

01 Milk Before Meat

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Copilot Summary

"Milk Before Meat" explores the spiritual growth of believers, comparing it to the physical growth from infancy to adulthood. Initially, believers need the "milk" of basic spiritual principles to grow out of their carnal nature and understand their place in God's eternal narrative. As they mature, they move on to the "meat" of deeper spiritual truths. The document emphasizes the importance of understanding the spiritual over the material, recognizing the eternal nature of our existence, and the necessity of a personal relationship with God. It discusses the contrast between carnal and spiritual, corruption and incorruption, and temporal and eternal. The study also highlights the significance of the 10 Commandments, the Gospel, and the difference between animal sacrifices and God's ultimate sacrifice through Jesus Christ. It encourages believers to grow in their faith, understand the prophetic narrative of the Bible, and live a life aligned with God's Spirit, characterized by selfless love and obedience to God's Word.

Tagline

"...desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow thereby..." | 1 Peter 2:2 | Open your spiritual eyes and look to eternity.

Synopsis

When we are first born we have neither the mental capacity, motor skills, or ability to digest solid foods. We survive on some form of milk that provides the liquid protein and other nutrients required for survival. As we grow into toddlerhood and beyond, we learn to control our bodies and get stronger. We advance to solid foods as we learn to chew with our gums and then new teeth so our bodies can better digest the food.

Like many other analogies used by the Bible for marriage, sowing and reaping, or waking and sleeping, the idea of growing in our spiritual re-birth when we come to accept Christ is paralleled to what we know from our own personal experience in life. When we are born again and awakened to the spiritual reality of an eternal God who made Himself lower than the angels to live in the fallen world sinless and die as an atoning sacrifice for His creation, we must slowly grow into the fulness of understanding the depth of the eternal narrative into which we've been reborn.

But the message of the Gospel and basic understanding of our place in this world is not the end of understanding. These spiritual principles that we must learn to understand God, and our relationship with Him, are the milk of the Word that helps us to grow out of our carnal, materialistic, selfish flesh and open our eyes to the glory of a spiritual world in which there is a spiritual kingdom that has been steadily growing since the first century. It is hidden in plain sight and expressed by the Spirit of God working through the fallen men and women who drank the milk before us and chewed on the meat of the Word, digesting it and ensuring that Word is passed through time so we can grow with them in Spirit and Truth.

This collection of Bible studies is not for everyone, yet. It is strong meat that must be chewed on a lot before it can be digested and understood. It is my belief that everyone can do this, but in their own walk following their rebirth they must be weaned from the milk and desire to move on to the meat. They must leave the carnal works of the flesh and hunger after the eternal fruits of the Spirit. So before getting into the meat of the Word, I feel it's important to address the milk as these studies are my attempt to lead the viewer or hearer through the process of understanding the prophetic narrative God

has laid out in His Word as I've come to understand it. But first we must trust His Word and at least begin to recognize the carnal nature we were born into. It is this we will grow out of as we work on our spiritual transition into eternity.

Overview

- Introduction
- Milk vs. Meat
 - Carnal vs Spiritual
 - Corruption vs incorruption
 - Terrestrial vs Celestial
 - Temporal vs Eternal
- Shadows of Love
 - 10 Commandments the reminder of sin to the carnal
 - Yoke of Christ is fulfillment of the Law by obedience to the Spirit of God in you
- Gospel
 - Sin and death vs redemption and life
 - Animal sacrifice vs God's sacrifice (Hebrews 9:22 | Matthew 26:28, Romans 3:25)
- Relationship
- Conclusion

Details

- Introduction
 - These studies on Bible prophecy in this series are focused on those who already believe in and have accepted Yeshua (Jesus) as their Lord. We're all on different parts of our walk with Christ, for some it has just begun and for others it's been part of their whole life. Even so, we all struggle in our walk and constantly find ourselves walking apart from Him as we get distracted by life in this world. If we're not walking with Christ, we are either walking away from Him or to Him, I pray it is the latter.
 - However, I don't want to discount the person who does not yet believe, who may come across this series with an open and curious mind or even the person who is walking away because they lost trust in God or His Word.
 - Whether you don't believe in God or you do, I would be remiss not to begin at the beginning of this journey because ultimately without the foundation of Christ none of this matters. And the beginning of this journey is focused on you, wherever you are at in that walk.
 - Especially in this age, we are taught to think materially and not spiritually. We're distracted by the next flashy thing that catches our attention, which is non-stop. We know the physical world we have grown up in. We understand hardship and leisure in different degrees. What we often don't recognize are the non-material things that are such a part of our daily lives, our spiritual lives. Relationships are built with each other in the spiritual world, though we often don't think in those terms. Emotions and thought, these non-material things exist in and out of the material world, married to each soul locked in their physical bodies. Who we are, our minds, have an eternal existence whose eternal destination is dependent upon the choices we make and the relationships we foster or destroy with other eternal souls.
 - The study of Bible prophecy involves a lot of history and interpretation of various visions and topics that I believe will build your trust in God's Word as it has mine. Faith is not blind, it is reliance and trust in something tangible, but I feel it's important before getting into the meat of **HIS**story and our future, that we address the milk of understanding the spiritual nature of it all. In this we can gain insight from the Bible about what's most important, our relationship with Yeshua and what is expected of us in that relationship and our relationship with others.
 - Not only is this of primary importance for our eternal existence, but thinking spiritually and having a relationship with the Spirit of God when studying the Word He authored is

imperative for understanding.

- Milk vs. Meat

- The comparison of milk vs. meat is the idea of moving from the simple things we know to the difficult things we learn. Newborn babies lack the physical motor skills, mental abilities, and digestive capabilities to eat anything but a liquid diet. They instinctively know how to deal with liquids and milk is easily digested and provides the nourishment needed for babies to grow into toddlers, who can then begin to expand their dietary horizons. At some point, solid foods are introduced that gradually teach the child to break down the solids and digest, but it is still some time before they're ready to chew on a steak enough to swallow and digest.
- It is this same principle that is introduced several times in scripture regarding our spiritual understanding. We live in a time well after Yeshua came to teach us about the eternal and spiritual kingdom of God. It is not in conflict with the kingdoms of this world, it is on a whole other plane of existence. The people of this kingdom exist within all the nations of the world, connected to God in Spirit and Truth when walking in obedience to God's ways of love.
- **1 Peter 1:17-2:3** - "And if ye call on the Father, who without respect of persons judgeth according to every man's work, pass the time of your sojourning [here] in fear: **Forasmuch as ye know that ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, [as] silver and gold, from your vain conversation [received] by tradition from your fathers; But with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot:** Who verily was foreordained before the foundation of the world, but was manifest in these last times for you, Who by him do believe in God, that raised him up from the dead, and gave him glory; that your faith and hope might be in God. **Seeing ye have purified your souls in obeying the truth through the Spirit unto unfeigned love of the brethren, [see that ye] love one another with a pure heart fervently: Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the word of God, which liveth and abideth for ever.** For all flesh [is] as grass, and all the glory of man as the flower of grass. The grass withereth, and the flower thereof falleth away: But the word of the Lord endureth for ever. And this is the word which by the gospel is preached unto you. **Wherefore laying aside all malice, and all guile, and hypocrisies, and envies, and all evil speakings, As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow thereby: If so be ye have tasted that the Lord [is] gracious."**
- In line with the analogy of a baby feeding on milk, Peter is exhorting Christians to discern the difference between the corruptible material things from the incorruptible spiritual things. To recognize the gift of God through Christ to salvation is tied to obedience to the Spirit of God that is selfless love. In this we are born again, not into the corruptible material world as a physical baby, but into the incorruptible spiritual kingdom through the Word of God. The New Testament reveals the spiritual nature of the kingdom of God and our role in it. It is through the Word we begin to take in and digest this understanding as newborns into the kingdom.
- Note what is to be dropped in a desire to drink the milk and understand. Malice, guile, hypocrisy, envying, and evil speaking. As we will see this theme of the works of the flesh and the fruits of the Spirit are laid out throughout the New Testament as examples for those with ears to hear. These are all spiritual in nature, invisible and contained within the individual spirit until expressed by action in the material world. They have no smell, taste, color, depth, weight, roughness, or smoothness, yet each and every one of you know they exist in your mind from time to time and sometimes expressed verbally or physically in the world.
- **Hebrews 5** - "For every high priest taken from among men is ordained for men in things [pertaining] to God, that he may offer both gifts and sacrifices for sins: Who can have compassion on the ignorant, and on them that are out of the way; for that he himself also is compassed with infirmity. And by reason hereof he ought, as for the people, so also for himself, to offer for sins. And no man taketh this honour unto himself, but he that is called

of God, as [was] Aaron. **So also Christ glorified not himself to be made an high priest; but he that said unto him, Thou art my Son, to day have I begotten thee. As he saith also in another [place], Thou [art] a priest for ever after the order of Melchisedec.** 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; Though he were a Son, yet learned he obedience by the things which he suffered; And being made perfect, he became the author of eternal salvation unto all them that obey him; Called of God an high priest after the order of Melchisedec. Of whom we have many things to say, and hard to be uttered, seeing ye are dull of hearing. **For when for the time ye ought to be teachers, ye have need that one teach you again which [be] the first principles of the oracles of God; and are become such as have need of milk, and not of strong meat. For every one that useth milk [is] unskilful in the word of righteousness: for he is a babe. But strong meat belongeth to them that are of full age, [even] those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil."**

- This points to one of the more difficult things to understand from scripture for a Gentile of this age, almost 2,000 years removed from the active practice of first century Jews. While Jews have a much better understanding through tradition passed down through the generations, ministering at the temple has not been an active part of Jewish culture since then, yet it will once again be central to the modern state of Israel.
- Even before the nation of Israel existed, Abram, later called Abraham, was blessed by Melchizedek, who was both the king of Salem, later named Jerusalem, and the priest of the God. This concept of both a king and priest is also central to God's relationship with Israel and the Christian relationship with God.
- **Genesis 14:18-20** - "And Melchizedek **king of Salem** brought forth bread and wine: and he **[was] the priest of the most high God**. And he blessed him, and said, Blessed [be] Abram of the most high God, possessor of heaven and earth: And blessed be the most high God, which hath delivered thine enemies into thy hand. And he gave him tithes of all."
- What I've found is the more I understand the Old Testament, the more foreshadowing I see of later fulfillment in Yeshua at His first coming and His yet second coming. Christ came in the first century demonstrating the Spirit of God, walking perfectly in God's Spirit. He did not glorify Himself, but humbled Himself and was a servant, offering Himself as a blameless sacrifice as payment for our rejection of God's ways. In His selfless sacrifice and deference to the Father, He was made a high priest and king, just as Melchizedek was. Again we see youth, inexperience, and lack of understanding tied to the need to drink milk. This is associated with the lack of ability to discern good and evil. Good and evil are spiritual concepts that have no place in a purely materialistic world. How often do you address situations in your life from a spiritual context?
- We see this evident in materialistic atheism, where when taken to its ultimate and honest conclusion we are all evolved stardust randomly popping in and out of existence with no purpose or meaning. Survival of the fittest naturally leads to a selfish nature of striving to be the fittest no matter who you have to step on to get there. Many materialistic atheists would object to this, but many are also members of a Judeo-Christian society that has formed the moral fabric they associate with their lack of belief in the spiritual. It's often couched in survival of the fittest arguments that state it's in our best interest of survival to be civil to each other. But I find that view incompatible with a lack of belief in things non-material. The materialist looks at the brain and says that is the origin of our mind, but it could just as easily be the brain's response to the presence of a mind. There are many scientifically monitored near death experiences that would seem to show that even with a lack of any brain activity for long periods of time, people are brought back with knowledge of what events transpired in the material world with great detail while they were brain dead because they were watching events around their body from outside their body. These events are later verified by those who were living in that moment when the subject had no brain activity.

- Ultimately, those things that are considered good and evil have no physical properties, although they can be expressed physically. This is where the understanding that we are spiritual beings contained in physical bodies bring both worlds together, yet we don't tend to dwell on the non-physical when we're striving to live and thrive in a physical world.
- **1 Corinthians 3:1-11** - "And I, brethren, could not speak unto you as unto spiritual, but as unto carnal, [even] as unto babes in Christ. I have fed you with milk, and not with meat: for hitherto ye were not able [to bear it], neither yet now are ye able. For ye are yet carnal: for whereas [there is] among you envying, and strife, and divisions, are ye not carnal, and walk as men? For while one saith, I am of Paul; and another, I [am] of Apollos; are ye not carnal? Who then is Paul, and who [is] Apollos, but ministers by whom ye believed, even as the Lord gave to every man? I have planted, Apollos watered; but God gave the increase. So then neither is he that planteth any thing, neither he that watereth; but God that giveth the increase. Now he that planteth and he that watereth are one: and every man shall receive his own reward according to his own labour. **For we are labourers together with God: ye are God's husbandry, [ye are] God's building.** According to the grace of God which is given unto me, as a wise masterbuilder, I have laid the foundation, and another buildeth thereon. **But let every man take heed how he buildeth thereupon. For other foundation can no man lay than that is laid, which is Jesus Christ.**"
- Again we see the idea of Paul being unable to speak to those he is trying to teach of the kingdom of God in spiritual terms because they can't take it in and digest it. As Peter spoke of malice, guile, hypocrisy, envying, and evil speaking related to needing milk for nourishment, so too does Paul recognize his audience is full of envying, strife, and division. They were caught up in the teachings of the ministers to the loss of digesting the message and meaning of it. All the Christian authors and teachers were pointing to Christ, of whom this was all written, to point them to the ways of God. Not the carnal self-interest and pride, but the selfless love of God most fully expressed in the sacrifice of Christ on the cross for our sins. Yeshua scolded the Scribes and Pharisees, calling them hypocrites, for going after the teachings of men, rejecting the commandments of God for their own traditions. This should be a lesson for us of the primary importance of the Word of God for all of our understanding of the reality of the spiritual reality of our existence and how to live that out in line with God's ways of selfless love.
- **Isaiah 28:9-13** - "Whom shall he teach knowledge? and whom shall he make to understand doctrine? [them that are] weaned from the milk, [and] drawn from the breasts. For precept [must be] upon precept, precept upon precept; line upon line, line upon line; here a little, [and] there a little: For with stammering lips and another tongue will he speak to this people. To whom he said, This [is] the rest [wherewith] ye may cause the weary to rest; and this [is] the refreshing: yet they would not hear. But the word of the LORD was unto them precept upon precept, precept upon precept; line upon line, line upon line; here a little, [and] there a little; that they might go, and fall backward, and be broken, and snared, and taken."
- If we want to understand God's Word, if we want to understand doctrine, if we want to understand prophecy, we must be weaned from the milk and be able to digest the spiritual nature of who we are in Christ. To understand most fully, we need to know what is written here a little and there a little, that we can bring it all together in greater understanding. If we fail to put God's Word first, and go after the teachings of men, we will fall, break, and be caught up in the snare of our own understanding that often leads away from God.
- In the Old Testament, Israel was meant to minister to God and be mediators between God and the world, but in their carnal nature they could not pull themselves away from going after other false gods of the world that were steeped in the material with idols of gold and wood. God was supposed to be their King, but they wanted a human king like the rest of the world had and when God gave them over to their desires, strife followed.
- This is not limited to ancient Israel, look at most of the religions of the world and the shrines that are prayed to, the holy places of physical structures that are marveled at. Even many

- professing Christians are drawn to relics and miss the personal and intimate relationship with Yeshua by the Spirit of God. They can have a one on one relationship at any time in any place because they are the temple of God. As human beings we are constantly drawn to the physical things we can see and associate those with the spiritual things we feel. God was with Israel and has been with the church, trying to bring God and man back to relationship, but we fight every step.
- The tabernacle and temple in the wilderness and Jerusalem respectively were the house of God where His Spirit dwelt. You and I have spirits as well that dwell in our temples of flesh and bone. When we begin to understand this, and the immaterial nature of the spiritual, we can invite the Spirit of God to dwell with us because of what Yeshua did on the cross. And when we walk in obedience, sanctified by Him, He dwells with us in Spirit and Truth. Communication with God is just a thought away.
 - Carnal vs Spiritual
 - We've seen some examples of understanding the carnal expression of our natural spiritual nature. We're born selfish, we have to be to survive and if we're lucky we have parents or guardians that ensure we're taken care of. Good parents will attempt to instill a sense of community and civility that requires thinking outside of oneself and taking others into account. Part of growing up is learning to fight against that selfish nature and become more selfless within a community.
 - We see this represented in Paul's letter to the Galatians, where the law given to Israel at Sinai, which had many statutes that Israel struggled to keep, is summarized in one spiritual principle, love.
 - Carnal
 - **Galatians 5:19-21** - "Now the **works of the flesh are manifest**, which are [these]; **Adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness, Idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, variance, emulations, wrath, strife, seditions, heresies, Envyings, murders, drunkenness, revellings**, and such like: of the which I tell you before, as I have also told [you] in time past, that they which do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God."
 - **Matthew 15:15-20** - "Then answered Peter and said unto him, Declare unto us this parable. And Jesus said, Are ye also yet without understanding? Do not ye yet understand, that whatsoever entereth in at the mouth goeth into the belly, and is cast out into the draught? But **those things which proceed out of the mouth come forth from the heart; and they defile the man. For out of the heart proceed evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, fornications, thefts, false witness, blasphemies: These are [the things] which defile a man:** but to eat with unwashen hands defileth not a man."
 - **Romans 1:18-32** - "For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who hold the truth in unrighteousness; Because that which may be known of God is manifest in them; for God hath shewed [it] unto them. **For the invisible things of him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, [even] his eternal power and Godhead; so that they are without excuse:** Because that, when they knew God, they glorified [him] not as God, neither were thankful; but became vain in their imaginations, and their foolish heart was darkened. **Professing themselves to be wise, they became fools, And changed the glory of the uncorruptible God into an image made like to corruptible man, and to birds, and fourfooted beasts, and creeping things.** Wherefore **God also gave them up to uncleanness through the lusts of their own hearts, to dishonour their own bodies between themselves: Who changed the truth of God into a lie, and worshipped and served the creature more than the Creator, who is blessed for ever. Amen.** For this cause God gave them up unto vile affections: for even their women did change the natural use

into that which is against nature: And likewise also the men, leaving the natural use of the woman, burned in their lust one toward another; men with men working that which is unseemly, and receiving in themselves that recompence of their error which was meet. And even as they did not like to retain God in [their] knowledge, God gave them over to a reprobate mind, to do those things which are not convenient; **Being filled with all unrighteousness, fornication, wickedness, covetousness, maliciousness; full of envy, murder, debate, deceit, malignity; whisperers, Backbiters, haters of God, despiteful, proud, boasters, inventors of evil things, disobedient to parents, Without understanding, covenantbreakers, without natural affection, implacable, unmerciful:** Who knowing the judgment of God, that they which commit such things are worthy of death, not only do the same, but have pleasure in them that do them."

- **2 Timothy 3:1-7** - "This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come. For **men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, Without natural affection, trucebreakers, false accusers, incontinent, fierce, despisers of those that are good, Traitors, heady, highminded, lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God; Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof:** from such turn away. For of this sort are they which creep into houses, and lead captive silly women laden with sins, led away with divers lusts, Ever learning, and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth."

- Spiritual

- **Galatians 5:22-26** - "But the fruit of the Spirit is **love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, Meekness, temperance:** against such there is no law. And they that are Christ's have crucified the flesh with the affections and lusts. If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit. **Let us not be desirous of vain glory, provoking one another, envying one another.**"
- **2 Timothy 3:10-17** - "But thou hast fully known my doctrine, manner of life, purpose, faith, longsuffering, charity, patience, Persecutions, afflictions, which came unto me at Antioch, at Iconium, at Lystra; what persecutions I endured: but out of [them] all the Lord delivered me. Yea, and **all that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution.** But evil men and seducers shall wax worse and worse, deceiving, and being deceived. But continue thou in the things which thou hast learned and hast been assured of, knowing of whom thou hast learned [them]; And **that from a child thou hast known the holy scriptures, which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus. All scripture [is] given by inspiration of God, and [is] profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness:** That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works."

- We are given two distinct views of the works of the flesh and the fruits of the Spirit. The lusts of the flesh are focused on the temporal material and selfish nature of man looking to please himself even to the expense of others. The fruits of the Spirit show a mindset in opposition to the flesh where charity, agape or brotherly love in Greek, gentleness, longsuffering and meekness stand as a spirit of selflessness, enduring those hardships that come in life.

- Corruption vs incorruption

- This will be covered in greater detail in the [First Resurrection](#) study, where our current physical bodies are corruptible, subject to entropy and the decay over time to death. This is part of the curse that came on the earth because of sin. But there is an existence outside of this corruption that is not affected by corruption that those who accept Yeshua as their Savior are adopted into.

- Terrestrial vs Celestial

- This too will be covered in greater detail in the [First Resurrection](#) study and is tied to

the same idea of our transition into eternity. It's understandable that we only understand what we can perceive, and a veil has been placed between us and the realm of heaven.

- However, I believe with scientific advancement the ability to comprehend, even though we can't quite prove it, is almost within reach and we can at least begin to imagine the possibility that we are locked within a 3 dimensional existence that is contained within one or more higher dimensions we can't perceive or measure.
- Theories like string theory and quantum theory, along with our capability to understand the transition from two dimensions to three, can bring us to a place where the possibility that we exist in a much larger universe than the physical 3 dimensions we know can begin to make sense.
 - Video - [Exploring other dimensions - Alex Rosenthal and George Zaidan](#)
 - Recommended documentary - [The Elegant Universe with Brian Greene](#)
- This can also explain certain things we would call supernatural that don't fit with a solely materialistic 3 dimensional worldview. Turning water into wine is nothing for the God who upholds the subatomic structure that makes the molecular structure of matter by the word of His mouth. Man has been trying to do this through alchemy forever. Appearing suddenly in the midst of a locked room is nothing for a being that exists in a higher dimension and can pass through our 3 dimensions at any space or time they want. Unidentified aerial phenomena that don't obey the laws of physics as we understand them begin to make sense in a world where heaven is invading earth. Prophets like Ezekiel have visions of strange wheels full of eyes and horses and chariots of fire take Elijah into heaven.
- When you begin to be able to see the reality of the entire universe we can't even imagine fully, the supernatural is just the norm for heaven, we're just amazed because we don't exist in that higher dimension where it's normal...yet. This is the promise of gaining our celestial bodies, outside of the corruption and limitations imposed on us now, a point in time where all who love God will be changed and in the moment, in the twinkling of an eye be able to see Him as He is, face to face, something our corruptible terrestrial bodies cannot do now.
- Temporal vs Eternal
 - We live an existence within time where events flow from the past to the future. We cannot affect our past, we can only control our time in the moment, leading to a yet unknown future. What we do now can influence our future, but it's never guaranteed because of all the other possible influences upon our personal futures.
 - Our knowledge is based on our personal experience and the understanding of those who communicate their experience to us, if we listen. But even then the only information we can be sure are accurate are based on our personal experience. Even then, we're limited by our memory regarding history, which in my case can be unreliable at times as well. We must use logic and understanding to compare historical records to arrive as close to the reality as possible.
 - While we know time will continue to flow forward, the future remains obscured from our understanding and without any external information we would know no different. A lot of people work very hard to figure out ways to see into the future for various reasons, with some success, but the only one who could possibly know the future would have to exist outside of time where they could see the whole span of time from beginning to end.
 - **Ecclesiastes 3:11** - "He hath made every [thing] beautiful in his time: also **he hath set the world [eternity] in their heart, so that no man can find out the work that God maketh from the beginning to the end**"
 - This is basically saying that the expanse of time is hidden from man that they can't know the end from the beginning as he lives only in a moment of that expanse of time.

- **Proverbs 27:1** - "Boast not thyself of to morrow; for thou knowest not what a day may bring forth."
- **James 4:13-15** - "Go to now, ye that say, To day or to morrow we will go into such a city, and continue there a year, and buy and sell, and get gain: Whereas ye know not what [shall be] on the morrow. **For what [is] your life? It is even a vapour, that appeareth for a little time, and then vanisheth away.** For that ye [ought] to say, If the Lord will, we shall live, and do this, or that."
- It's hard to imagine existence without time, but God exists outside of time and outside of space, or the material world we live in, and so He knows the end from the beginning. He hasn't taken our free will in this, He just knows what we will do with our free will and where those decisions will lead us. Furthermore, He has injected Himself and His angels into human history at various points to guide and accomplish His designs. He has revealed this through His prophets whose diligence in documenting has given us the Bible we have today.
 - **Isaiah 46:9-10** - "Remember the former things of old: for I [am] God, and [there is] none else; [I am] God, and [there is] none like me, Declaring the end from the beginning, and from ancient times [the things] that are not [yet] done, saying, My counsel shall stand, and I will do all my pleasure:"
- As these studies will get into, God has revealed in His Word things before they happen for His people to both understand what is to come and for His glory. He has proven time and again that He knows the end from the beginning and the historical record agrees.
 - **Jeremiah 29:10-12** - "For thus saith the LORD, That **after seventy years be accomplished at Babylon I will visit you, and perform my good word toward you, in causing you to return to this place.** For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, saith the LORD, thoughts of peace, and not of evil, to give you an expected end. Then shall ye call upon me, and ye shall go and pray unto me, and I will hearken unto you."
- While we were not there from the beginning, we are all eternal beings that will exist going forward for time without end. Who we are is an eternal spirit in a temporary habitation in the world, our physical body. Just like a house, it falls apart over time and exists in a corruptible state affected by the law of entropy. Even the pleasures of this world are only temporary and the chase after them leads to emptiness.
 - **1 John 2:15-17** - "Love not the world, neither the things [that are] in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that [is] in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world. **And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof: but he that doeth the will of God abideth for ever.**"
 - **John 3:14-17** - "And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of man be lifted up: That **whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have eternal life.** 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.** For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved."
- The question is, where will you as an eternal spirit spend your eternity?
- There are many examples of comparisons between good and evil as it's expressed by the carnal or the spiritual. I think it is pretty clear to even a child which is good and bad between these two sides. But I also think most people don't really dwell on these things and all the different trails of good and bad may seem like a lot, but God had distilled all this down to a very basic principle to make it simple to discern good and evil. We don't have to understand legalistically every thing that is bad, we can understand the simple spirit behind what is bad and then see with spiritual eyes what is bad. And the same idea of milk vs meat can be seen in the way it was expressed in what I call the shadows of love.

- Shadows of Love

- **Psalm 119:98-105** - "Thou through thy commandments hast made me wiser than mine enemies: for they [are] ever with me. I have more understanding than all my teachers: for thy testimonies [are] my meditation. I understand more than the ancients, because I keep thy precepts. I have refrained my feet from every evil way, that I might keep thy word. I have not departed from thy judgments: for thou hast taught me. How sweet are thy words unto my taste! [yea, sweeter] than honey to my mouth! Through thy precepts I get understanding: therefore I hate every false way. NUN. Thy word [is] a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path."
- Just as an opaque object will cast a shadow in light, you can see the outline of the shadow and discern some basic things about the object without seeing it directly. In this way I think of God as the light and His Spirit of love is the spiritual object through which the shadow of the 10 Commandments were cast. In this way the spirit of the Law is seen in a carnal way of dos and don'ts. It's like God's way of answering "because I said so" and leaving the wise to connect the dots as to why those laws are given. This was made easier when the Messiah came and made clear the Spirit behind the Law, or the object causing the shadow.
- **1 John 4:7-21** - "Beloved, let us love one another: for love is of God; and every one that loveth is born of God, and knoweth God. He that loveth not knoweth not God; for God is love. In this was manifested the love of God toward us, because that God sent his only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through him. Herein is love, not that we loved God, but that he loved us, and sent his Son [to be] the propitiation for our sins. Beloved, if God so loved us, we ought also to love one another. No man hath seen God at any time. If we love one another, God dwelleth in us, and his love is perfected in us. Hereby know we that we dwell in him, and he in us, because he hath given us of his Spirit. And we have seen and do testify that the Father sent the Son [to be] the Saviour of the world. Whosoever shall confess that Jesus is the Son of God, God dwelleth in him, and he in God. And we have known and believed the love that God hath to us. God is love; and he that dwelleth in love dwelleth in God, and God in him. Herein is our love made perfect, that we may have boldness in the day of judgment: because as he is, so are we in this world. There is no fear in love; but perfect love casteth out fear: because fear hath torment. He that feareth is not made perfect in love. We love him, because he first loved us. If a man say, I love God, and hateth his brother, he is a liar: for he that loveth not his brother whom he hath seen, how can he love God whom he hath not seen? And this commandment have we from him, That he who loveth God love his brother also."
- The 10 Commandments are the reminder of sin to the carnal, they are the Law of things you must or must not do in order to conform to a way of life that aligns with God's Spirit. This kind of conforming requires those who desire to do so, to focus on the letter of the Laws before them and attempt to take actions to stay in line with the Law. We know this in a civil sense with the laws of the land we live in that must be obeyed or there is a penalty for breaking them.
- The Law given to Israel at Sinai as distilled into the 10 Commandments all dictate actions that would align a person following them to a life of love, or charity. Breaking the Law would lead to a life centered on the self.
 - The first Commandments are focused on honoring God.
 - Having no other gods
 - ◆ He is the only God of creation, there was no other responsible for your existence
 - No graven image or idols to worship
 - ◆ God is not tied to material things like wood and stone or images
 - Bearing His name properly, or being an imager of God by representing Him truthfully in the world
 - ◆ We are His imagers, when we say we represent Him and do wickedly, we bear His name in vain and cause the world to associate Him with our

wickedness

- Remember the Sabbath and keep it holy, resting from work
 - ◆ What is the work we are to rest from? As with many things in scripture, there is a material and temporal aspect as well as a spiritual and eternal aspect.
 - ◆ **Matthew 11:25-30** - "At that time Jesus answered and said, I thank thee, O Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because thou hast hid these things from the wise and prudent, and hast revealed them unto babes. Even so, Father: for so it seemed good in thy sight. All things are delivered unto me of my Father: and no man knoweth the Son, but the Father; neither knoweth any man the Father, save the Son, and [he] to whomsoever the Son will reveal [him]. **Come unto me, all [ye] that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.** Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls. For my yoke [is] easy, and my burden is light."
 - ◆ **Hebrews 4:1-12** - "Let us therefore fear, lest, a promise being left [us] of entering into his rest, any of you should seem to come short of it. For unto us was the gospel preached, as well as unto them: but the word preached did not profit them, not being mixed with faith in them that heard [it]. For we which have believed do enter into rest, as he said, As I have sworn in my wrath, if they shall enter into my rest: although the works were finished from the foundation of the world. For he spake in a certain place of the seventh [day] on this wise, And God did rest the seventh day from all his works. And in this [place] again, If they shall enter into my rest. Seeing therefore it remaineth that some must enter therein, and they to whom it was first preached entered not in because of unbelief: Again, he limiteth a certain day, saying in David, To day, after so long a time; as it is said, To day if ye will hear his voice, harden not your hearts. For if Jesus had given them rest, then would he not afterward have spoken of another day. There remaineth therefore a rest to the people of God. For **he that is entered into his rest, he also hath ceased from his own works, as God [did] from his.** Let us labour therefore to enter into that rest, lest any man fall after the same example of unbelief. For the word of God [is] quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and [is] a discernor of the thoughts and intents of the heart."
 - ◆ There are many who look to follow the works of the Law, not seeing it is a shadow of reality. The Law is viewed as a check list to do or not do, but the point of entering rest on the Sabbath was a spiritual principle highlighting the grace of God by faith and not our works to enter into His rest. We keep the Sabbath by faith in Yeshua's sacrifice and our rest daily in Him by obedience to the Spirit of the Law, love. When we live in love toward God and each other, we fulfill the Law continually by His Spirit dwelling with us and showing the fruits of the Spirit.
 - ◆ **Galatians 5:22-25** - "But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law. And they that are Christ's have crucified the flesh with the affections and lusts. If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit."
 - ◆ **Mark 2:23-28** - "And it came to pass, that he went through the corn fields on the sabbath day; and his disciples began, as they went, to pluck the ears of corn. And the Pharisees said unto him, Behold, why do they on the sabbath day that which is not lawful? And he said unto them, Have ye

never read what David did, when he had need, and was an hungred, he, and they that were with him? How he went into the house of God in the days of Abiathar the high priest, and did eat the shewbread, which is not lawful to eat but for the priests, and gave also to them which were with him? And he said unto them, **The sabbath was made for man, and not man for the sabbath: Therefore the Son of man is Lord also of the sabbath.**"

- ◆ While believers fulfill this Law in obedience in living in the love of God, this was also a principle setup by His actions at creation, for our benefit in giving one day a week to rest from our physical labors for relationship with God and family, and as a foreshadow prophetically for His reign on earth. We are all in the family of God and are told to meet together in love to worship our God. And so whatever days the family of God gets together is pleasing in God's eyes as we continue in His rest every day of the week by ceasing from our own works to salvation and resting solely in His work already done on the cross for our salvation. It's in His name, Yeshua, salvation. ([H3444](#), [H3468](#), [H8668](#))
 - ◇ **Psalm 14:7** - "Oh that the **salvation [Yeshua]** of Israel [were come] out of Zion! when the LORD bringeth back the captivity of his people, Jacob shall rejoice, [and] Israel shall be glad."
 - ◇ **Psalm 40:16** - "Let all those that seek thee rejoice and be glad in thee: let such as love thy **salvation [Yeshua]** say continually, The LORD be magnified."
 - ◇ **Psalm 51:10-13** - "Create in me a clean heart, O God; and renew a right spirit within me. Cast me not away from thy presence; and take not thy holy spirit from me. Restore unto me the joy of thy **salvation [Yeshua]**; and uphold me [with thy] free spirit. [Then] will I teach transgressors thy ways; and sinners shall be converted unto thee."
 - ◇ **Isaiah 49:6-7** - "And he said, It is a light thing that thou shouldest be my servant to raise up the tribes of Jacob, and to restore the preserved of Israel: I will also give thee for a light to the Gentiles, that thou mayest be my **salvation [Yeshua]** unto the end of the earth. Thus saith the LORD, the Redeemer of Israel, [and] his Holy One, to him whom man despiseth, to him whom the nation abhorreth, to a servant of rulers, Kings shall see and arise, princes also shall worship, because of the LORD that is faithful, [and] the Holy One of Israel, and he shall choose thee."
- Honor your father and mother
 - ◆ Our relationship with our parents, who were given a creative power in childbirth, was mirrored after God's relationship with His creation. We learn as parents a little of how God looks at us. As children we should honor our parents as we should honor God.
- The last Commandments are focused on what not to do
 - Don't murder
 - ◆ There are very few reasons to murder, and they could probably all be summed up with extreme selfishness.
 - Don't commit adultery
 - ◆ Personal temporary pleasure over a lifetime covenant relationship shows both a betrayal of trust, of the covenant, and selfishness. Adultery, harlotry, and fornication were all terms used in a spiritual sense when Israel went after other gods. As Christians, we are spiritually married to Christ, and we too can put other things before God and elevate them to a

place of spiritual adultery too.

- Don't steal
 - ◆ Again, the desire to have what is someone else's without them giving or selling it to you is a sign of selfishness without care for others.
- Don't bear false witness against your neighbor
 - ◆ Falsely accusing someone is a betrayal of truth in the pursuit of destroying that person in some way, whether vengeance or to steal what is theirs.
- Don't covet those things that are not yours
 - ◆ In line with stealing, it is a sign of a selfish heart, wanting what is not yours and leading to selfish actions that can hurt and take from others.
- If you take these as a whole you're presented with the idea of putting God first and being truthful in how you represent Him, taking time to rest making sure to spend time with Him and family, honor your family. Note the "spirit" behind those things you shouldn't do, they're all representative of the three main motivations of power, wealth, and sex. These acts all show a selfish nature willing to take from others to benefit oneself.
- So how is the Law a shadow of love? They are like the carnal representation of a spiritual truth. What is interesting is that if one were to have the Spirit of God as their compass to guide their spirit, they would be naturally keeping the Law without focusing on the letter of the Law.
- **Galatians 5:13-17** - "For, brethren, ye have been called unto liberty; only [use] not liberty for an occasion to the flesh, but by love serve one another. **For all the law is fulfilled in one word, [even] in this; Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself.** But if ye bite and devour one another, take heed that ye be not consumed one of another. [This] I say then, Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfil the lust of the flesh. For the flesh lusteth against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh: and these are contrary the one to the other: so that ye cannot do the things that ye would."
- **Matthew 22:37-40** - "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. This is the first and great commandment. And the second [is] like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself. **On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.**"
- What is love?
 - **1 John 4:7-21** - "Beloved, let us love one another: for love is of God; and every one that loveth is born of God, and knoweth God. He that loveth not knoweth not God; for **God is love. In this was manifested the love of God toward us, because that God sent his only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through him. Herein is love, not that we loved God, but that he loved us, and sent his Son [to be] the propitiation for our sins.** Beloved, if God so loved us, we ought also to love one another. No man hath seen God at any time. **If we love one another, God dwelleth in us, and his love is perfected in us. Hereby know we that we dwell in him, and he in us, because he hath given us of his Spirit.** And we have seen and do testify that the Father sent the Son [to be] the Saviour of the world. **Whosoever shall confess that Jesus is the Son of God, God dwelleth in him, and he in God. And we have known and believed the love that God hath to us. God is love; and he that dwelleth in love dwelleth in God, and God in him.** Herein is our love made perfect, that we may have boldness in the day of judgment: because as he is, so are we in this world. **There is no fear in love; but perfect love casteth out fear: because fear hath torment. He that feareth is not made perfect in love.** We love him, because he first loved us. **If a man say, I love God, and hateth his brother, he is a liar: for he that loveth not his brother whom he hath seen, how can he love God whom he hath not seen?** And this commandment have we from him, That he who loveth God love his brother also."
 - **John 15:12-17** - "This is my commandment, That ye love one another, as I have loved you. **Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends.**

Ye are my friends, if ye do whatsoever I command you. Henceforth I call you not servants; for the servant knoweth not what his lord doeth: but I have called you friends; for all things that I have heard of my Father I have made known unto you. Ye have not chosen me, but I have chosen you, and ordained you, that ye should go and bring forth fruit, and [that] your fruit should remain: that whatsoever ye shall ask of the Father in my name, he may give it you. These things I command you, that ye love one another."

- Here is distilled the definition of love in that there is no greater love than to give ones life for a friend. Your mortal life is everything in this world. Without it you have no more experience of life and to give it up for another can only be defined as the purest form of selflessness.
- **Matthew 5:43-48** - "Ye have heard that it hath been said, Thou shalt love thy neighbour, and hate thine enemy. 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; 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. For if ye love them which love you, what reward have ye? do not even the publicans the same? And if ye salute your brethren only, what do ye more [than others]? do not even the publicans so? Be ye therefore perfect, even as your Father which is in heaven is perfect."
- And perfect love, just like that God has for those who hate Him, is what is expected of us. No, this is not easy, but I would posit that having an eternal, incorruptible, spiritual mindset about the eternity that is before us, the petty things of this world are but a flash in the pan compared to eternity. Perfect love casts out all fear and selflessly loving those who hate and persecute you is being an imager of God after the order of Yeshua, who submitted even to death for the purpose of our salvation. While that is not our burden to carry, we are promised persecution for accepting His free gift of salvation and being His followers in this world.
- In this we can see a very simple plumb line to discerning pure good and pure evil, complete selflessness and complete selfishness respectively. Of course we live in the grey areas in between, we are not God and that's why we can never live up to Him. But thank God He made a way that we can humble ourselves before Him and admit we require His Spirit to change us and mold us into a better imager of His love for His creation.
- So taking this back to the works of the flesh vs. the fruits of the Spirit, we can further see this simple comparison of absolute good to pure selflessness and absolute evil to pure selfishness, and
 - Good
 - Love - In the Greek agape, or affection, good will, love, benevolence, brotherly love. As we've seen, God is love and love is selfless as defined in scripture. This is reinforced with the KJV interpretation of agape as charity, which we know of selfless giving to others.
 - ◆ **John 15:13-14** - "Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends. Ye are my friends, if ye do whatsoever I command you."
 - Joy - Cheerfulness, calm delight, gladness.
 - ◆ **Matthew 28:5-8** - "And the angel answered and said unto the women, Fear not ye: for I know that ye seek Jesus, which was crucified. He is not here: for he is risen, as he said. Come, see the place where the Lord lay. And go quickly, and tell his disciples that he is risen from the dead; and, behold, he goeth before you into Galilee; there shall ye see him: lo, I have told you. **And they departed quickly from the sepulchre with fear and great joy; and did run to bring his disciples word.**"
 - ◆ **Luke 15:4-7** - "What man of you, having an hundred sheep, if he lose one

of them, doth not leave the ninety and nine in the wilderness, and go after that which is lost, until he find it? And when he hath found [it], he layeth [it] on his shoulders, rejoicing. And when he cometh home, he calleth together [his] friends and neighbours, saying unto them, Rejoice with me; for I have found my sheep which was lost. **I say unto you, that likewise joy shall be in heaven over one sinner that repenteth, more than over ninety and nine just persons, which need no repentance."**

- Peace - Prosperity, one, quietness, rest. I like the statement, "The tranquil state of a soul assured of its salvation through Christ, and so fearing nothing from God and content with its earthly lot, of whatsoever sort that is."
 - ◆ **John 14:25-28** - "These things have I spoken unto you, being [yet] present with you. But the Comforter, [which is] the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you. **Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid.** Ye have heard how I said unto you, I go away, and come [again] unto you. If ye loved me, ye would rejoice, because I said, I go unto the Father: for my Father is greater than I."
- Longsuffering - Forbearance, fortitude, patience. As we will see, God's timetable is not ours and just as many of the giants of faith never saw the end of the promises in their lifetimes, we must approach our faith the same way. Additionally, in dealing with other people in the world who are against us or we're trying to lead to relationship with God, this spirit of longsuffering is necessary with meekness and forgiveness. In our rebellion, God has been longsuffering and wanting all to come to repentance. In like manner we should in repentance be patient and longsuffering with others in the world.
 - ◆ **Romans 2:1-6** - "Therefore thou art inexcusable, O man, whosoever thou art that judgest: for wherein thou judgest another, thou condemnest thyself; for thou that judgest doest the same things. But we are sure that the judgment of God is according to truth against them which commit such things. And thinkest thou this, O man, that judgest them which do such things, and doest the same, that thou shalt escape the judgment of God? Or **despisest thou the riches of his goodness and forbearance and longsuffering; not knowing that the goodness of God leadeth thee to repentance?** But after thy hardness and impenitent heart treasurest up unto thyself wrath against the day of wrath and revelation of the righteous judgment of God; Who will render to every man according to his deeds:"
 - ◆ **1 Timothy 1:12-16** - "And I [Paul] thank Christ Jesus our Lord, who hath enabled me, for that he counted me faithful, putting me into the ministry; Who was before a blasphemer, and a persecutor, and injurious: but I obtained mercy, because I did [it] ignorantly in unbelief. And **the grace of our Lord was exceeding abundant with faith and love which is in Christ Jesus.** This [is] a faithful saying, and worthy of all acceptation, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners; of whom I am chief. Howbeit **for this cause I obtained mercy, that in me first Jesus Christ might shew forth all longsuffering, for a pattern to them which should hereafter believe on him to life everlasting."**
- Gentleness - Moral excellence, goodness, kindness. Just as God has shown longsuffering and kindness as we've each been slowly drawn to Him through life, so do those with His Spirit display this same loving kindness in approach to relationships. In the world this is seen as weakness, but in all that truly matters

it is the ultimate strength to be able to stand in a cold and dark world looking to take advantage and remain gentle and kind.

- ◆ **Titus 3:1-7** - "Put them in mind to be subject to principalities and powers, to obey magistrates, to be ready to every good work, **To speak evil of no man, to be no brawlers, [but] gentle, shewing all meekness unto all men. For we ourselves also were sometimes foolish, disobedient, deceived, serving divers lusts and pleasures, living in malice and envy, hateful, [and] hating one another. But after that the kindness and love of God our Saviour toward man appeared, Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost; Which he shed on us abundantly through Jesus Christ our Saviour; That being justified by his grace, we should be made heirs according to the hope of eternal life.**"
- Goodness - Virtue or beneficence. Often perceived by the world as "holier than thou," when walking in the Spirit of God, virtue naturally flows. This should always be tempered with the remembrance of our own failings that continue even in our walk with God. When dwelling on the things of God, the imprudent is not the focus. Where your head is looking is the direction your body will go.
 - ◆ **Matthew 6:21** - "For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also."
- Faith - From the word persuasion, credence, moral conviction of truth, consistency in profession, belief, fidelity. The common refrain from the world is that faith is blind and the religious believe without evidence in some angry sky daddy that doesn't exist. While it is true we see only in part now, faith in context of Christian belief is simply trust that God's Word is true and that He says what He means and means what He says. This doesn't have to be blind, there are plenty of valid reasons to believe from science, archaeology, textual criticism, Bible prophecy, and spiritual conviction of a seeking soul.
 - ◆ **1 Corinthians 13:12-13** - "For now we see through a glass, darkly; but then face to face: now I know in part; but then shall I know even as also I am known. And now abideth faith, hope, charity, these three; but the greatest of these [is] charity."
 - ◆ **Romans 10:17-18** - "So then faith [cometh] by hearing, and hearing by the word of God. But I say, Have they not heard? Yes verily, their sound went into all the earth, and their words unto the ends of the world."
 - ◆ Science - I recommend watching Privileged Planet, Privileged Species, and other work by The Discovery Institute at <https://www.discovery.org/> as well as Stephen C. Meyer's works like:
 - ◇ *Signature in the cell: DNA and the evidence for intelligent design*
 - ◇ *Darwin's Doubt: The Explosive Origin of Animal Life and the Case for Intelligent Design*
 - ◇ *Return of the God Hypothesis: Three Scientific Discoveries That Reveal the Mind Behind the Universe*
 - ◆ Archaeology - Digs in Israel and Egypt continue to back up the Biblical narrative in ways that were previously looked at as mythology of scripture. These people actually existed in the places and times the Bible says they existed.
- Meekness - from gentleness, humility. As children we are innocent, empty vessels absorbing the world around us. Until it is broken as they grow older, children have an innate trust in what they are told. They humble themselves to learn until they think they know it all and stop listening. This is also why it's important to teach early, and the enemy of mankind knows this all too well.
 - ◆ **Matthew 18:1-5** - "At the same time came the disciples unto Jesus, saying,

Who is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven? And Jesus called a little child unto him, and set him in the midst of them, And said, Verily I say unto you, Except ye be converted, and become as little children, ye shall not enter into the kingdom of heaven. **Whosoever therefore shall humble himself as this little child, the same is greatest in the kingdom of heaven. And whoso shall receive one such little child in my name receiveth me."**

- ◆ **Matthew 11:28-30** - "Come unto me, all [ye] that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. **Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls. For my yoke [is] easy, and my burden is light."**
- ◆ **Zechariah 9:9** - "Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion; shout, O daughter of Jerusalem: **behold, thy King cometh unto thee: he [is] just, and having salvation; lowly, and riding upon an ass, and upon a colt the foal of an ass."** This was fulfilled at the triumphal entry depicted in **Matthew 21:1-11**
- Temperance - Self-control, the virtue of one who masters his desires and passions.
 - ◆ **2 Peter 1:1-9** - "Simon Peter, a servant and an apostle of Jesus Christ, to them that have obtained like precious faith with us through the righteousness of God and our Saviour Jesus Christ: Grace and peace be multiplied unto you through the knowledge of God, and of Jesus our Lord, According as his divine power hath given unto us all things that [pertain] unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of him that hath called us to glory and virtue: Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises: that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature, **having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust. And beside this, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue; and to virtue knowledge; And to knowledge temperance; and to temperance patience; and to patience godliness; And to godliness brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness charity.** For if these things be in you, and abound, they make [you that ye shall] neither [be] barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. But he that lacketh these things is blind, and cannot see afar off, and hath forgotten that he was purged from his old sins."
 - ◆ This is a great walk through the idea of growth in Christ that starts with trust in God and through diligence in learning and understanding grows in virtue and knowledge that leads to self-control and patience as you grow in godliness and kindness and love.
- Evil, many times these can be placed into the desire for power, sex, and love of money.
 - Power - A purely selfish and self-centered person looks not just for the respect of men, but the pride that comes with lording over those beneath them. This was evidenced in the woes to the Scribes and Pharisees.
 - ◆ **Luke 11:39-54** - "And the Lord said unto him, Now do ye Pharisees make clean the outside of the cup and the platter; but **your inward part is full of ravening and wickedness.** [Ye] fools, did not he that made that which is without make that which is within also? But rather give alms of such things as ye have; and, behold, all things are clean unto you. But woe unto you, Pharisees! for **ye tithe mint and rue and all manner of herbs, and pass over judgment and the love of God:** these ought ye to have done, and not to leave the other undone. Woe unto you, Pharisees! for **ye love the uppermost seats in the synagogues, and greetings in the markets.** Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for **ye are as graves**

which appear not, and the men that walk over [them] are not aware [of them]. Then answered one of the lawyers, and said unto him, Master, thus saying thou reproachest us also. And he said, Woe unto you also, [ye] lawyers! for **ye lade men with burdens grievous to be borne, and ye yourselves touch not the burdens with one of your fingers.** Woe unto you! for **ye build the sepulchres of the prophets, and your fathers killed them. Truly ye bear witness that ye allow the deeds of your fathers: for they indeed killed them, and ye build their sepulchres.** Therefore also said the wisdom of God, I will send them prophets and apostles, and [some] of them they shall slay and persecute: That the blood of all the prophets, which was shed from the foundation of the world, may be required of this generation; From the blood of Abel unto the blood of Zacharias, which perished between the altar and the temple: verily I say unto you, It shall be required of this generation. Woe unto you, lawyers! for **ye have taken away the key of knowledge: ye entered not in yourselves, and them that were entering in ye hindered.** And as he said these things unto them, the scribes and the Pharisees began to urge [him] vehemently, and to provoke him to speak of many things: Laying wait for him, and seeking to catch something out of his mouth, that they might accuse him."

- ◆ **Idolatry - Subservience to a higher being is a natural state for a lot of humanity, and lack of understanding and deception leads to false gods.**
 - ◇ A lot of religious practices are about getting something from a god, while Christianity is about conforming oneself to the spiritual image of God. True, many Christians turn it into a God vending machine idea, but that is not scriptural.
 - ◇ There are also charismatic people through time who have used deception and bits of truth to accumulate followers in false religions. Many times the goal is to accumulate power and adoration from their followers in a sense to elevate themselves as a god among their people. We will see this ultimately in the coming false christ.
- ◆ **Witchcraft - In the Greek, the word is pharmakeia from where we get the word pharmacy. In its most base sense it is the administering of drugs.**
 - ◇ In a religious context it's the use of drugs or magical arts in association with idolatry.
 - ◇ In a more modern chemical form it could be associated with the desire to get the same or greater kinds of dopamine hits for personal pleasure as found in some other vices. A constant clouding of the mind to escape reality for the moment.
- **Sex - It was designed for procreation, raising families, and a gift to be shared between a man and woman committed to that purpose. But the pleasure intended for this design exists outside of it and draws the focus of almost all men and women. Unbridled, the selfishness of personal pleasure leads to the destruction of self and others.**
 - ◆ **Adultery - the promise made to be faithful is broken along with trust and families when selfish desires lead to adultery.**
 - ◇ Yet even the lustful desires can lead to personal breaking of the spirit, which can lead to action.
 - ◇ **Matthew 5:27-28** - "Ye have heard that it was said by them of old time, Thou shalt not commit adultery: But I say unto you, That whosoever looketh on a woman to lust after her hath committed adultery with her already in his heart."

- ◆ lasciviousness (unbridled lust, shamelessness) - God does not prevent our free will and so I would never desire to take away the free will of those who engage in consensual relationships of any kind within the bounds of man's law, but that doesn't mean that it is in line with God's Law. Sin is to be contrary to God's design. As we are seeing on a base level it is to be contrary to the selfless Spirit of the Love of God. However, sin is also when we are contrary to the design God intended in His creation. That can take many forms, including sexual sin. There is a whole culture build around having sex in all kinds of various ways and unbridled from the bounds God placed on it. It is just as wrong as adultery between a man and woman and similarly there is no lasting pleasure from it.
 - ◇ It's interesting that the word associated with many of the free love kind of movements is pride. The repression of free will in the past led to the association of pride with being who you are and it is pride that is in direct opposition to humility. The temporary and fleeting dopamine hits of sex and the elevation of free will over humility in accepting God's design has hardened generations against God and the eternal nature of His Spirit that lasts forever. It reminds me of Jacob and Esau, where Esau gave up his birthright for one meal. A life lived in focus on the fleeting nature of natural pleasure always leads to emptiness and despair in the end.
 - ◇ The spirit behind this is the same as that of Thelema, founded by Aleister Crowley. The main idea behind it is "'Do what thou wilt shall be the whole of the Law,' emphasizing personal freedom and the pursuit of one's true path, guided by love." As so often done, an idea we can all get behind that defines God is interjected into an idea directly opposed to God and that leads to unbridled selfishness.
 - ◇ When your whole identity is defined by the means of procreation used in opposition to its original design for personal pleasure and couched in pride, it becomes evident what the spirit behind that is from a Biblical perspective.
 - ◇ Pointing this out deems one a bigot or hater by the world, but this is where it's important for Christians to also take personal stock, recognizing that while we may or may not have taken pleasure outside of God's design between a man and a woman, it's pretty rare today that many Christians have taken pleasure outside of God's design between a man and a woman when it comes to the bounds of marriage and raising a family. Nobody is without sin and nobody is beyond choosing to come out of that sin into the light if they desire to.
- ◆ Fornication - porneia in the Greek is where we get the term pornography, but it's covering a much larger scope than that. In the spiritual sense, this was used of Israel when they worshipped false gods.
- Love of money - I think for the most part the love of money is a means to an end of the first two.
 - ◆ **1 Timothy 6:9-10** - "But they that will be rich fall into temptation and a snare, and [into] many foolish and hurtful lusts, which drown men in destruction and perdition. For the love of money is the root of all evil: which while some coveted after, they have erred from the faith, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows."
- Other mixed
 - ◆ uncleanness (impure motives) - Impurity is that which is contrary to God,

who is love, or selflessness. Uncleanliness in a spiritual sense would be taking advantage of others to do any number of things for oneself. It could be related to stepping on heads to climb the ranks, deceiving people for sex or money, but it all boils down to elevating oneself above others.

- ◆ Hatred - The idea of enmity, or being against someone or something, the opposite of friendship. It's used several times in relation to the world being at enmity with God. In this way it's a counter to the idea of love. As we saw, Yeshua associates His selfless act of love with friendship and so hatred would be lack of that selfless friendship and rather at odds with someone.
 - ◇ Perhaps this hatred grows out of a feeling of someone taking from you and harboring unforgiveness in your heart. These are the difficult things as Christians we are to work toward, loving our enemies and not harboring hatred no matter how legitimate we feel it is or it may actually be. It's not always easy, but there is freedom in not being controlled by hatred or spite for others. Understanding our eternal nature and looking forward to that time when everyone will be selfless, we must recognize our own faults in humility and give grace to others, especially when we don't want to.
- ◆ Variance/Strife - quarrel, contention. Some people seem to like these kinds of relationships, but again I think it boils down to the core of being self-centered. I've been there many times, I know I'm right and I have to prove it. I have to make it clear how I've been wronged. Notice how many "I's" there are. When we harbor unforgiveness, animosity and strife can build in relationships and destroy them with lack of trust and a loss of selflessness toward the other person as we build walls and turn inward. This is often the most destructive to the soul because these relationships are often based off becoming more vulnerable with the other person than with any other.
- ◆ Emulations - In Greek the word is *zēlos*, which is relatable in English as zealous and is fervor of spirit, or zeal. The danger with unchecked fervor is that it's based completely on emotion, which can be dangerous if not checked with true understanding and logic.
 - ◇ On behalf of someone or something - As we will see, a lack of understanding, or blindness, and religious zeal will bring the false christ to power. We've also seen this in many cults of the past where people have given everything to a false prophet, even up to their own lives.
 - ◇ Wrath/fierceness of indignation, or punitive zeal - Many of God's prophets in the Old Testament, and even the Messiah were killed in Jerusalem because of punitive zeal. Likewise, the letter of the Law and deception by a false christ will lead to the time of great tribulation, where those who reject him will be killed due to the punitive zeal of his followers.
 - ◇ **Romans 12:17-21 - "Recompense to no man evil for evil. Provide things honest in the sight of all men. If it be possible, as much as lieth in you, live peaceably with all men. Dearly beloved, avenge not yourselves, but [rather] give place unto wrath: for it is written, Vengeance [is] mine; I will repay, saith the Lord. Therefore if thine enemy hunger, feed him; if he thirst, give him drink: for in so doing thou shalt heap coals of fire on his head. Be not overcome of evil, but overcome evil with good."**
 - ◇ There is a righteous zeal, but to the extent of it being on behalf of

Yeshua, He has made it clear from the Word how we are to live and how He will come back, with great power and glory in the clouds. And toward judgement, that is in His hands, He is God and we are not. Righteous zeal is fervor of Spirit where we show the fruits of the Spirit as a witness to the world of who our God is. It is in this way we are proper imagers of Christ in the world, taking the name of God fruitfully and not in vain.

- ◆ Seditious - disunion, division.
 - ◇ **Matthew 12:25** - "And Jesus knew their thoughts, and said unto them, Every kingdom divided against itself is brought to desolation; and every city or house divided against itself shall not stand."
 - ▶ It's hard not to see the results of division on so many levels today and the principle Yeshua said in context to Him casting out devils by the power of the Devil. Nations have fallen and disappeared into the dust through time from division, cities have likewise crumbled. Families have broken apart from division within them, which lies at the very foundation of the problem of division. As we will see, this family disunion is behind the coming division of the largest family on earth, the family of Jacob in the time of Jacob's trouble.
 - ◇ **Luke 12:51-53** - "Suppose ye that I am come to give peace on earth? I tell you, Nay; but rather division: For from henceforth there shall be five in one house divided, three against two, and two against three. The father shall be divided against the son, and the son against the father; the mother against the daughter, and the daughter against the mother; the mother in law against her daughter in law, and the daughter in law against her mother in law."
 - ▶ There was a righteous division born out of pulling the world out of deception by bringing the truth. When Yeshua came He revealed the truth of the Kingdom of God and provided a way to it. This by nature caused division when the established false doctrines now had to contend with the truth, many choosing to do so with emulations, killing those who became followers of Yeshua. The letter of the Law was used against the One bringing to light the Spirit of it.
 - ▶ As Christians, we are not supposed to be seditious, but to live as peaceably as we can in this world until He comes. However, the world hates God's people and will persecute them at every opportunity. Let us not forget the Christians around the world today being killed for their faith.
- ◆ Heresies - dissensions arising from diversity of opinions and aims. This is related to seditious and result in emulations, variance and strife. In Judaism, there were different sects that interpreted the same word differently, as in Christianity as well. My attempt to stay away from these things is to interpret the Word with the Word and leaving my own understanding or desires out of the picture as much as possible. Of course that means there are many things we don't fully understand, but as we will see in this series of Bible studies, there is an awful lot we can understand even so.
- ◆ Envyings - jealousy, spite. In its negative connotation, it has selfishness written all over it. There is something someone has that you want for yourself. Maybe you have the money to get it, or maybe you have to steal it.

- ◇ In a righteous sense, God is a jealous God. What does He want? He wants relationship with you and I. He created mankind for that purpose and gave us free will so that we would reciprocate that desire for relationship from our own hearts without coercion. But we continually choose just about anything else, and everything else leaves us empty in the end.
- ◇ But why does a jealous God visit iniquity on the fathers and the children to the third and fourth generation? When a child who doesn't know any better runs into the street without a care in the world, how does a parent impress upon them the error in judgement that could lead to death? The child is confronted by what seems to be an angry parent yelling at them and running uncharacteristically to grab them.
- ◇ Our eternal separation from God is on a higher level. We are eternal beings, the question is where will we spend that eternity? The severity in the Old Testament was for the purpose of demonstrating the severity of choices made, of passing down that understanding to later generations in the Word of God. We have the benefit of that Word today and the sacrifice of Yeshua for our sins. God is jealous to have you for Himself because He created you, loves you, and wants you to choose Him. But He will not force Himself on you, the choice and ramifications of that choice are solely in your hands.
- ◇ **Revelation 3:17-22** - "Because thou sayest, I am rich, and increased with goods, and have need of nothing; and knowest not that thou art wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked: I counsel thee to buy of me gold tried in the fire, that thou mayest be rich; and white raiment, that thou mayest be clothed, and [that] the shame of thy nakedness do not appear; and anoint thine eyes with eyesalve, that thou mayest see. **As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten: be zealous therefore, and repent. Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me.** To him that overcometh will I grant to sit with me in my throne, even as I also overcame, and am set down with my Father in his throne. He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches."
- ◆ Murders - The complete opposite of giving your life for a friend, the taking of another life can only be associated with pure selfishness. There may be many reasons, maybe it's self-preservation because they could reveal something that would destroy your life. Maybe it's jealousy that they committed adultery and if you can't have them nobody will. Maybe it's zealous anger in the moment. Maybe it's to take something from them for yourself. The only real foundation for murder lies in selfishness.
- ◆ Drunkenness - Intoxication has many levels that vary by person, but when one is intoxicated they are not clear-minded, even though they may think they are. It dulls the senses and many times leads to anger, strife, disunion, adultery, fornication, etc. They don't call them "spirits" for nothing.
 - ◇ We're told regarding the coming of Christ that we are to be sober and watchful. It is hard to be watchful if one is constantly intoxicated by the world and the pleasures of it. This is the exact warning we are given over and over.
- ◆ Revellings - feasts and drinking parties that are protracted till late at night

and indulge in revelry. Associated with drunkenness, it's carrying the party all night in excess. Is there no room for late night parties? I think it's about excess and what can lead to in relation to these other things discussed. In a spiritual and eschatological (end times) sense, it is missing the signs of the times for the pleasures of the moment and being caught off guard like the world will be.

- ◆ **Matthew 24:37-39** - "But as the days of Noe [were], so shall also the coming of the Son of man be. **For as in the days that were before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noe entered into the ark, And knew not until the flood came, and took them all away; so shall also the coming of the Son of man be.**"
 - I believe all of this detail can be boiled down to one comparison in our minds of our actions. Am I doing this for myself or for others? Can we do nothing for ourselves? Of course not, we are responsible for ourselves, but out of the abundance of our spirit of love, we can give of ourselves to others. They say when flying to put the oxygen mask on yourself before you assist anyone else and this goes by the same principle, how can you help others if you yourself are incapacitated or unprepared? Likewise, how can you help others if you yourself are lost and don't know the way? The blind leading the blind is not a good plan. We must first have ourselves in a right relationship to be an example of what a right relationship is for others and to give out of the abundance and overflowing of the Spirit in our lives.
 - But if all our thoughts and actions are focused solely on personal gain, it might be beneficial to start capturing thoughts before they become actions with this filter in mind. Where can I give more than receive?
- Lest one think I would hold myself at a higher station, let me just be clear that I struggle with these things as any other human being. My life is riddled with mistakes where I hurt others and myself. But let's say I were to compare myself to others on my righteousness scale.
 - Here I am, my righteousness scale is here. I've stolen some things, lusted after women, been angry, and held back helping others. But I haven't murdered anyone, I've even been fairly good about forgiving my enemies sometimes.
 - Look at this guy over here. He's murdered 3 people and made a living stealing in all kinds of ways.
 - This Christian really gets out there and spreads the Gospel and sets a good example.
 - But he's putting on a facade about this sexual sin so it's a little grayed out at the top
 - They're also just using their position to build up personal wealth
 - If this ever gets out, all his work will be tainted and some may even fall away from the faith because he helped them build up their belief around him and not Christ.
 - Here's a Christian who knows a bunch about the Bible and truly conforms to the image of Christ, a true example of what it means to be a Christian.
 - Now that we have a sampling of how we all compare to each other on the righteousness scale, let us compare ourselves to the plumbline, the standard by which we gauge righteousness.
 - Chart showing comparison of good and bad people next to each other, then show God's righteousness next to them all and see how they all look the same to God, insufficient.
 - **Isaiah 64:5-9** - "Thou meetest him that rejoiceth and worketh righteousness, [those that] remember thee in thy ways: behold, thou art wroth; for we have sinned: in those is continuance, and we shall be saved. But **we are all as an unclean [thing], and all our righteousnesses [are] as filthy rags; and we all do fade as a leaf; and our iniquities, like the wind, have taken us away.** And [there is] none that calleth upon thy name,

that stirreth up himself to take hold of thee: for thou hast hid thy face from us, and hast consumed us, because of our iniquities. **But now, O LORD, thou [art] our father; we [are] the clay, and thou our potter; and we all [are] the work of thy hand. Be not wroth very sore, O LORD, neither remember iniquity for ever: behold, see, we beseech thee, we [are] all thy people."**

- The Gospel: Old Testament vs New Testament
 - In the temple, there was the room inside, the holy of holies, that was separated from the main room by a veil that only the high priest could enter once a year on Yom Kippur to sprinkle the blood of the sacrifice on the mercy seat of the Ark of the Covenant. This was done every year as a covering for the sins of the people of Israel, a kind of sweeping under the rug for the purpose of sanctification or purity to be able to meet with God at the temple. This was very different from the way God provided for the world after Yeshua's sacrifice.
 - **Hebrews 9:6-10:4** - "Now when these things were thus ordained, the priests went always into the first tabernacle, accomplishing the service [of God]. But into the second [went] the high priest alone once every year, not without blood, which he offered for himself, and [for] the errors of the people: The Holy Ghost this signifying, that the way into the holiest of all was not yet made manifest, while as the first tabernacle was yet standing: Which [was] a figure for the time then present, in which were offered both gifts and sacrifices, that could not make him that did the service perfect, as pertaining to the conscience; [Which stood] only in meats and drinks, and divers washings, and carnal ordinances, imposed [on them] until the time of reformation. **But Christ being come an high priest of good things to come, by a greater and more perfect tabernacle, not made with hands, that is to say, not of this building; Neither by the blood of goats and calves, but by his own blood he entered in once into the holy place, having obtained eternal redemption [for us]. For if the blood of bulls and of goats, and the ashes of an heifer sprinkling the unclean, sanctifieth to the purifying of the flesh: How much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without spot to God, purge your conscience from dead works to serve the living God? And for this cause he is the mediator of the new testament, that by means of death, for the redemption of the transgressions [that were] under the first testament, they which are called might receive the promise of eternal inheritance. For where a testament [is], there must also of necessity be the death of the testator. For a testament [is] of force after men are dead: otherwise it is of no strength at all while the testator liveth. Whereupon neither the first [testament] was dedicated without blood. For when Moses had spoken every precept to all the people according to the law, he took the blood of calves and of goats, with water, and scarlet wool, and hyssop, and sprinkled both the book, and all the people, Saying, This [is] the blood of the testament which God hath enjoined unto you. Moreover he sprinkled with blood both the tabernacle, and all the vessels of the ministry. And almost all things are by the law purged with blood; and without shedding of blood is no remission. [It was] therefore necessary that the patterns of things in the heavens should be purified with these; but the heavenly things themselves with better sacrifices than these. For Christ is not entered into the holy places made with hands, [which are] the figures of the true; but into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God for us: Nor yet that he should offer himself often, as the high priest entereth into the holy place every year with blood of others; For then must he often have suffered since the foundation of the world: but now once in the end of the world hath he appeared to put away sin by the sacrifice of himself. And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment: So Christ was once offered to bear the sins of many; and unto them that look for him shall he appear the second time without sin unto salvation. For the law having a shadow of good things to come, [and] not the very image of the things, can never with those sacrifices which they offered year by year continually make the comers thereunto perfect. For then would they not have ceased to be offered? because that the worshippers once purged should have had no more conscience of sins. **But in those [sacrifices there is] a remembrance again [made] of sins every year. For [it is] not possible****

- that the blood of bulls and of goats should take away sins."**
- The Old Testament temple, ministry, and sacrifices were a foreshadow of the New Testament and the better sacrifice that did not just temporarily sanctify from sin for a moment for the children of Israel, but wiped away sin for eternity of all those who accepted Yeshua. This was accomplished in Yeshua's first coming, but our ultimate salvation in translation to the eternal state is coming at His arrival a second time yet to come. This series of studies is focused on understanding this time to come as we have been warned it is a time of great deception and will come suddenly to those not watching.
 - Sin and death vs redemption and life
 - **Romans 7:5-6** - "For when we were in the flesh, the motions of sins, which were by the law, did work in our members to bring forth fruit unto death. **But now we are delivered from the law, that being dead wherein we were held; that we should serve in newness of spirit, and not [in] the oldness of the letter.**"
 - **Galatians 3:21-29** - "Is the law then against the promises of God? God forbid: for if there had been a law given which could have given life, verily righteousness should have been by the law. But the scripture hath concluded all under sin, that the promise by faith of Jesus Christ might be given to them that believe. But before faith came, we were kept under the law, shut up unto the faith which should afterwards be revealed. **Wherefore the law was our schoolmaster to bring us unto Christ, that we might be justified by faith. But after that faith is come, we are no longer under a schoolmaster. For ye are all the children of God by faith in Christ Jesus.** For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ. **There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither bond nor free, there is neither male nor female: for ye are all one in Christ Jesus.** And if ye be Christ's, then are ye Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise."
 - **Romans 4:1-4; 13-18** - "What shall we say then that Abraham our father, as pertaining to the flesh, hath found? For if Abraham were justified by works, he hath whereof to glory; but not before God. For what saith the scripture? **Abraham believed God, and it was counted unto him for righteousness.** Now **to him that worketh is the reward not reckoned of grace, but of debt.** But **to him that worketh not, but believeth on him that justifieth the ungodly, his faith is counted for righteousness.** ... For the promise, that he should be the heir of the world, was not to Abraham, or to his seed, through the law, but **through the righteousness of faith.** For if they which are of the law be heirs, faith is made void, and the promise made of none effect: because the law worketh wrath: for where no law is, there is no transgression. **Therefore it is of faith, that it might be by grace; to the end the promise might be sure to all the seed; not to that only which is of the law, but to that also which is of the faith of Abraham; who is the father of us all,** (As it is written, I have made thee a father of many nations,) before him whom he believed, even God, who quickeneth the dead, and calleth those things which be not as though they were. Who against hope believed in hope, that he might become the father of many nations, according to that which was spoken, So shall thy seed be."
 - While God promised blessing to Abraham's seed because of His faith and trust in God, this was given to him before the Law given to Israel existed. Abraham was justified and sanctified by faith in God. Therefore the Law is not what justifies us, but faith now in Christ whose death and resurrection paid our debt for sin and our judgement before a righteous Judge has been pardoned accordingly.
 - Those following the letter of the Law were performing the works of the Law, but that was just a reminder of sin that doesn't justify a person, it just reveals their lack of capability to be perfect. And so in failing to keep the letter of the Law their works are fruitless. But redemption was meant to be a gift, which is given freely and so not by any reason the receiver can boast about. It requires the humility of recognizing God as sovereign and able to give us the redemption we need because He loves us, not

- because we deserve it or earned it.
- Who, when receiving a gift, takes credit for all the time, thought, or work put into the gift? And who, when offered a gift wants to insult the giver by refusing? The difference here is the gift is for salvation from eternal separation from God and affects our eternity. Our life is that moment in which we can choose to accept the gift accomplished by Yeshua and join Him, or reject the gift and be separated from Him forever.
 - So Jew and Gentile are joined together in faith under Abraham's promise through Christ, justified by faith and not by how well we keep the Law. Even so, conforming to the Spirit of God, the Law is fulfilled in that we live by the spirit of the Law and not by the letter of it. As we've seen the works of the flesh vs. the fruits of the Spirit, it becomes evident that in living a life aligned with the Spirit of God, we show the fruits of the Spirit and naturally conform to the Law of selfless love without attempting to perform it.
- Animal sacrifice vs God's sacrifice
- **Hebrews 9:22** - "And almost all things are by the law purged with blood; and without shedding of blood is no remission."
 - **Hebrews 10:1-4** - "**For the law having a shadow of good things to come, [and] not the very image of the things, can never with those sacrifices which they offered year by year continually make the comers thereunto perfect.** For then would they not have ceased to be offered? because that the worshippers once purged should have had no more conscience of sins. But in those [sacrifices there is] a remembrance again [made] of sins every year. **For [it is] not possible that the blood of bulls and of goats should take away sins.**"
 - **Matthew 26:26-29** - "And as they were eating, Jesus took bread, and blessed [it], and brake [it], and gave [it] to the disciples, and said, Take, eat; this is my body. And he took the cup, and gave thanks, and gave [it] to them, saying, Drink ye all of it; For this is my blood of the new testament, which is shed for many for the remission of sins. But I say unto you, I will not drink henceforth of this fruit of the vine, until that day when I drink it new with you in my Father's kingdom."
 - **Romans 3:23-31** - "For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God; Being justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus: Whom God hath set forth [to be] a propitiation through faith in his blood, to declare his righteousness for the remission of sins that are past, through the forbearance of God; To declare, [I say], at this time his righteousness: that he might be just, and the justifier of him which believeth in Jesus. Where [is] boasting then? It is excluded. By what law? of works? Nay: but by the law of faith. Therefore we conclude that a man is justified by faith without the deeds of the law. [Is he] the God of the Jews only? [is he] not also of the Gentiles? Yes, of the Gentiles also: Seeing [it is] one God, which shall justify the circumcision by faith, and uncircumcision through faith. Do we then make void the law through faith? God forbid: yea, we establish the law."
- And so all humanity live in sin, separated from God who is the definition of sinlessness because He is the standard of righteousness and sin is the lack of righteousness. There is no covering for sin without the shedding of blood, and the animal sacrifices that Israel performed were never able to take away sin, but only cover them for a moment so as to sanctify the people as they met with God in that moment reminded of their sin in humility and repentance. Absolute righteousness and sin cannot coexist, which is why God doesn't just appear because in His presence all sin would die, including those in sin.
- And so God became a man and tabernacled among men. Filled with the Spirit of God, Yeshua brought together His disciples and taught them about the Kingdom of Heaven and the spiritual principles of God that naturally lead to the fulfillment of the Law. In this, His yoke is easy and His burden light. No more was the focus on following the interpretations of men of the Law, which none could do perfectly, but rather focusing on the Spirit of the Law,

- loving God and each other selflessly.
- Being that without the shedding of blood there is no remission of sin, Yeshua used the pride and arrogance of the leadership to offer Himself up as a spotless Lamb of God, and as we will see in [The Moedim: Appointed Times](#) and [Daniel's 70 Weeks](#) studies, fulfilled with great precision the foreshadows and prophecies of His coming in a way not expected by the Jews at the time.
 - **1 Corinthians 2:6-9** - "Howbeit we speak wisdom among them that are perfect: yet not the wisdom of this world, nor of the princes of this world, that come to nought: But we speak the wisdom of God in a mystery, [even] the hidden [wisdom], which **God ordained before the world unto our glory: Which none of the princes of this world knew: for had they known [it], they would not have crucified the Lord of glory.** But as it is written, Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him."
 - Christ died on the cross so that you could live. It's not by anything you can do to accomplish your own righteousness, none of us is able to remove our sin and associated judgement from ourselves before God's eyes. However, we have an advocate who will stand before the judge and say, "I have paid the debt for the transgressions of my friend here, it is done and they are with me." And the judgement you deserve in separation from God for time without end because of your sin will be forgotten forever in the eyes of God. By faith, or trust, in His sacrifice of His blood, you will be freed from eternal prison as long as you conform yourself to the image of Christ.
 - We saw what the fruits of the Spirit are and what the works of the flesh are. These provide a glimpse of what it is to be with God for eternity or to be apart from Him for eternity, heaven or hell. By default, we all will be separated from God forever in our sin, receiving the righteous judgements for our unbridled selfish nature. Adding to the torment, we would be there with every other selfish soul full of hatred and variance and strife and anger without any part of God to be found. No love, joy, peace for time without end. But we have been provided an escape hatch, a door through which we can pass if we just trust God's Word that Yeshua came, died to take on our punishment, rose again defeating death, ascended to heaven, and will return again.
 - **John 10:7-11** - "**Then said Jesus unto them again, Verily, verily, I say unto you, I am the door of the sheep.** All that ever came before me are thieves and robbers: but the sheep did not hear them. **I am the door: by me if any man enter in, he shall be saved, and shall go in and out, and find pasture.** The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: **I am come that they might have life, and that they might have [it] more abundantly. I am the good shepherd: the good shepherd giveth his life for the sheep.**"
 - More than that, you can have a personal relationship with Yeshua now by inviting His Spirit into your temple of flesh in humility. We must each recognize our need for salvation from eternal separation from the God of whom all goodness flows. We must each recognize that we can't do it ourselves and accept the help being offered to us. The beginning of change in our spirits comes when we invite God into our life according to His Word. We must not live on the vain imaginings in our own minds or others, but must conform to the image given in the whole council of God, the Bible.
 - So I encourage you to read the Word of God and think to Him in your mind, which is prayer. You can do it any time because He is always with you and there is no ritual to perform or person to go see, your relationship with God is personal and intimate. You don't need an audible answer, thought is the voice of the spirit realm. Test your thoughts against Gods Word, struggle with Him on the hard questions, seek help from selfless believers and test them against God's Word. You will grow, learn, stumble, grow, and so on.
 - When you understand God better and feel that you resonate with Him and have accepted Yeshua's sacrifice, I encourage you to be baptized. I still remember the feeling as a young teenager when I was baptized at a youth retreat. While I didn't fully comprehend the spiritual significance of a mikveh, washing away sins and being reborn, there was a

- weightlessness and joy nonetheless that was the confirmation of the reality of my choice and has been a comfort my whole life.
- Perspective of Relationship
 - Many people have a hard time accepting the God of the Bible because of His followers' hypocrisy and perceived hypocrisy of a loving God allowing pain or sending people to hell. While the human condition explains the former hypocrisy of His followers, there is a different perspective that explains the false perception of the latter.
 - Created in the image of God, we are His imagers.
 - God is love and the standard of it.
 - God is holy, set apart, and cannot coexist with fallen mankind in their state without justice. If God is the source of love and will remain so eternally, then anything apart from Him remains so without justice making it right.
 - The only justice is continued separation from God, who is the source of all love, joy, peace, patience, goodness, and lovingkindness.
 - God doesn't need relationship with His creation, but He desires it. Justice has been held off so that as many as would choose God can be born into eternity in His presence because He loves us.
 - God is not going to force us into His presence, indeed doing so would be removing our free will.
 - Relationship is built upon a free will desire to selflessly love others and have that desire returned.
 - We don't have to imagine what relationships are, we are made in the image of God and have them on a daily basis. Some are good and some are not.
 - Example/parable of relationship of one who gives of themselves, is patient, kind, gentle, supportive -
 - Prodigal son **Luke 15:11-32**
 - Example/parable of relationship of one who lies, steals, cheats, hates, and murders. -
 - Wicked servant **Matthew 18:21-35**
 - Landowner **Matthew 21:33-46**
 - Heaven is God's abode, His home, and He is under no obligation to allow thieves and robbers to lodge there. To be with God is to be enveloped in His presence and all that comes with it.
 - A person searches for God like a thief searches for a cop. Those who would rather take for themselves at the detriment of others are thieves, which can be manifest in many ways.
 - The people who are left outside of God's home are those who never desired a relationship with the One who lives there, and God will not force that on them.
 - God's command of obedience to go to heaven is simply defined as love God and each other selflessly.
 - The people who are invited to God's home to dwell there with Him are those that desire to be like Him.
 - Hell is separation from God, at the choice of the one separated. God provided only one way of reconciliation to Him because only the death of the sinless can bring life to the sinful.
 - When we break the law, a debt is owed that must be paid. When we willingly hurt others for our benefit, a debt is owed that must be paid. We have all willingly hurt others, nobody but Yeshua escapes that reality. But He was cursed, hung on a tree, to become sin for us that we would gain His righteousness.
 - When we stand before the judge and are to receive the righteous judgement for breaking the law, we have One who tells the Judge that the debt has already been paid. We have to ask, believe, and repent. Because God knows the heart, and if we still desire to gain at others expense, we prove by our works that we are not in obedient relationship with a God of lovingkindness and we choose to separate ourselves from Him.

- How would heaven be any different than earth if everyone cared only for themselves, taking advantage of others, for all eternity? Heaven will be eternally pure in the presence of God, communing with Him and all those who likewise chose to live a life of lovingkindness as He is.
- Conclusion
 - You are a spiritual being temporarily dwelling in your physical body. You experience the spiritual every day, yet you do not always think in those terms. Every thought you have is a voice in the spirit realm, every action taken or word said is an expression in the material, carnal world of an eternal mind.
 - **Matthew 15:18-20** - "But **those things which proceed out of the mouth come forth from the heart; and they defile the man.** For out of the heart proceed evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, fornications, thefts, false witness, blasphemies: These are [the things] which defile a man: but to eat with unwashen hands defileth not a man."
 - What we express shows the fruits of our spirit, whether aligned with God or the world, toward others to build up or toward ourselves to build up, love or pride, selflessness or selfishness.
 - **2 Corinthians 4:1-4** - "Therefore seeing we have this ministry, as we have received mercy, we faint not; But have renounced the hidden things of dishonesty, not walking in craftiness, nor handling the word of God deceitfully; but by manifestation of the truth commending ourselves to every man's conscience in the sight of God. **But if our gospel be hid, it is hid to them that are lost: In whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not,** lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them."
 - Mankind has an enemy that hates them. He and his followers were there at creation, they seek our destruction, and they are willing to lie and deceive in any way to pull us apart from God as they themselves separated themselves from God in their rebellion. But God has not left man without understanding in His Word, He has not hidden Himself fully. The meek will inherit the earth because the meek humble themselves before God as a young child before their parents in love.
 - **Matthew 11:25-30** - "At that time Jesus answered and said, I thank thee, O Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because **thou hast hid these things from the wise and prudent, and hast revealed them unto babes.** Even so, Father: for so it seemed good in thy sight. All things are delivered unto me of my Father: and no man knoweth the Son, but the Father; neither knoweth any man the Father, save the Son, and [he] to whomsoever the Son will reveal [him]. **Come unto me, all [ye] that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls. For my yoke [is] easy, and my burden is light.**"
 - **Matthew 18:1-5** - "At the same time came the disciples unto Jesus, saying, Who is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven? And Jesus called a little child unto him, and set him in the midst of them, And said, Verily I say unto you, **Except ye be converted, and become as little children, ye shall not enter into the kingdom of heaven. Whosoever therefore shall humble himself as this little child, the same is greatest in the kingdom of heaven.** And whoso shall receive one such little child in my name receiveth me."
 - Love is selfless, and it doesn't take intelligence to come to the knowledge of Christ. In fact, a lot of times our own pride in our supposed wisdom gets in the way. The beauty of the innocence of children is the trust, or rather faith, they have in those who love them. The world does a good job in beating us down as we grow and we all lose bits of that faith in various ways as we grow into adulthood.
 - I think God designed families the way He did so we could have a slight understanding of our relationship we should have with Him. God has moved heaven and earth to bring His children back to Him and even became a little lower than the angels to pay our wages of sin so we could live with Him for time without end. In this He expressed the most selfless love one can, demonstrating His love as our Father in heaven. He wants our faith in His Word,

and that He will perform that Word and accomplish it. Though we may not see with our physical eyes yet, He has promised that we will see Him one day face to face.

- To that end, He has revealed in His Word what must come to pass in the physical world to get there. As birth pangs in labor, it will become more intense and painful till the delivery of His children into His arms. In **HIS**tory, Our Future: Pearls for the Bride, I would like to share my journey through God's Word in understanding what He has revealed about our future and what to expect. I believe it will strengthen your faith and your trust in God's Word as it has mine. While we are yet in our physical bodies and limited to the perception of this material world, He has given us a vision of the future from outside of time that will come to pass in the physical to lead to our transformation into eternity. It is strengthened by the witness of history and fulfilled prophecy, by foreshadows fulfilled and those on the horizon.
- If we trust in God and His Word we can begin to understand. Then all we have to do is spread the good news of salvation by faith through Christ, be truthful imagers of God in the world, watch, and pray.
- I highly recommend reading a more scholarly look at the supernatural by reading Michael S. Heiser's book, *The Unseen Realm*. If you prefer a less scholarly introduction, check out his book *Supernatural*. I think it's important when understanding Bible prophecy that we look forward with spiritual eyes to a very real world we are about to be a part of that is both beyond our imagination and where we were always meant to be.
 - "Who were the sons of God? Who were the Nephilim? Where do angels fit into the supernatural hierarchy? Why did God find it necessary to have the Israelites destroy the populations of entire cities man, woman, and child? What relation does Jesus bear to the rest of the supernatural world? Dr. Michael S. Heiser tackles these questions and many more in his books *Supernatural* and *The Unseen Realm*. In both books, Dr. Michael S. Heiser shines a light on the supernatural world, not a new light, but rather the same light the original, ancient readers and writers of Scripture would have seen it in."

May God continue to bless you as you remain in Him.

Associated studies

- [Introduction: WATCH!](#)
- [The Moedim: Appointed Times](#)
- [Daniel's 70 Weeks](#)
- [First Resurrection](#)

References

- Video - [Exploring other dimensions - Alex Rosenthal and George Zaidan](#)
- Recommended documentary - [The Elegant Universe with Brian Greene](#)
- The Discovery Institute at <https://www.discovery.org/> as well as Stephen C. Meyer's works like:
 - ◇ [Signature in the cell: DNA and the evidence for intelligent design](#)
 - ◇ [Darwin's Doubt: The Explosive Origin of Animal Life and the Case for Intelligent Design](#)
 - ◇ [Return of the God Hypothesis: Three Scientific Discoveries That Reveal the Mind Behind the Universe](#)
- Dr. Michael S. Heiser at <https://drmshe.com/> as well as his books:
 - ◇ [The Unseen Realm: Recovering the Supernatural Worldview of the Bible](#) | [Audible](#)
 - ◇ [Supernatural: What the Bible Teaches About the Unseen World - and Why It Matters](#) | [Audible](#)

Associated Dates

- N/A

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