i>Acts 4:31</i> Peter and John and others refilled. <i>And when they had prayed, the place was shaken where they were assembled together; and they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and they spake the word of God with boldness.</i></p>	<p style="text-align: center;">THE HOLY GHOST HAVING US</p> <p style="text-align: center;">The work of the Spirit in our lives</p> <p>The Holy Ghost controlling us and working through us, taking dominion in our lives and then doing His will and work through our lives.</p> <p><i>Eph. 3:20</i> Now unto him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us.</p> <p><i>Col. 1:29</i> Whereunto I also labour, striving according to his working, which worketh in me mightily.</p> <p><i>29</i> This is my work, and I can do it only because Christ's mighty energy is at work within me. TLB</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Conversion Can Happen in a Day</p> <p>It is a wonderful experience to have God's Spirit living in us. It is a treasure in an earthen vessel:</p> <p><i>2 Cor. 4:7</i> <i>7 But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the excellency of the power may be of God, and not of us.</i></p> <p><i>7 But this precious treasure - this light and power that now shine within us - is held in perishable containers, that is, in our weak bodies. So everyone can see that our glorious power is from God and is not our own.</i> NLT</p> <p><i>2 Tim. 2:20-21</i> <i>20 But in a great house there are not only vessels of gold and of silver, but also of wood and of earth; and some to honour, and some to dishonour.</i> <i>21 If a man therefore purge himself from these, he shall be a vessel unto honour, sanctified, and meet for the master's use, and prepared unto every good work.</i></p>	<p style="text-align: center;">But the Breaking of the Outer Man</p> <p>(Our will, our ways, our thinking), so that the Spirit of God can flow through us to affect His lost world, is a continuous and lifetime process. (Becoming His Hands, His Feet, His Voice).</p> <p><i>2 Cor. 12:9</i> <i>And he said unto me, My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness. Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me.</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Holy Ghost Power for Dominion</p> <p>The purpose of the Holy Ghost is to give us power (dominion) to complete His mission:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Authority and dominion over all the power of the enemy. - Seeking and saving the lost. <p><i>Acts 1:8</i> <i>But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.</i></p>

Relationship & Dominion Comparison Table

1. <u>RELATIONSHIP</u> His Blessings and Power Flowing To Us !	2. <u>DOMINION</u> His Blessings and Power Flowing Through Us !
<p style="text-align: center;">RELATIONSHIP PRAYER</p> <p>Worshipping, praising, communing, and thanking God for His blessings. Asking forgiveness, asking for strength and healing of the body, soul, and spirit. Listening to God.</p> <p><i>Heb. 4:16</i> <i>Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need.</i></p> <p><i>Phil. 4:6-7</i> <i>6 Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God.</i> <i>7 And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.</i></p>	<p style="text-align: center;">DOMINION PRAYER (Revival Prayer)</p> <p>Seeking the Face of God / Seeking the Heart of God -This is seeking to know God in a greater dimension and have a greater revelation of Him, His will and His purpose for our lives. Seeking to please Him, and to do His will and His work, willing to do whatever it takes to have revival in our lives!</p> <p>Spiritual Warfare is standing between the powers of darkness (the satanic kingdom) and man. It is binding and destroying the works of satan and his kingdom with the authority and power we have in the Name of Jesus, the Blood of Jesus, the Word of God, and the Spirit of God. Satan is the god of this world who has blinded and bound those in his kingdom to keep them from coming to the knowledge of the truth of the gospel.</p> <p>Intercessory Prayer is standing in the gap between God and man and interceding to God for another man's needs. (Moses, Abraham)</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">WORSHIP GOD WITH OUR LIPS</p> <p>We worship and praise our wonderful God with our lips, and that is important and pleasing to Him.</p> <p>We need to do that in our everyday lives, in our devotion and our daily relationship with Him.</p> <p>It is nice to have my children say wonderful things about me; but it is only meaningful when their actions say it also.</p> <p><i>Psalms 69:30</i> <i>I will praise the name of God with a song, and will magnify him with thanksgiving.</i></p> <p><i>Eph. 5:19-20</i> <i>19 Speaking to yourselves in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord;</i> <i>20 Giving thanks always for all things unto God and the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.</i></p>	<p style="text-align: center;">WORSHIP GOD WITH OUR ACTIONS</p> <p>But we can't stop at just lip service.</p> <p>When we get up from our knees and leave our prayer closet, there should be some resulting actions. Our actions of our dominion role in His kingdom, what we do as a son of God, validates and completes our worship to a wonderful God deserving of our highest praise and worship.</p> <p>Let's not only tell Him how wonderful He is, but let's allow Him to work through us, to show our desperately lost world His great, wonderful, and marvelous works.</p> <p><i>Josh. 4:23</i> Joshua's charge to the people. <i>That all the people of the earth might know the hand of the LORD, that it is mighty: that ye might fear the LORD your God forever.</i></p> <p><i>Dan. 6:26</i> Darius, king of Babylon. <i>I make a decree, That in every dominion of my kingdom men tremble and fear before the God of Daniel: for he is the living God.</i></p> <p><i>1 Sam. 17:46</i> David the shepherd boy. <i>This day will the LORD deliver thee into mine hand; and I will smite thee, that all the earth may know that there is a God in Israel.</i></p>

Relationship & Dominion Comparison Table

1. RELATIONSHIP His Blessings and Power Flowing To Us !	2. DOMINION His Blessings and Power Flowing Through Us !
<p style="text-align: center;">WORSHIP GOD WITH OUR LIPS</p> <p>Prayer, praise, and worship in our fellowship and relationship with Him.</p> <p><i>Heb. 13:15-16</i> 15 By him therefore let us offer the sacrifice of praise to God continually, that is, the fruit of our lips giving thanks to his name. 16 But to do good and to communicate forget not: for with such sacrifices God is well pleased.</p> <p><i>Psalms 34:1</i> I will bless the LORD at all times: his praise shall continually be in my mouth.</p> <p><i>Psalms 40:3</i> And he hath put a new song in my mouth, even praise unto our God: many shall see it, and fear, and shall trust in the Lord.</p> <p><i>Psalms 51:15</i> O Lord, open thou my lips; and my mouth shall shew forth thy praise.</p> <p><i>Psalms 63:3</i> Because thy lovingkindness is better than life, my lips shall praise thee.</p> <p><i>Psalms 63:5</i> My soul shall be satisfied as with marrow and fatness; and my mouth shall praise thee with joyful lips.</p> <p><i>Psalms 100:1, 2, 4</i> 1 Make a joyful noise unto the LORD, all ye lands. 2 Serve the LORD with gladness: come before his presence with singing. 4 Enter into his gates with thanksgiving, and into his courts with praise: be thankful unto him, and bless his name.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">WORSHIP GOD WITH OUR ACTIONS</p> <p>When we meet God's requirements, like the children of Israel and the New Testament Church, stepping into the dominion role, sinners will hear and see the greatness of our God. They will be coming to us as New Testament Christians saying: "for the LORD your God, he is God in heaven above".</p> <p><i>Josh. 2:11</i> What the heathen confessed. And as soon as we had heard these things, our hearts did melt, neither did there remain any more courage in any man, because of you: for the LORD your God, he is God in heaven above, and in earth beneath.</p> <p><i>Josh. 5:1</i> And it came to pass, when all the kings of the Amorites, and all the kings of the Canaanites, heard that the LORD had dried up the waters of Jordan, that their heart melted, neither was there spirit in them any more, because of the children of Israel.</p> <p><i>Hab. 1:5</i> The Lord replied: Look, and be amazed! You will be astounded at what I am about to do! For I am going to do something in your own lifetime that you will have to see to believe. TLB</p> <p><i>Acts 4:13</i> When the Council saw the boldness of Peter and John and could see that they were obviously uneducated non-professionals, they were amazed and realized what being with Jesus had done for them! TLB</p> <p><i>Acts 9:34-35</i> 34 And Peter said unto him, Aeneas, Jesus Christ maketh thee whole: arise, and make thy bed. And he arose immediately. 35 And all that dwelt at Lydda and Saron saw him, and turned to the Lord.</p> <p>Our generation deserves to see the greatness of our great God. But it will only be seen as we allow Him to work through us, worshipping Him with our lips, and with our actions.</p>

Relationship & Dominion Comparison Table

1. RELATIONSHIP His Blessings and Power Flowing <u>To Us</u> !	2. DOMINION His Blessings and Power Flowing <u>Through Us</u> !
<p style="text-align: center;">HIS BLESSINGS</p> <p>God's blessings come from relationship with Him.</p> <p>The nation of Israel had just been miraculously delivered out of Egypt through the Red Sea. Their enemy, the Egyptians, had been miraculously drowned in the Red Sea. Now in the wilderness, the miracles continued on a daily basis with miracles of manna, water, pillar of cloud by day, pillar of fire by night, and their clothes did not wear out.</p> <p>They had these blessings because of their covenant relationship with God as His chosen people and the covenant relationship between God and their father Abraham hundreds of years previously.</p> <p>They had God's blessings, but He was provoked with them for 40 years, because they were unwilling to do His will in taking dominion to subdue the enemy across Jordan and reclaim the inheritance of their forefathers in the Promised Land. <i>(Psalms 95:10, Heb.. 3:17)</i></p>	<p style="text-align: center;">HIS FAVOR</p> <p>God's favor comes from taking and exercising dominion to do His will and work and complete His mission on earth.</p> <p>Many Christians have mistaken the blessings of God for His favor. He gives us His blessings because He loves us and we are in relationship with Him as His son, His bride, and His love.</p> <p>He gives us His favor as we step into the dominion role of fulfilling His will, His purpose, and His work here on earth.</p> <p>God is not pleased with those who are satisfied just to be miraculously delivered from the bondage of the world, have their sins washed away in baptism and be filled with His Spirit. That does put us in a covenant relationship with Him.</p> <p>But it is His will for His children, as sons of God, to step into the Dominion roles of Physician, Soldier, Prince and Priest, to defeat the enemy, rescue lost souls and minister to the desperate needs of our hopelessly lost generation that He shed His precious blood to save.</p>
<p>My children receive my blessings because of the father / child relationship, and not because they do what is right. Whether they live a Christian life or not, I will give them birthday gifts, Christmas gifts and gifts all through the year.</p> <p>However, my children have my favor when they follow my principles and do my will. When this happens, the wonderful feeling of fulfillment as a father is beyond words. The highest attainment in life is that of fulfillment. There is nothing greater, and that makes all the sacrifices of a father a joy and a pleasure.</p> <p>3 John 4 <i>I have no greater joy than to hear that my children walk in truth.</i></p>	<p>We have the favor of our heavenly Father when we follow His laws and principles and do His will. We have His favor when we love what He loves, hate what He hates, and do what He did while here on earth.</p> <p>He is now number one in our lives and He knows He is number one. This brings a total different level of Christian living and service.</p> <p>There is something more wonderful than the blessings of God, and that is the favor of God.</p> <p>But our heavenly Father has needs also. He needs to be fulfilled in the life of His children by working through them to reach His lost world.</p>

Relationship & Dominion Comparison Table

1. RELATIONSHIP His Blessings and Power Flowing <u>To Us</u> !	2. DOMINION His Blessings and Power Flowing <u>Through Us</u> !
<p style="text-align: center;">OUR NEEDS</p> <p>Our needs (spirit, soul, and body) are met and satisfied through our relationship with Him.</p> <p><i>Col. 2:10</i> <i>10 And ye are complete in him, which is the head of all principality and power.</i></p> <p><i>10 And you are complete through your union with Christ. He is the Lord over every ruler and authority in the universe. NLT</i></p> <p><i>Phil. 2:2</i> <i>2 Fulfil ye my joy, that ye be likeminded, having the same love, being of one accord, of one mind.</i></p> <p><i>2 Then make me truly happy by loving each other and agreeing wholeheartedly with each other, working together with one heart and mind and purpose. TLB</i></p> <p><i>1 Thess. 5:23</i> <i>And the very God of peace sanctify you wholly; and I pray God your whole spirit and soul and body be preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.</i></p>	<p style="text-align: center;">GOD'S NEEDS</p> <p>We should desire to meet the needs of our heavenly Father. His need is to be fulfilled through us as sons of God, as we do His will and His work, His way.</p> <p>THE FAVOR / FULFILLMENT CYCLE:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The son carrying on the business of the Father, by assuming the dominion role. 2. Brings fulfillment to those who are bound, sick and lost as their needs are met. 3. Which brings fulfillment and joy to the heavenly Father. 4. Which brings the favor of the Father to the son. 5. Which brings fulfillment to the son. <p>This is the greatest concept in all of Holy Writ because the Supplier of every need, and the vessel He flows through, and the one in need, are all fulfilled in the flowing and receiving of the love of God.</p> <p><i>Mark 16:20</i> <i>And they went forth, and preached everywhere, the Lord working with them, and confirming the word with signs following.</i></p> <p><i>Heb. 2:4</i> <i>God also bearing them witness, both with signs and wonders, and with divers miracles, and gifts of the Holy Ghost, according to his own will.</i></p>
<p style="text-align: center;">THE SALVATION MESSAGE</p> <p>The born-again experience is wonderful. It puts us into a covenant relationship with Jesus Christ as a son of God and as the bride of Christ.</p> <p>This fulfills the first purpose for which God created man.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">THE SOUL WINNING MESSAGE</p> <p>The second purpose for which God created man: dominion - to carry out His will on earth.</p> <p>God has empowered us with dominion and authority as sons of God to fulfill His will and purpose on earth, and to complete the mission He began while here on earth.</p> <p>Every born-again believer has the authority of a king; the anointing of a priest; the commission of a soldier of the cross; and a physician (a caregiver), to carry out the will and work of God on earth.</p> <p>If we don't do it, it will not get done. God has no other plan, other than to use man.</p>

Relationship & Dominion Comparison Table

1. <u>RELATIONSHIP</u> His Blessings and Power Flowing <u>To Us</u> !	2. <u>DOMINION</u> His Blessings and Power Flowing <u>Through Us</u> !
<p style="text-align: center;">THANK YOU, JESUS, FOR YOUR BLESSINGS !</p> <p><i>Deut. 28:2-6,8</i> 2 And all these blessings shall come on thee, and overtake thee, if thou shalt hearken unto the voice of the LORD thy God. 3 Blessed shalt thou be in the city, and blessed shalt thou be in the field. 4 Blessed shall be the fruit of thy body, and the fruit of thy ground, and the fruit of thy cattle, the increase of thy kine, and the flocks of thy sheep. 5 Blessed shall be thy basket and thy store. 6 Blessed shalt thou be when thou comest in, and blessed shalt thou be when thou goest out. 8 The LORD shall command the blessing upon thee in thy storehouses, and in all that thou settest thine hand unto; and he shall bless thee in the land which the LORD thy God giveth thee.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">BUT I DESIRE YOUR FAVOR !</p> <p>We obtain His favor by fulfilling His purpose and will - fulfilling His needs .</p> <p>The only way to meet His needs is for Him to be fulfilled in your life, by allowing Him to flow His power and authority through your life to someone in need -- bringing glory to His name.</p> <p>Then He gives you His favor, which in turn brings more fulfillment to your life !</p> <p><i>2 Thess. 1:11-12</i> 11 Wherefore also we pray always for you, that our God would count you worthy of this calling, and fulfil all the good pleasure of his goodness, and the work of faith with power . 12 That the name of our Lord Jesus Christ may be glorified in you, and ye in him , according to the grace of our God and the Lord Jesus Christ.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">GOD'S TWOFOLD PURPOSE >></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Relationship</p> <p style="text-align: center;">with God</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Driven by our Passion for God</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Reaching for Him ! Produces inward fruit !</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Relationship gives us entitlement to the Father's business.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">>> FOR CREATING MAN</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Dominion</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Doing God's Will & Work</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Driven by our Compassion for the Lost</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Reaching for Them ! Produces outward fruit !</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Dominion speaks of experiencing the Father's business.</p>

Relationship & Dominion Comparison Table

1. <u>RELATIONSHIP</u> His Blessings and Power Flowing <u>To Us</u> !	2. <u>DOMINION</u> His Blessings and Power Flowing <u>Through Us</u> !
<p style="text-align: center;">Summary</p> <p>It is an awesome, incomprehensible privilege to be in relationship with the omnipotent, omniscient, omnipresent God of the universe as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - His son - His bride - His friend - His servant (love slave) - His disciple 	<p style="text-align: center;">Summary</p> <p>It is an incredible, incomprehensible privilege to be in partnership with our great Heavenly Father:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The Great Commander-in-chief - The Great Physician - The Great High Priest - The King of Kings - The Lord of the Harvest - The Master Teacher <p>using His authority and dominion to work with Him as a son in His business on the battlefield and in the harvest field as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A soldier - A physician - A priest - A prince - A harvester - A disciple (making other disciples)
<p style="text-align: center;">He gave His all -- His life for me!</p> <p><i>“The church of God, which he hath purchased with his own blood.”</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;">I need God!</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">He asks that I give my all -- my life for Him!</p> <p><i>“Serve the Lord with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind, and with all thy strength.”</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;">God needs me!</p>

2. *Discipleship - Relationship and Dominion*

Becoming a disciple of Jesus has to do with Relationship and Dominion. It is first of all a relationship between the Master and the pupil. Then it is discipline and commitment to put into action the teachings and commandments of the Master -- using the dominion and authority available to every believer to carry out His purpose and mission to make other disciples.

Luke 9:23 Becoming a Disciple.

23 Then he said to the crowd, If any of you wants to be my follower, you must put aside your selfish ambition, shoulder your cross daily, and follow me. NLT

23 Then he said to all, Anyone who wants to follow me must put aside his own desires and conveniences and carry his cross with him every day and keep close to me! TLB

Matt. 28:18-20 Making Disciples.

18 Jesus drew near and said to them, I have been given all authority in heaven and on earth.

RELATIONSHIP AND DOMINION

*19 Go, then, to all peoples everywhere and **make them my disciples**: baptize them in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,*

*20 and **teach them** to obey everything I have commanded you. And I will be with you always, to the end of the age. TEV*

18 He told his disciples, I have been given all authority in heaven and earth.

*19 Therefore go and **make disciples in all the nations**, baptizing them into the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,*

*20 and then **teach these new disciples** to obey all the commands I have given you; and be sure of this-that I am with you always, even to the end of the world. TLB*

-- From "The Cost of Discipleship" by T. F. Tenney

Discipleship demands that I make myself available to Him, so that He can make Himself available to me. It is a relationship of mutual commitment. This is true discipleship, and it costs -- not with dollar signs but with the sign of the cross.

Price is what we pay for something. Cost is what is necessary for its maintenance. The right of discipleship was purchased by Jesus on Calvary. He paid the price. Are we willing to pay the cost?

Jesus never lured His disciples by false advertising. He said, "If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross" (Matthew 16:24). He once looked at a multitude and said, "If anyone comes to Me and does not hate his father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters, yes, and his own life also, he cannot be My disciple" (Luke 14:26, NKJV). With

those terms, there was not a stampede to join Him then; there is not likely to be one now. The cost of discipleship is still the same -- commitment.

The word “discipleship” is synonymous with “discipline.” We are disciplined disciples of the cross. I often tell believers that two words are necessary to be a comrade of commitment: priorities and discipline. We must be willing to set our priorities and discipline ourselves to keep them. We can choose to be followers and live on the fringe, or we can choose to be disciples and see firsthand the majesty of His kingdom. We can watch “Thy will be done” being lived out by others, or we can pray the prayer and see its fulfillment in our own lives. Commitment is the key.

The currency of the kingdom is sacrifice and commitment joined with the power of the Holy Ghost. The Lord has called His servants to sacrifice and commitment to follow Him. That is the cost of discipleship. This unbeatable combination will triumph in every situation.

The word *disciples* means “disciplined ones.” In the days of our Lord, many teachers had disciples. This brings us to another factor in the cost analysis. The word most prominently used in the Greek New Testament for teacher was *dedaskolos*. The word translated as “pupil” or “disciple” is *mathatas*. It was impossible for a *dedaskolos* to be a teacher unless he had a *mathatas*. Likewise, every pupil had to have a teacher.

RELATIONSHIP AND DOMINION

The next dimension of discipleship is relationship. A relationship between the pupil and the teacher was the basis of discipleship. This is often overlooked today. A relationship with the teacher must precede and accompany everything else. Remember, the truth was a Person before it became a doctrine. Jesus said, “I am the way, the truth, and the life” (John 14:6). That was before anything was written about Him. Some people know the teaching but are not intimate with the Teacher. The essence and power of discipleship is relationship.¹

IV. Conclusion

-
- *Entitlement to the Father's business
(Relationship)*
 - *Experiencing the Father's business
(Dominion)*
-

1. I Must Be About My Father's Business

The purpose and mission of Jesus to this world is still our purpose and mission as sons of God in the New Testament Church.

- **The Father's business involves two things: the harvest of lost souls and the battle against the forces of evil.**

Matt. 18:11 (Luke 19:10)

For the son of man is come to seek and save that which was lost.

1 John 3:8

For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that He might destroy the works of the devil.

- **We are heirs of God and joint-heirs with Christ - heirs of His wealth and blessings.**

CONCLUSION

1. Heirs of salvation – eternal life – heaven (on the other side).
2. Blessings of God, protection, healing, provision of needs (in this life).

Rom. 8:16-17

16 The spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God:

*17 And if children, then **heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ;** if so be that we suffer with him, that we may be also glorified together.*

- **We are also heirs of the Father's business. He has left His mission and work in our hands to carry on and complete.**

An heir inherits his father's wealth and assets, but he also inherits the father's business - to carry it on. It is God's will for us to inherit more than His benefits, but also to inherit His business.

- **It is a selfish and irresponsible son who wants to inherit the estate and wealth of the father without assuming the responsibilities of the business.**

The only purpose for us as sons of God is to fulfill and complete His mission -- His business. He took our place in His death at Calvary. He wants us to take His place in this world to complete His mission and His work that He started while He was here on earth. Jesus' first recorded words at the early age of twelve should challenge us as sons of God:

"I must be about my Father's business".

I Must Be About My Father's Business

A father who has built a great business, wants to see the business continue in the pattern and example that he has set. The father will be the most fulfilled, when his son carries on the business, following his practices, principles, and laws. When a son inherits and carries on his father's business in the right way, no one detects the difference.

The world did not notice that Jesus had left this world, because the disciples and the early church stepped into the footsteps of Jesus and began to carry on His ministry. The Book of Acts exemplified a continuation of Jesus' miracle ministry in the gospels -- Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John. It did not make any difference whether it was Jesus or Peter and John who ministered in the healing of the crippled man at the temple gate -- the result was the same.

2. Importance of the Father's Business

In my kingdom I had a very good employer. For 31 years I was privileged to work for one company in the exciting field of computer technology. I was dedicated to my career and my employer, and they in return were dedicated to me.

In God's kingdom, I must be as dedicated to the Father's business as I was to my employer's business. The standards I set in my career, and in my kingdom, are the beginning standards to measure my commitment to His kingdom. On Judgment day, possibly the harshest judgment will be what I did and how I did it in my kingdom vs. what I did and how I did it in His kingdom.

At the Judgment, the books will be opened. One of the books will contain the deeds done in this life -- the book of my life. One chapter will reveal what I did in my kingdom, and one chapter will be what I did in His kingdom. The dedication and the intensity for His kingdom must exceed that of my kingdom.

CONCLUSION

In the 31 years that I worked for the same employer, I was very seldom absent, and was never late. I went to work sick. More than one supervisor referred to me as intense. When the project was behind schedule and over budget, the teams that I led, sacrificed time and vacation and worked overtime. We burned the midnight oil with no additional pay to meet the budget and to complete the project.

When we were in the last phase of a project, with time running out and a lot of work to do, there was a certain feeling of greater intensity, desperation and a willingness to give 110% without being asked. It was under these conditions, at the end of a project, that we called it **crunch time**, delivery time. It was a certain panicky, stressful feeling that caused us to reach inside ourselves for energy and ability that we would not have had under normal circumstances.

For the past few years, I have sensed a similar feeling in the Spirit, knowing the Church Age is almost over, and we are harvesting at sunset. If I could emphasize one message in the conclusion of this book, it would be: ***“It is crunch time.”*** Because we are at the end of the age with so much work to do. Many lost souls need healing, deliverance, and salvation. **It can no longer be business as usual.**

The kingdom of satan is setting its battle in array against the church and every born-again believer. This is the same battle that has been waged through the centuries between right and wrong.

Rev. 12:12

Woe to the inhabitants of the earth and of the sea! for the devil is come down unto you, having great wrath, because he

knoweth that he hath but a short time.

1 Peter 5:8

Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour.

The final battle between right and wrong, between the forces of good and evil, will be even more violent because it is satan's final stand to destroy the purpose of God for the last great harvest of lost souls. Our adversary, the devil, will not attack the believer with temptations of the flesh and obvious sin. He will work in a subtle way to get us to relax, to get distracted, to be at ease in Zion, to become self-centered and entertainment-centered, to do our own will instead of doing God's will in His kingdom.

There is a righteous indignation rising up in my spirit when I observe the awful reality of darkness, sin, abuse, and hopelessness in our desperately lost world. Sometimes it looks like we are losing the battle against the powers of satan and hell. But faith must look beyond the visible circumstances and reach for a vision of a great victory and a great harvest.

Our faith is strengthened by the biblical examples of others who looked past the imposing odds of the enemy and impossible situations to a God waiting for someone to step with dominion into the impossible. He doesn't require us to understand how He will do it, but He does require that we believe He can and will do it. We need to imitate the faith and actions of the great heroes as they faced imposing odds in seemingly impossible situations:

1 Sam. 17:29 Shepherd boy, David, facing Goliath.

CONCLUSION

Is there not a cause?

Est. 4:14 Mordecai to Queen Esther.

Who knoweth whether thou art come to the kingdom for such a time as this?

1 Sam. 14:6 Jonathan facing impossible odds in battle.

It may be that the LORD will work for us: for there is no restraint to the LORD to save by many or by few.

Acts 4:29 Peter and John in their evangelism.

And now, Lord, behold their threatenings: and grant unto thy servants, that with all boldness they may speak thy word.

2 Chron. 20:15 We need to remember God's answer.

Thus saith the LORD unto you, Be not afraid nor dismayed by reason of this great multitude; for the battle is not yours, but God's.

The battle is the Lord's. It is His battle, it is His lost world, it is His work, and it is His business. And it is God's will for us to spend the last few days of the Church Age completing His mission, His business, and His work that He exemplified and defined for us in His brief ministry on earth:

- **Destroying the works of the devil.** (1 John 3:8)
If we are to be a part of this, we must put on the whole armor and sharpen our swords for the final battle.
- **Seeking and saving the lost.** (Matthew 18:11-13)
If we are to be a part of this, we must sharpen our sickle to reap the last harvest.

I am not polishing my ticket to heaven. My attendance to church is not to get my ticket to heaven validated -- "Twentier was here". My visits to the prayer room are not to have my ticket to heaven validated -- "Twentier knelt here". I am sharpening my **sword for the last battle** and sharpening my **sickle for the last harvest**. I may not have been all I should have been in the harvests of yesteryear, but by the help and grace of God, I intend to stay in the middle of His kingdom business with a sword in one hand and a sickle in the other.

The coming of Jesus Christ is so close that I feel the warning and pull of the Spirit that will soon rapture us. But first, the Spirit is pulling me deeper into the harvest field, because **the gathering place for the rapture is the harvest field**. My Father has told me that when the day is over and the harvest has ended, He will pick me up in His harvest field -- the meeting place for the rapture.

In these very last days, as a born-again believer, don't spend your time inwardly focused on yourself, preparing for the rapture. Don't prepare for the rapture; prepare to do the Father's business -- His harvest business! Because if you are working in the Father's business, His harvest business, you will be ready for the rapture!

- **As a son of man -- I am about my business, the business of my kingdom. As a son of God -- I must be about my Father's business, the business of His kingdom.**

His business is unlike any other business. My Father's business is the one enterprise that surpasses and supersedes all others. And there is no comparison to another, because

CONCLUSION

His kingdom is on a different plane, a different planet, a different world, and a different universe.

- **The kingdom of God, of which every believer is a part, holds a place in time and history and importance that every other kingdom, past, present, and future pales in comparison.**

I am not working for the church. Although I love and respect my pastors and spiritual leaders, I am not working for them. But I am working for the most gracious heavenly Father, the Great High Priest, the Great Physician, the Great Commander, the Lord of the harvest, the King of Kings -- that owns this universe and possibly a million others besides.

I have determined that I will not stand at the Judgment having done less in my Father's kingdom than I did in my kingdom for my employer, and for my personal interest. When the day is done and I stand on the other side looking back, I want to have the testimony of Apostle Paul: I have fought a good fight; I have kept the faith; I have finished my course; I have poured out my life for His kingdom; I have given my best.

I pray that God will grant us a greater understanding and revelation of the **great privilege** to be called His son and to be included in His kingdom business. Only eternity will reveal as we look back, the great honor and blessing to have been a part of the Father's business.

3. *My Prayer*

“Oh God, don’t let me live in denial of Your soon coming. Let me see the prophetic time clocks ticking toward the midnight hour. Give me also an understanding of the times like the children of Issachar, and to know what to do.

*1 Chron. 12:32 And of the children of Issachar, which were men that had **understanding of the times**, to know what Israel ought to do.*

Thank you for the great privilege to be called Your son and to be chosen to work in Your business. I want to be a good son and carry on Your business in a way that will please You and in the same way that You exemplified for me as You walked the shores of Galilee. Thank you for Your many blessings; they are more than I deserve. But more than Your blessings, I now desire Your favor. Thank you for including me in Your plan and in Your kingdom business here on earth.

Dear Jesus, forgive me for not being all that I should have been in the harvest seasons of yesteryear. Let me see Your lost world and Your ripe harvest field like You see it. Let Your burden become my burden, and Your vision become my

CONCLUSION

vision to see the awful reality of sin, abuse, and hopelessness in the desperately lost world for which You suffered and died.

I intend by Your help and grace, that when the last rays of light have faded on this final generation and Your great time clock of the ages has expired, You will find me in Your harvest field with a sword in one hand and a sickle in the other, fighting in Your battle and working in Your harvest.”

I am a son of God

I want to be a good son

I want to have the Father's favor

I Must Be About My Father's Business:

Relationship with Heaven - Reaching for Him !

Dominion on Earth - Reaching for Them !

V. Appendices

Appendix 1 - Charts

Refer to the following pages for these charts:

- Chart 1 - Summary of Volumes I, II, III, IV and V
- Chart 2 - Summary of the Five Volume Progressive Series
- Chart A-1 - A Balanced Relationship with God
- Chart A-2 - God and Man Relationship Model
- Chart A-4 - God in the Center of Our Life
- Chart A-12 - Relationship Model - A Continuous Cycle of Growth
- Chart B-2 - Relationship and Dominion -- Spiritual Growth
- Chart C-5 - Expanding our Relationship and Dominion Role
- Chart C-6 - New Levels of Relationship and Dominion -- Passion and Compassion
- Chart G-27 - Loving God is Loving People

Only a few charts are included here since the Addendum Volume contains the full size 8.5 X 11 copies of the PowerPoint charts for Volumes I, II, III, IV, and V. This is published as a separate volume since:

- Most of these charts become less useful (distorted and hard to read) when they are reduced to a book size.
- Many charts are applicable to multiple volumes.
- These charts can be revised and distributed without reprinting the volumes that refer to them.

APPENDICES

The full color charts are available on CD in PowerPoint and Adobe Acrobat formats

CHART 1

SUMMARY OF VOLUMES I, II, III, IV and V

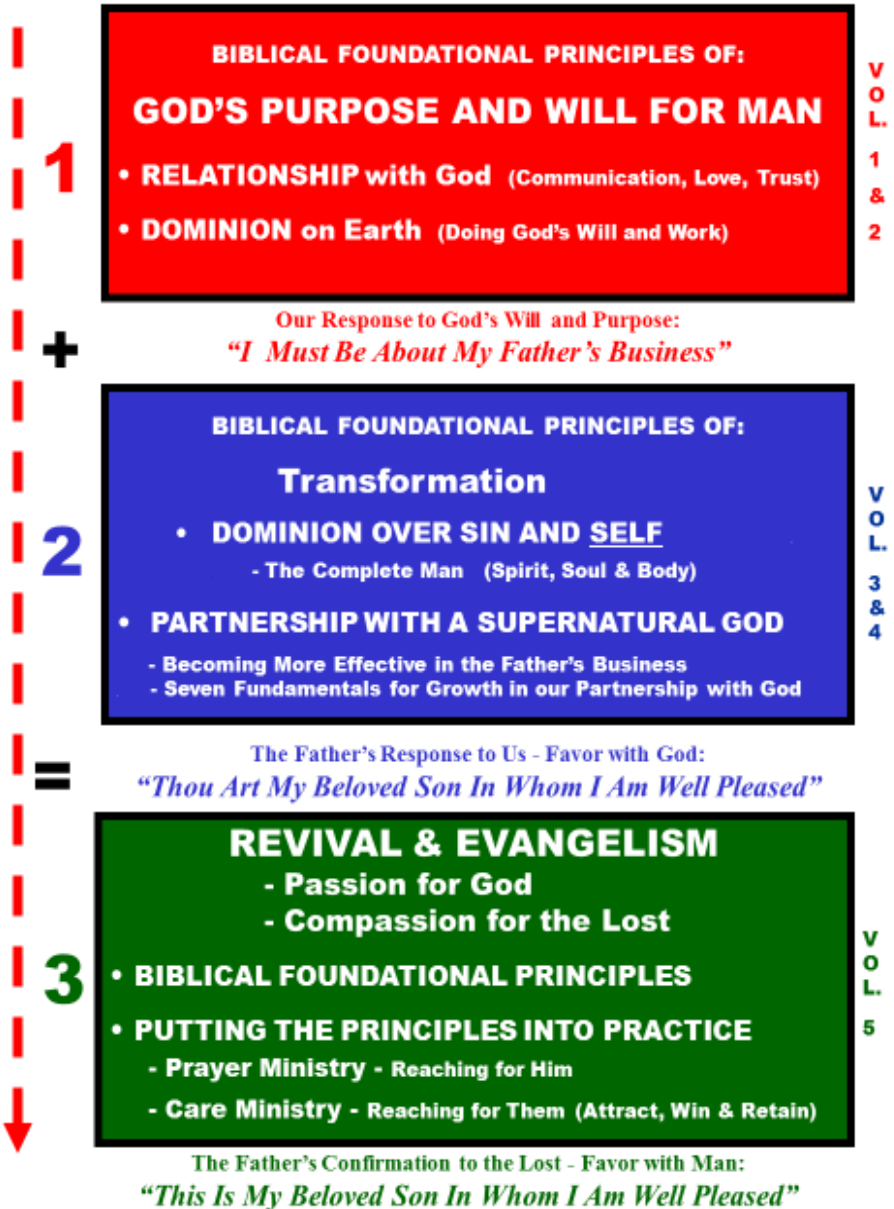
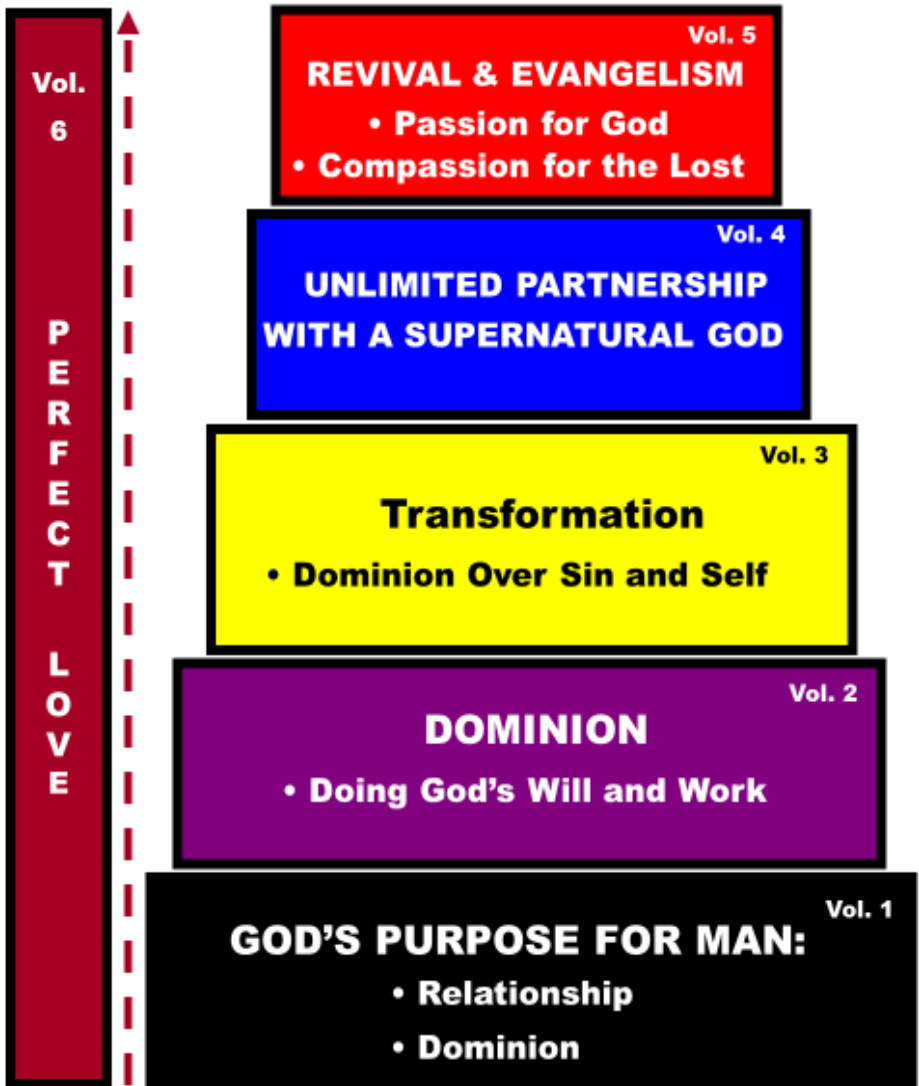


CHART 2

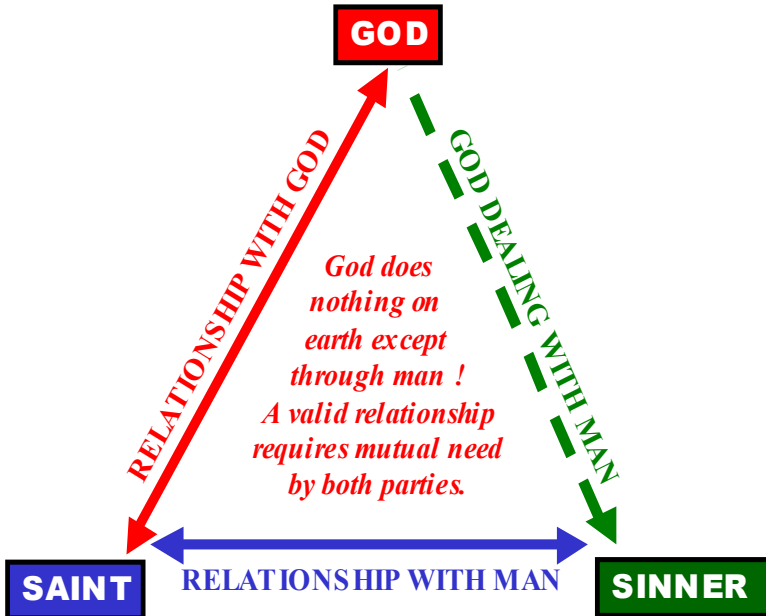
Six Volume Progressive Series



The message of "Perfect Love" in Volume 6 is essential for the themes in the other five volumes to work effectively. The Addendum Volume contains the 8.5 X 11 copies of the PowerPoint Charts supporting the themes presented in the above six volumes.

CHART A-1

A BALANCED AND VALID RELATIONSHIP MAN NEEDS GOD – GOD NEEDS MAN



Exercising God-given Dominion & Authority to do His Will & Work.

We Have Been Given the Ministry of Reconciliation:

- Reaching to **God** and Reaching to **Man**.

Going to **God** for **man** (Prayer) before Going to **man** for **God** (Care)!

**The Salvation of the Sinner Includes
the Involvement of the Saint !**

**The Salvation of the Saint Includes
their Involvement with the Sinner !**

WHEN OUR PARTNERSHIP WITH GOD IS WORKING:

IT IS A WIN ! WIN ! WIN !

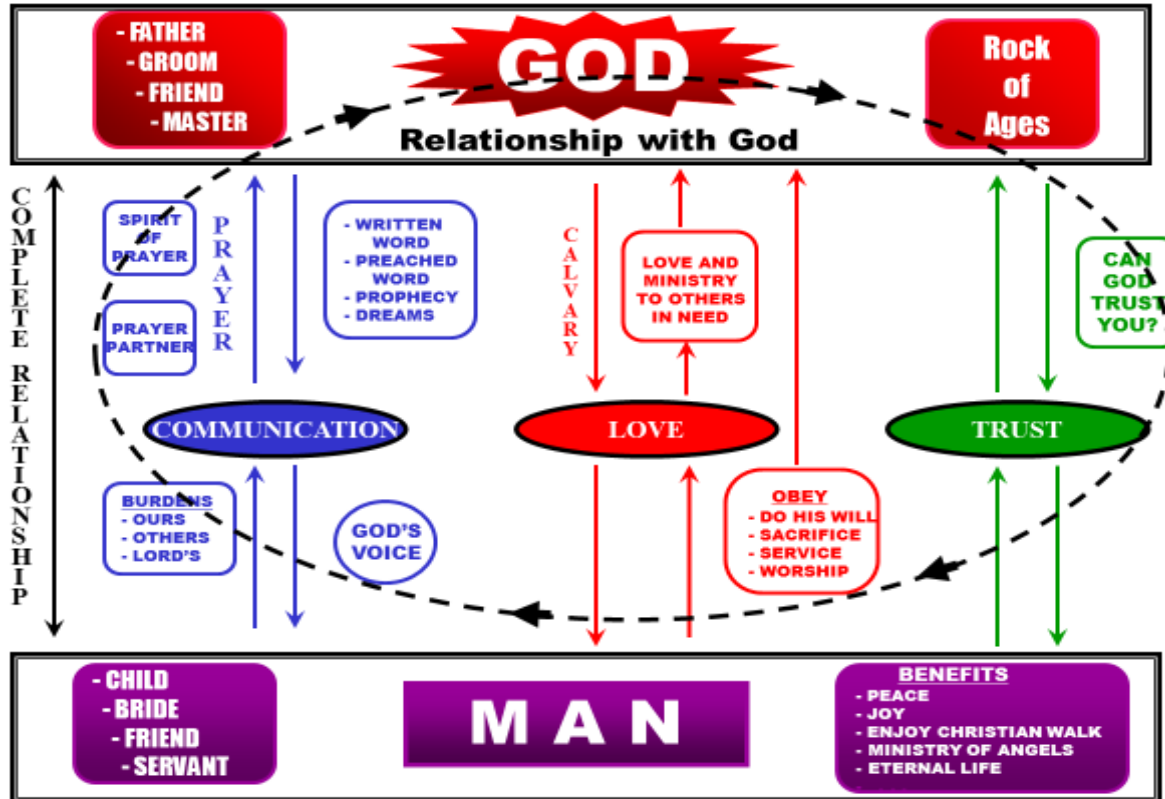
- THE SINNER'S NEEDS ARE MET !

- THE SAINT'S NEEDS ARE MET !

- GOD'S NEEDS ARE MET !

Appendix 1 - Charts

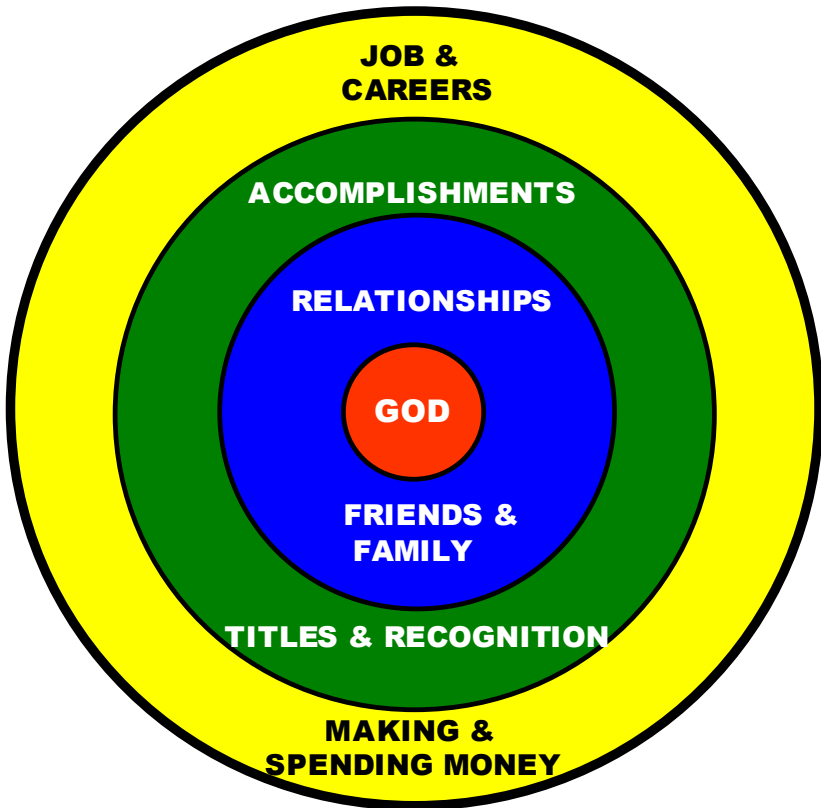
CHART A-2



DOUBLE VISION MINISTRIES: Rev. James Twentier

CHART A-4

OUR PRIORITIES AND COMMITMENTS



**Whatever is at the center of our life
will be the source of our security,
guidance, wisdom, and power.**

CHART A-12

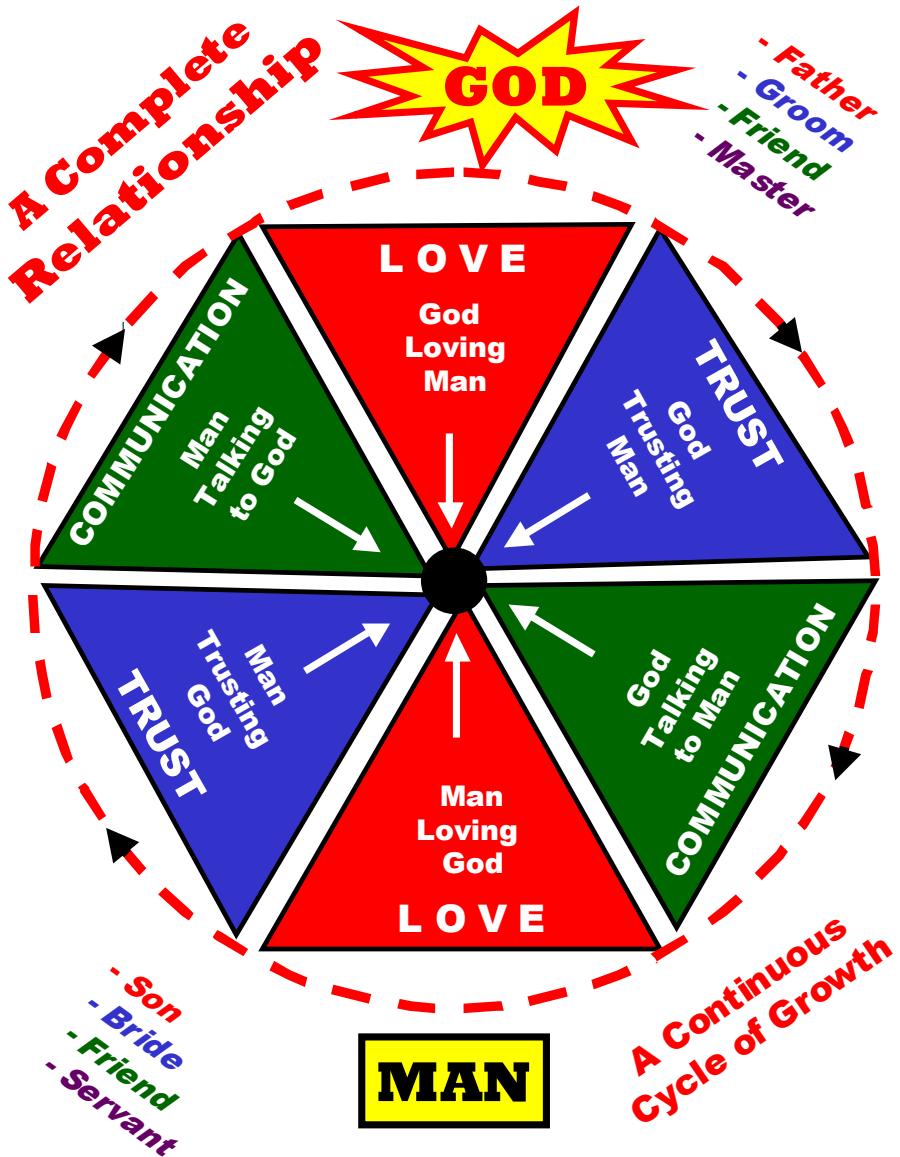
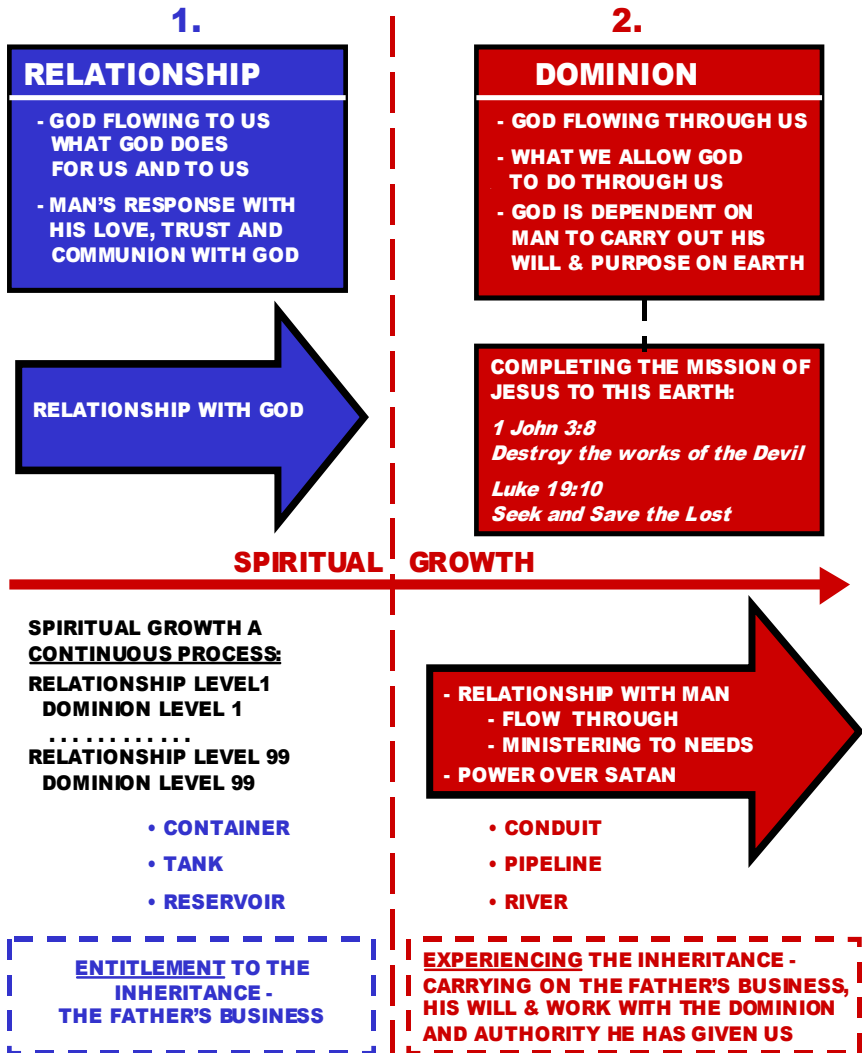


CHART B-2

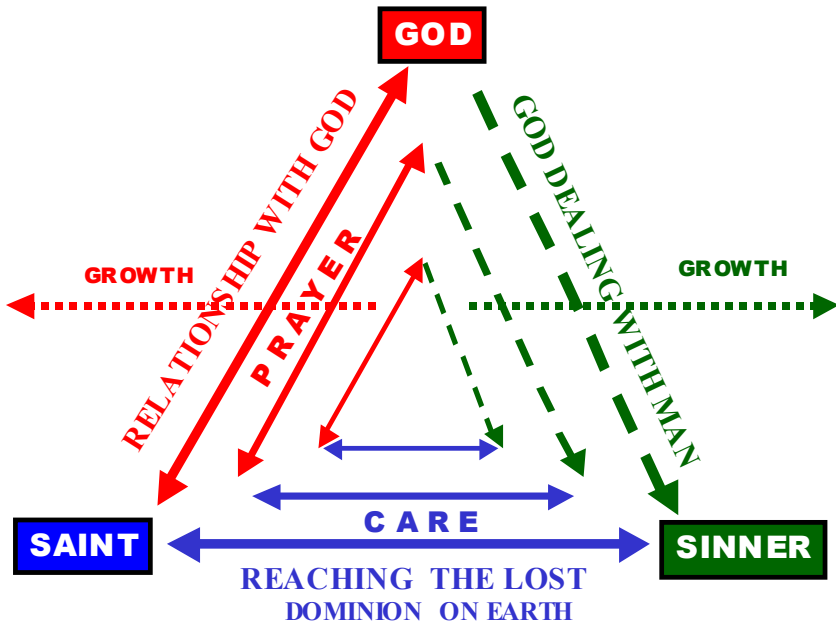
GOD CREATED MAN FOR TWO PURPOSES



**SPIRITUAL GROWTH BECOMES STAGNANT
UNLESS THERE IS A FLOW THROUGH**

CHART C-5

SPIRITUAL GROWTH OF THE SAINT AND WORKING IN GOD'S KINGDOM TO REACH THE LOST - GO HAND IN HAND



Going to God for man (Prayer) before going to man for God (Care) !

**GOD WORKING THROUGH MAN TO DO HIS WORK
GOD HAS NO OTHER PLAN THAN TO USE MAN**

- Our heavenly Father will give us more of His power and authority when we use what He has already given to us.
- When there is growth and expansion in our relationship with our heavenly Father, there will be **growth and expansion** in our role as His son to carry on His mission to reach the lost.
- As we reach out to the needs of others, a **greater hunger and desire** for more of God in our lives is created to meet the need.

CHART C-6

THE PATH TO SPIRITUAL MATURITY AND THE SUPERNATURAL

The **Spiritual Growth** Process
involves moving to new levels in:

1. RELATIONSHIP with God

- Driven by Passion for God!

2. DOMINION - Doing God's will & work on earth

- Driven by Compassion for the lost!

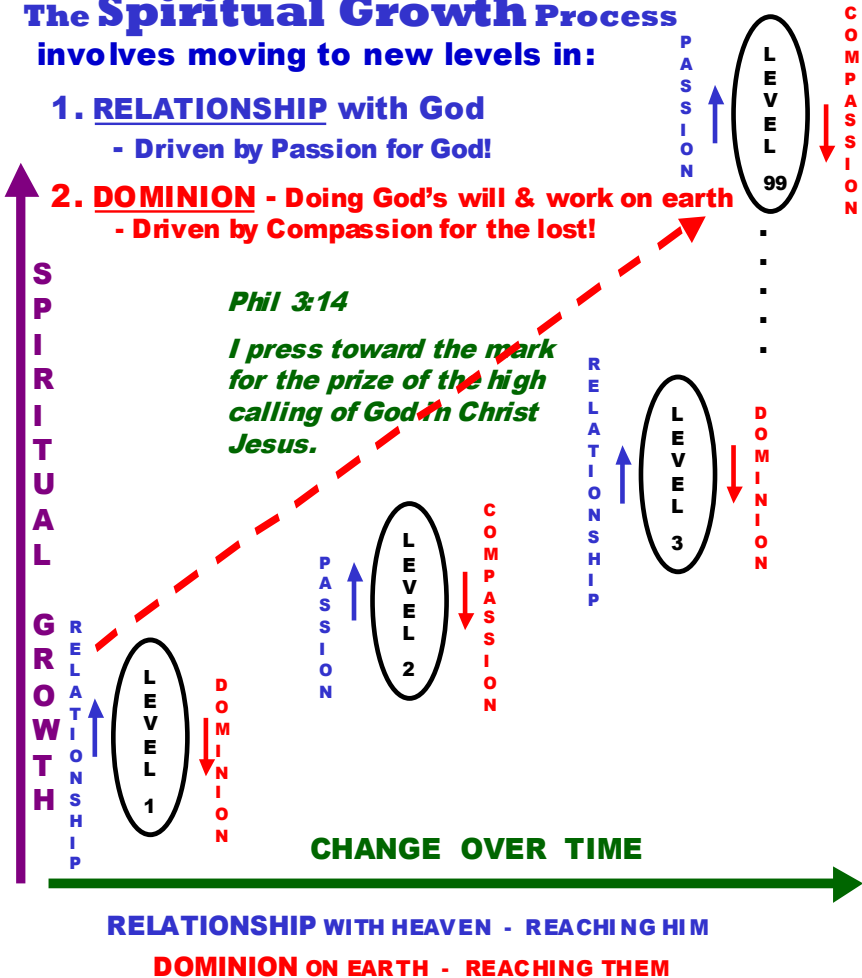


CHART G-27

HOW TO LOVE GOD MORE

Growing In Our Love For God

LOVING GOD IS LOVING PEOPLE

1 John 4:20

He that loveth not his brother whom he hath seen,
how can he love God whom he hath not seen?

Gal 5:14

For all the law is fulfilled in one word, even in this; Thou
shalt love thy neighbour as thyself.

Matt 25:37-40 The final test at the judgment.

37 Then shall the righteous answer him, saying, Lord,
when saw we thee an hungred, . . . thirsty . . . stranger
. . . naked . . . sick . . . in prison?

40 And the King shall answer and say unto them, Verily
I say unto you, Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of
the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me.

THE ROYAL LAW

James 2:8-9

If ye fulfil the royal law according to the scripture,
thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself, ye do
well: But if ye have respect to persons, ye commit sin.

Appendix 2 - Addendum Volume Chart Reference

Refer to the Addendum Volume for the following charts:.

Primary Subject Index for “Relationship”

A - Relationship with God

- A-1 A Balanced Relationship with God
- A-2 God and Man Relationship Model
- A-3 Relationship with God and Man
- A-4 God in the Center of Our Life
- A-5 Disciple’s Levels of Relationship with Jesus
- A-6 Disciple’s Levels of Relationship with Jesus
- A-7 Depth of Relationship
- A-8 Relationship, Restoration and Time
- A-9 Relationship - Flow Through
- A-10 The Two Major Themes of the Bible - Relationship and Dominion - Part 1
- A-10a The Two Major Themes of the Bible - Relationship and Dominion - Part 2
- A-11 Relationship and Dominion Definitions
- A-12 Relationship Model - A Continuous Cycle of Growth

Refer to the following page for the Alternate Subject Index for “Relationship”.

APPENDICES

Alternate Subject Index for “Relationship”

These charts apply to multiple subjects including the subject of Relationship:

A - Relationship with God

- B-2 Relationship and Dominion -- Spiritual Growth
- B-3 God Seeks for Worshippers and Intercessors
- B-6 Restoration - Vision
- C-5 Expanding Our Relationship and Dominion Role
- C-6 New Levels of Relationship and Dominion - - Passion and Compassion
- C-7 Rending of the Veil – Less of Self and More of God
- C-8 Egypt to Canaan Journey
- C-11 Breakthrough to New Levels of Relationship and Dominion
- C-15 Charity -- the Bridge to Spiritual Growth
- E-2 Revival Prayer Vs. Survival Prayer
- F-2 The Supernatural -- Cycles of Passion and Compassion
- F-4 Leading the Inner Circle Into the Supernatural
- G-4 The Two Arms of the Church
- G-8 The Spiritual Soul Winning Model
- G-9 The Vine and the Branch
- G-22 Love -- The Bridge Over Which Truth is Transported
- G-23 Ministering to Natural Needs and Spiritual Needs
- G-24 Soul Winning and Spiritual Growth Cycle
- G-25 Only One Commandment and One Question at Judgment
- G-26 Love -- Definition (Compassion and Care)
- G-27 Loving God is Loving People

Appendix 3 - Notes

Part I

Chapter 1

- (1) The Online Bible Thayer's Greek Lexicon and Brown Driver & Briggs Hebrew Lexicon, Copyright © 1993, Woodside Bible Fellowship, Ontario, Canada. Licensed from the Institute for Creation Research.
- (2) Biblesoft's New Exhaustive Strong's Numbers and Concordance with Expanded Greek-Hebrew Dictionary. Copyright © 1994, 2003 Biblesoft, Inc. and International Bible Translators, Inc.

Part II

Chapter 1

- (1) Jamieson, Fausset, and Brown Commentary, Electronic Database. Copyright © 1997 by Biblesoft.

Chapter 2

- (1) E. M. Bounds, *E.M. Bounds On Prayer* (Whitaker House, 1997), p. 11-12.
- (2) David K. Bernard, *God's Infallible Word* (Word Aflame Press, 1992), p. 27, 63-65.
- (3) Barnes' Notes, Electronic Database. Copyright © 1997 by Biblesoft.
- (4) Thayer's Greek Lexicon, Electronic Database. Copyright © 2000, 2003 by Biblesoft, Inc. All rights reserved.

APPENDICES

- (5) Biblesoft's New Exhaustive Strong's Numbers and Concordance with Expanded Greek-Hebrew Dictionary. Copyright © 1994, 2003 Biblesoft, Inc. and International Bible Translators, Inc.

Part III

Chapter 2

- (1) T. F. Tenney, "The Cost of Discipleship," *The Pentecostal Herald*, June 2004, p. 30-33.

Appendix 4 – About the Author

The author's background includes four different areas of experience:

(1) Working thirty-three years in the challenging and exciting field of computer technology, serving both as a technologist and a manager, witnessing and experiencing almost unbelievable accomplishments and advancements.



(2) Working 50 years in various ministries in three home churches, serving at the individual and leadership levels: Home Bible Study and Discipleship Ministry (40 years), Sunday School Bus Ministry (10) Years, Sunday School Ministry, Compassion and Care Ministry, Home Fellowship Ministry, Youth Ministry, Visitor Follow-up Ministry, Nursing Home Ministry, Singles Ministry, Alcohol / Drug Abuse Mentoring Ministry and Prison Ministry.

(3) Researching, writing and publishing nine books.

(4) Preaching and teaching in many churches in the U.S., foreign missions churches and Bible schools (ordained minister with the United Pentecostal Church International; associated minister with UPCI Global Missions approved for foreign missions support assignments).

His ministry emphasis includes revival and spiritual growth of the saint for the purpose of more effective evangelism of a lost world. Some of the key ministry themes include:

Ministry Information

- Relationship with God (impartation from the Father).
- Spiritual Growth (continuous transformation).
- Dominion (engagement in the Father's business with dominion over satan and sickness).
- God's perfect love growing and flowing in our lives.
- Urgency of the Father's business (managing our priorities consistent with our knowledge of the times).

Ministry Venues:

Global Missions (particularly Bible schools)

We have spent several months teaching in Bible schools in: Manila, Philippines; Barcelona, Spain; and Madrid, Spain. We plan to continue this ministry in the future.

Home Missions

(Pioneer works and small churches that are not self supporting)

Every year a portion of our time is dedicated to this area. This is done on a volunteer basis with no expense to the pastor or the church.

Established Churches

Special Services and Seminars

When needed, special services and seminars provide preaching, teaching and training for putting practical revival and evangelism principles into practice. Some of these services and seminars, summarized on the following page, apply to the entire church and some to selected groups in the church. Multimedia is used in the teaching and training presentations.

Special Services and Seminars

(1) Deeper Life Ministry

(Doctrine – preaching and teaching the Word, three levels)

- New Converts: Discipleship curriculum and classes.
- Entire Church: Teaching and preaching regarding the commitment and actions required to pursue spiritual maturity -- becoming a partaker of His divine nature.
- Inner Circle: Jesus modeled this special ministry by choosing a small inner circle of three out of the twelve disciples (Peter, James and John) whom He taught, prayed with and worked with separate from the other nine disciples. Jesus recognized that these were ready to move further into the supernatural and He accommodated that (e.g. Mount of Transfiguration, raising the dead, Gethsemane).

**Promote the pursuit of a greater hunger
and reverence for the Word of God!**

(2) Compassion and Care Ministry

(Actions – fellowship and ministering to needs)

- Planning and developing a more organized and effective Compassion and Care Ministry (Attracting, Winning, Retaining and making disciples).
- Teaching and training for a greater number of the laity to get involved in this ministry.
- Reaching sinners in our circle of influence (operating as both son of man and son of God).
- Caring for visitors and new converts (turning church greeters into caregivers):

Find a need and fill it! Find a hurt and heal it!

Special Services and Seminars

(3) Prayer Ministry

(Power – corporate and private prayer)

- Planning and developing a more organized and powerful Prayer Ministry in the church.
- Involving a greater number of the laity in this ministry.
- Teaching and training regarding the development of a more balanced and effective prayer life (for children, new converts, and others struggling with their prayer life).

(4) Church Growth Vision and Planning (Direction)

- Vision casting and planning to elevate and improve the organization structures and processes for the three key ministries of the church: Deeper Life Ministry (doctrine arm), Compassion and Care Ministry (actions arm), Prayer Ministry (power arm).
- Planning and preparation to reap and retain a greater harvest by mobilizing a greater number of trained laborers in the harvest.

Book of Acts Church Growth Foundational Principles

(1) Doctrine (2) Fellowship / Breaking Bread (3) Prayers

*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 **apostles' 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 2:41-43, 47)*

Ministry Information

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Home Church: Greater Life Church, Webster, TX

Pastor: Rev. Mark Hughes

